

SRRT Virtual Membership Meeting Notes  
July 30, 2020

Attending: April Sheppard, Al Kagan, Jane Cothron, Tara Brady, Melissa Cardenas-Dow, Sherre Harrington, Olivia Scully, Stavroula Harissis, Jacqueline Williams, Rory Litwin, Mike Marlin, Nick Demske, Julie Ann Winkelstein, Monica Chapman (ODLOS SRRT staff liaison), Katharine Phenix, Wanda Huffaker, Megan Zimmerman, Nichole Bonaventure-Larson, Christina Miskey, Ross Betzer, Scott Kushner, Audrey Duarte, Laurie Aycock, Florence [last name not given], Joseph William Winberry, Latia Ward, [one call-in participant--Steven 15203324432], Kenosha Public Library, Linda Klein (Anchorage Public Library)

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I. Change from listserv to Connect.

Rory: some ACRL groups are looking at other options than Connect; are people in SRRT thinking about any other options? Google groups suggested, or have list hosted by libr.org using Sympa  
Steven: thinks that Connect is less than ideal for connection with SRRT; does not have internet connection at home; when you go from email system to one that forces internet login to find email and thread, it's a real barrier; served on a committee that communicated via email, but Connect requires multiple connections, which is a real barrier along the lines of doing away with Council.

Stav: Part of the issue is a learning curve.

Wanda Huffaker: training for Connect is offered and have taken it twice; logs into ALA and can connect to everything as long as remains logged in; records votes, resolutions are all in one place; look at Connect before making decision. Can schedule training for Round Table.

Monica Chapman: will create form and asks that all SRRT write concerns in detail to allow ODLOS and IT to address the concerns.

Julie: if we express concerns and concerns are not met, are we stuck with Connect? Can we look into other options? Something simpler?

Monica: listserv has problems with security, hacking, requires a lot of work to maintain. Connect is easier for staff to support and monitor. Will look into other options.

April: Videos of Afternoon of Social Justice are available on ALA SRRT YouTube list. SRRT needs a liaison to Freedom to Read task force to replace Mark Hudson.

Steven: what kind of commitment is that? Will send contact information to April.

Al: This might be a time, while ALA is restructuring, to discuss a graduated dues structure. SRRT offers free student membership, but students must belong to ALA before becoming SRRT members

Julie: Tried to work with ALA to pay for ALA memberships for people to attend Virtual Conference, but the ALA response was too late to get people into the conference. Would support graduated membership if it goes to zero.

Tara: This should probably go to the Forward Together considerations; right now the cheapest rate is \$53 for support staff with poverty wages (still too high); need to offer real value for the price of membership

Sherre: we have an institutional membership, which gets print subscription to ALA journals which are now available digitally for free; how to defend the \$300 membership fee

Rory: in past discussions, other organizations have set up graduated dues structures, think that SRRT did not do a good job supporting the idea of graduated dues

Al: many state library organizations have progressive dues structures; ALA could consult with state library organizations to find out about this and could even hire another consultant; ALA's biggest reason not to do this is that people might cheat, but could set up a dues structure that would offset any 'cheating' by increasing the top rates; Executive Board liaison Ed Garcia would support this; perhaps vote on this at a future SRRT membership meeting

April: not planning a vote today; lots of discussion in the chat

Julie: ALA party line is that ALA provides value--believes that bringing people into ALA brings value by bringing more voices and that brings motivation and investment into the organization

Tara: need to pull together SRRT statement to take to Forward Together

Stav: need to frame it to address corporate culture

Jane: do we need committee or resolution

[see chat]

Monica: joined ALA staff January 2019, so conversation is new, have taken notes and will do some research on her end

April: what is the best way to connect with people of similar interests?

Julie: is there a way to post personal interests? online resources?

Al: complicated ways to communicate don't work, we still have listserv; it is easy to set up a new task force, if someone wants to set up a task force on health equity and gets other people interested, it is easy to set up a health equity task force

Sherre: looking at interests on ALA Connect and they are all very library related, perhaps we could get SRRT topics added in Connect

Stav: does not relate to long email discussions, does better with Zoom meetings; keep all the possible means of communication to include all preferred means of communication; also, if listserv is going away it would be good to be proactive and get people trained to use Connect

Julie: COVID has made the underlying issues very obvious--homelessness, inequity, etc.

April: COVID creates a wild environment, library did not close, do we plan for possible closure

Sherre: we already have the plan to address closure and have a plan to open for in-person classes

April: when school went online, lots of students in her area did not have internet at home--inequity

Olivia: this is an issue of inequity in access; should libraries provide hotspots; should libraries advocate for legislation to support broadband for underserved areas

April: Hotspots Act to provide hotspots in underserved areas; can forward email to SRRT list

Audrey: would like to see citywide wifi in more places

Julie: with libraries closed, even providing wifi, still must have devices and electricity to use it; need to keep in mind accessibility

Next meeting: Action Council, August 25, 2021