

SRRT Action Council

Virtual Meeting * January 20, 2022

Attending: Sherre Harrington, Jane Cothron, Al Kagan, Charles Kratz, Wendy Stephens, Mark Winston, Julie Ann Winkelstein, Kevin King, Katelyn Browne, Monica Chapman, Damon M., Eric Gomez, April Sheppard, Edith Campbell, Tara Brady, Katherine Witzig, Mark Hudson, Jessica Kirk, Steven Phalen, Nicole Carpenter, Erin C., Tina Gross, Florence [no last name listed].

Here is the agenda for today's meeting, 01:00 PM - 02:00 PM (CT):

Anything more during LibLearnX? (We have scheduled monthly meetings through November. Resume in January or meet in December, too?)

Proposed Homelessness program (tentatively for post-Midwinter 2022)

Discussion of funding free memberships and conference registration

Program/meetings at Annual 2022 (Round Tables will be able to submit their chair's programs, meetings, etc. starting in mid-October. ODLOS will have communication about submissions for our groups closer to the time the site opens.)

Discussion of potential agenda for SRRT/COL meeting set for Sep. 30 (please see comments from Al Kagan & Tom Twiss earlier in this thread as well as April Sheppard's post Update on 9/8/21 COL Meeting).

I. Herb Biblo Award for Leadership, Charles Kratz: award winner Elaine Harger notified yesterday.

II. Feminist Task Force, Katelyn Browne (FTF Coordinator): RISE: a Feminist Booklist, committee deliberations begin tomorrow, list available sometime next week. Webinar on the first 20 years, January 13, 2022, Zoom link to come.

III. Summit on homeless awareness, April Sheppard, Julie Winkelstein: now planning for November, which is homelessness awareness month. Planning panels on 3 separate topics.

IV. Governance discussion on transforming ALA governance, Tara Brady: Two resolutions to be considered. Discussion today is convoluted, with multiple committees that reset each time. After 5 years, people on Council are fed up. Will vote on resolution to invest policy making authority in Executive Board. It's an undemocratic approach to reformatting our democratic decision making.

[Mark Hudson: As Al Kagan has pointed out, the ALA constitution states that Council is the policy setting, governing body. Is anyone in council pointing this out?]

[Tara: the problem is that we have both a Constitution and bylaws, one will go.]

[Julie Winkelstein: the trend toward a small group making all the decisions is just wrong.]

[Charles Kratz: worried that people are exhausted with the process and will just give in. There is a small number of officers pushing this.]

[Mark Winston: issue of process is part of the basis of any decision.]

[Sherre Harrington: is there anything individuals or SRRT as a group can do? Tara: SRRT cannot be on the record as a round table. If folks can show up in library community, then represent, be present and state what we think and why. This can change the mood around the decision. Contribute to the conversation.]

*chapter councillors, at-large councillors represent all of us.

[Al Kagan: SRRT is on record supporting keeping Council as the policy making body. Thank you, Tara, for representing us.]

**[Tara: Talking points: Today the ALA council is going to vote on a motion to move all its policy making decisions to a small executive board. I think this isn't the right decision for ALA for a lot of reasons. I know there's always been demand for developing a new, larger, council like body to debate and decide policy, but we're still not even being given the option to vote on that. I'm worried that we are all so tired of talking about this that we're going to vote on the only option before us just to be done with it. It's definitely time to move on, but this isn't the right change. I'd like to see council act and move forward on this question today, but if we have to choose between not making a decision and making the wrong one, we have to vote this motion down. That's a start. If folks have questions, I can talk and refine but I wanted to get some text down before I go off to the council meeting in a few minutes.]

V. Resolution on dropping all charges under the Espionage Act against Julian Assange, Mark Hudson: [Tara: question about the phrase "all charges". Council discussion will be Monday. Changes due by tomorrow morning.] Mark suggests changing the title to match the resolved clause, will send new text/title to AC Connect. IFC liaison is Mary Gazdic(sp).

VI. Discussion to increase SRRT membership, Mark Winston: wants to begin discussion on getting members into SRRT. ALA members express a large degree of membership disconnection, especially given the mood and the ALA reorganization move. How do we proactively seek students' involvement in SRRT?

[Al Kagan: it would be great if Mark Winston volunteers to be on the membership committee.]

[Tara Brady: the all-task force meeting is a great place for people to enter SRRT, especially for LIS students. It would be great to reach out to local LIS students and ask for assistance from them to do specific work, meet members, do something cool, come to the conference. Can SRRT offer a weekend scholarship to LIS students? For new professionals this would be a good way to enter ALA.]

[Jane Cothron: perhaps ask LIS students to attend conference programs and write program description from the point of view of SRRT, then have a conference section in the newsletter.]

[Julie Winkelstein: newsletter has 2 people working on it, so it needs more people; as editor, she already reaches out to people who mention interesting topics to ask for articles.]

[Kevin King: social work task force, wonder if other parts of the association have similar task forces that align with SRRT. Whatever city in-person conference with nearby students, SRRT could offer scholarship. Perhaps SRRT could sponsor new professional, student programs to conference committee.]

[Sherre Harrington: we need a further conversation on this and will reach out to Mark Winston on the topic.]

VII. IRRT free speech discussion at ALA Annual, Al Kagan: IRRT is doing a free speech discussion group at Annual (at request of COL). Alan Leveret has a lawsuit against a state law in Arkansas which prevents state contractors from advocating for BDS. Other presenters not yet final. Requesting a budget of \$1000 to bring presenters. [Sherre Harrington: still waiting for information on the budget. Monica Chapman: IRRT has funds, should be fine.]

VIII. Freedom to Read Foundation, Steven Phalen: Freedom to Read Foundation is open to including outside voices in the planning stages to online symposium. Has been passing along notes on BDS and free speech issue to the Freedom to Read group. Check out the free webinars, including managing challenges in your community. Encourages SRRT folk to get involved in the symposium.

IX. Gift memberships, Julie Winkelstein: move gift membership agenda item to next agenda for further discussion at February meeting.

X. Round Table Coordinating Committee, Charles Kratz: Round Table Coordinating committee meets in February, SRRT coordinator and incoming coordinator, Sherre Harrington and April Sheppard, should attend that meeting.

XI. IFLA bylaws on libraries and disabilities, Julie Winkelstein: is editing IFLA update of bylaws on libraries and disabilities.

XII. ALA Emerging Leadership, Kevin King: will post leaders list to ALA Connect. Will mention SRRT in talk at LibLearnX program for emerging leaders.

XIII. Future SRRT meetings.

- Thursday, February 17, 11am Central
- Thursday, March 17, 11am Central
- Thursday, Apr 21, 11am Central
- Thursday, May 19, 11am Central