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(Action Council)

Minutes of meetings of SRRT during ALA Midwinter 1976

Jan. 19

First matter to receive attention was Action Council's budget and treasury report. A balance of \$1700 was reported, down from a former \$4,000. It was indicated that two newsletters were paid for and there have been task forces expenditures, although not all of them have been heard from. No prescribed budget is in evidence for expenditures at conference. Since this meeting Gerald Shields has submitted a detailed budget for the fiscal year 1976. All Council members have received this so a copy is not herewith enclosed.

The Round Table memo was the next item for discussion. Some change in language was indicated. In the first paragraph "subject to the approval of the ALA Publishing Committee" was to read "with advice and assistance of the ALA P.C." In the third paragraph the words "Any formal solicitations and acceptance of" are to precede the sentence beginning "Funds sought by any ALA unit..." While the entire document is not entirely to the liking of SRRT, it does give status to Round Tables and the Action Council voted to accept the document unanimously.

Discussion on Conference Program showed that the lack of some organization and prior planning work to the disadvantage of the strength of SRRT. It was suggested that money would be forthcoming from ALA if concrete objectives were spelled out in our requests. SRRT must be represented at the ALA Planning Committee. Early setting of dates will eliminate the conflicts between programs set up by Task Forces and those of Action Council. The question^{was} of whether both entities should be planning programs. A further suggestion was to have a booth at the conference from which to dispense information on task forces, programs, and membership.

Some time was devoted to a discussion of priorities for SRRT. Some of the needs mentioned were; providing a forum for change; backing candidates running for office in ALA; presenting resolutions. It was recommended that a list of places to "crash"- sleep, eat, etc. be prepared and also a list of inexpensive eating places in Chicago.

Jan. 20

David Cohen appeared to inform SRRT that ACRL has reneged on its promise to give \$200 to the Task Force on Ethnic Groups. The money has been supplied through Jean Coleman's office but it was recommended that Nancy K_R write to Louise Giles to inquire why this change.

The budget was again a matter of discussion with recommendations that task forces be told that all last year's accounts must be cleared quickly. Happy news was that Alternatives in Print is self-sustaining and has even contributed money.

A letter was read from the People's Librarians informing us that they were becoming a local group again. Chicano group has not been heard from.

Some discussion on whether to rent a suite at the conference

took place

in July, but no consensus was reached.

In determining our priorities, those present felt the following were in the order of importance: Newsletter; Task Forces; Membership promotion. A promotional brochure is to be planned for which the sum of \$400 is to be set aside. (N.B. Shields' figure is \$300 on the estimated budget.)

January 22

The Round Table paper was returned to COPES for study while we were in session. The important issue of what each R.T. is to contribute was discussed. Jean Coleman pointed out that, if any amount was to be forthcoming, 1-3% would cover all the services which SRRT enjoys from the parent body.

The budget for Clearinghouse was next on the agenda. A motion that Clearinghouse make a quarterly report of its financial status to the treasurer was passed unanimously.

Patrice Harper submitted the following outline of the present circumstances related to Clearinghouse.

Current balance - \$700 (approx.)

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|-------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning amount was | \$48 |
| Breakdown: 6 mailings - | \$200-300 |
| Special promo mailing | \$30 |
| Misc. | \$20 |
| Post office box | \$45 |

Current balance came from institutional renewals/

Program for the July 1976 meeting included suggestions for an invitation to Boorstin to speak; banners for the park festival. We were reminded that a slot for the Detroit meeting must be reserved immediately.

J. Williams strongly urged that we give priority to a legislative program. Action Council felt that the programs under discussion did not preclude attention to legislative matters. A workshop on the latter, under the direction of J. Williams, was suggested. A request from the Merritt Fund for our mailing list was approved.

The JMRT read a motion which they plan to present and on which they wished our support. The issue was the reduction of the Board of Trustees of the Freedom to Read Foundation from 17 to 13 members. Among those whose votes are now gone are JMRT, ALTA and SSRT. There seems little responsibility to the membership at large in a "closed corporation" whose next "annual" meeting is not scheduled until 1979! The resolution presses for increasing the membership of the Board to 17 again. SRRT Action Council voted unanimously to support. Newsletter will urge Freedom to Read Foundation to hold a 1977 membership meeting. There are about 1400 members in the Foundation.

A resolution was passed to support the group which was sitting in at the Columbia branch of the NYPL in protest of the closing of that library facility.

Just before adjournment we learned that COPES recommended that all contributions from Round Tables be voluntary rather than on a fixed percentage.

Lillian L. Shapiro
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Secretary