

MINUTES - Action Council meetings at ALA Conference, Chicago, 1976

July 19, 1976

Members present at the meeting held at Roosevelt University Library: Nancy Kellum-Rose, Diane Kadunoff, Liz Dickinson, Joslyn Williams, Lynne Rhoads, Avery Williams, Lillian Shapiro - and newly elected members Minne Motz, Shirley Edsall, and Nancy D'Amico.

Ms. D'Amico was selected to attend the Detroit conference planning session and to forward the information to Council. Ms. Edsall volunteered to act as liaison between SRRT and CLENE.

A resolution was introduced by a visitor, Ed Herman of Queens Borough Public Library, in which it was sought to direct public library systems to use coporate funds for restoring staff who have been laid off and for the maintenance of services. AC approved the sense of the resolution but recommended that Herman obtain assistance to frame the resolution in form acceptable to ALA.

A resolution from Zoia Horn was read concerning the need to investigate the establishing of fees, a practice which discriminates against those unable to pay for information. A suggestion was made about the possibility of initiating a Freedom of Information Task Force.

Nancy Kellum-Rose emphasized the importance of lobbying among counselors in order to gain support for measures in which SRRT has an interest.

Council approved having a copy of the U. of Washington resolution at Task Force for Women booth for information purposes.

Council on Interracial Books for Children proposed a resolution to combat sexism and racism in children's books, focusing on pre-service training, in-service training, intellectual freedom, offensive (sic) books as learning tools, and reform of catalog practices. Mrs. Motz pointed out that "offensive" was an inappropriate word and other suggestions included "discriminatory" as a replacement. AC approved the sense of the resolution and recommended stronger wording. Nancy K-R announced that the Council on Interracial Books for Children was sharing the SRRT suite at the Pick-Congress during this conference.

July 22, 1976

Members present: Nancy Kellum-Rose, Diane Kadunoff, Barbara Ford, Liz Dickinson, Gerald Shields, Joslyn Williams, Lynne Rhoads, Avery Williams, Lillian Shapiro and new members, Shirley Edsall, Mary Biblo, and Elizabeth Morrissett.

Nancy reported that COPES had gone back to the position of assessing Round Tables on a sliding scale of 5 to 10% of membership dues, rather than - as appeared to be the final stand at Midwinter - on a voluntary basis. It is likely that our expenditure here will be about 5% of our intake.

Gerald Shields presented the treasury report which gives us a balance of \$3700 - due to the moratorium that brought the budget fiscal period ~~to~~ January to December. Conference expenses will bring that balance down to approximately \$1,000.00

Clearing House report by Jackie Eubanks described the various mailings for promotion and indicated that the loss of members matches the number of new entrants fairly closely so that no increase in total membership is apparent. One serious problem is the unconscionable

length of time ALA takes to process new members so that as much as ten months has elapsed before Newsletter begins to reach newly enrolled members. Jackie pointed out that about \$2,000 would be needed for the newsletter. Their outside monies will be used for postage and promotion budget. Institutional memberships are up to 105.

The five new members to Council were introduced although all could not be present. They are Shirley Edsall, Nancy D'Amico, Elizabeth Morrissett, Mary Biblo, and Minne Motz. Council was urged to consider itself a committee of the whole to urge ALA members to volunteer for Action Council. Lillian Shapiro pointed out that there are three excellent candidates for next year's Council whose names were received too late for consideration this year. Gerald Shields stressed the necessity for Action Council members to make nomination suggestions for all areas of ALA activity. Shapiro seconded that and cautioned that deadlines for submission of those names must be carefully observed.

Nancy D'Amico's report on the Detroit planning meeting was read. The format for the next annual conference will be for days to be designated either as business days or program days. Tuesday, June 23, 1977 will be a large across-the board ALA meeting with small group discussions subsumed under the large gathering. There is a need for discussion leaders to help at those group discussions and it is vital for SRRT to be represented at every table, of which there will be 200. Some AC members have already volunteered. Others should send their names to Pat Harris at ALA headquarters. The advisory committee for that event includes Gerald Shields, Augusta Baker, Ernie Siegel, and Mrs. Phinazee as chairperson.

Miriam Crawford spoke about the archival collection of SRRT papers. We have a deposit agreement with the U. of Illinois Archives. Any members holding SRRT documents should examine them for the following criteria:

1. What office could use the materials? They should be sent on to the person next holding that office.
2. What materials are duplicates or irrelevant? They can be discarded.
3. What materials have value for historical purposes? These should be forwarded to Miriam Crawford who will look them over and send pertinent material on to U. of Illinois. Her address is Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

After dropping RT members from its board the Freedom to Read Foundation is looking for auditor-liaison personnel! Betty Carol Sellen will be one for SRRT.

Also necessary is representation from SRRT to the Ethics Committee. The statement needs improving. E. Morrissett sits in on those meetings. Other committees needing observation are AFL/CIO committee and the Networking committee. SRRT has suggested Pat Schuman and Joan Marshall as possible attendees at the Planning Committee for the President's Conference.

The Prisons Task Force has been struck since the new one under HRLS is doing that job. Also defunct is the one on indexing. Two new task forces are: Strategies on Facing Financial Crises and Multi-Lingual Library Services.

The heading of the U. of Washington report was corrected to make it clear that it was a report on a special project made to Council and that SRRT was not itself the author. The report will be distributed through Clearing House.

Lillian L. Shapiro