Social Responsibilities Round Table  Action Council
Minutes of meetings held during Midwinter, Jan.-Feb., 1977
January 30

Coordinator Barbara Ford invited past coordinators and others to recapitulate the history of SRRT. J. Eubanks outlined the steps leading to the formation of the Round Table and pointed out the importance of the bibliography prepared by the group at the time of the Ocean Hill-Brownsville confrontation. SRRT was created to act as an umbrella group. Some of the accomplishments included changes in dues structure, opening of meetings to any who wished to observe, involving people in the business and problems of librarianship without going through the system's procedures.

Miriam Crawford described steps she has taken in her role as archivist for SRRT.

Nancy Kellum-Rose related the disaffection within SRRT in the 70s and the discussion at that time regarding the feasibility of an alternative library organization. The consensus appeared to be that it was more useful to fight from within.

The early strength of SRRT was in its direct action projects and there seems to be a desire to go back to that more energetic style. The question about the specific role of Action Council elicited the answer that AC is a budgetary body (very important), drafts petitions, makes statements from the floor at ALA Council meetings, supports candidates running for election. It was suggested that SRRT needs more press coverage but the idea of a PR rep did not seem attractive.

Joslyn Williams asked whether SRRT should be a pressure group within ALA or a fringe radical group. Eubanks indicated that we have acted in both capacities. Another question concerned itself with whether we can respond to several issues simultaneously and the reaction was that the task forces are doing that. There will be emphasis on monitoring various ALA committee meetings so that the broad picture of what is going on in the organization will be known to SRRT. One important future event to be watched, especially in terms of who will be attending it, is the White House Conference. Someone (Jim Dwyer?) suggested that if SRRT cannot be in the official conference we might hold a White Wash Conf.

We have a reservation for a room holding 500 in Detroit on Sunday, June 19, 1977. The topic selected is on the issue of free access to information. Title of program is "Prostitution of Information: Fees for Service." Jim Dwyer is taking responsibility for trying to get Bella Abzug as keynote speaker and also for planning some street theatre. Other members of Clearinghouse are working with him.
Zoia Horn's two resolutions on free access to information were read and re-endorsed (originally endorsed in Chicago 1976). Ford asked us to speak to the motions from the floor at Council's session.

February 1

Edsall submitted the treasury report to cover the period of Jan. 1-Aug. 30, bringing us into synchronization with ALA. After two years of budget deficits last year's fiscal planning has given us solvency. Edsall's budget (with Ford's cooperation) includes the COPES' assessment of 1%. Some adjustments were made in the budget to allow a more realistic apportionment to telephone expenses. Monies slated for the Task Force on Financial Crises and on Multi-Linguall Libraries were re-allocated since those two groups have been dropped; the first because the leader has resigned and the second because no interest was shown by any other people.

It was announced that Joslyn Williams had resigned from SRRT Action Council.

Dorothy Broderick called for a "buddy system" to make library school students or graduates more welcome and comfortable if they attend ALA conferences. Eubanks outlined some of the plans for issues of Clearinghouse.

Discussion was held on the advisability of having a suite in Detroit and the $200 budgeted for it will have to be supplemented by funds paid by those who will sleep in the suite. The proposed budget was accepted with a change in stating the exact number of issues that Clearinghouse will publish. The amount, as fixed, will determine how many can be accomplished.

Broderick presented herself as a petition candidate for vice-pres., president-elect of ALA and asked the endorsement of AC. She has been an ALA member for 21 years, a member of SRRT, active in the Gay Task Force. She is concerned with the lack of leadership in the ALA superstructure. Ford said that the request would be acted on by AC.

Because of Shapiro's resignation from SRRT as of Midwinter the duties of secretary will be taken over by Nancy D'Amico. Barbara Pruett 3159 Queens Chapel Rd. #201, Mt. Rainier, Md. 20822 - Tel. Home (301) 277-3158 Office (202) 635-5064 will take responsibility for preparing the ballot for the next election of AC members.

SRRT will request a booth or a table at Detroit conference.

Discussion on the Broderick endorsement was begun but was held over for the next meeting because of lack of time.

February 3

Dwyer showed AC letter which has gone out to Abzug.

Eubanks distributed letter indicating need for advance financing from budget and AC approved.
Candidacy of Broderick was discussed. Shapiro explained the procedures of ALA Nominating Com. of which she had been a member this year and emphasized that the committee does not come together with a pre-selected list of nominees. All segments of ALA and the library profession at large are urged to make nominations the basis for discussion. She pointed out also that the make-up of the nominating committee is a broad representation of various groups within ALA. On the specific request by Broderick, Shapiro indicated that she was not aware of wide contributions to ALA by this candidate (no offices within the organization?) and questioned the leadership and administrative ability of the candidate for a position which is demanding in its need to bring together the various parts of the national organization. Other members of SRRT stressed the fact that Broderick is a SRRT member and the other two candidates running are not. After some discussion the vote to endorse was taken with a result of 6 in favor and 1 opposed. SRRT AC did indicate that it will ask Broderick to modify her position on returning divisional representation to ALA Council since that was a procedure which they had worked to eliminate.

Other SRRT members announced their candidacy by petition - Herb Biblo and Avery Williams. Clearinghouse will carry a list of SRRT and Black Caucus candidates running by petition or by Nominating Committee.

It was announced that Council Doc. #11 (Horn's resolution #1) was defeated but ALA Council did pass a resolution calling for a study of the matter of fees for service.

Pruett suggested that all Task Force Coordinators should be members of AC but this was not received positively.

Problems connected with recruiting AC candidates were discussed and there may also be need to change our balloting procedures. This will be discussed in Detroit. Mary Biblo and Pruett will take care of the ballot procedures.

Elizabeth Morrissett announced that SRRT will have a booth rather than a table (as first considered) and she is still checking on suites. The suite will be reserved for 4 days. Jean Coleman reminded SRRT that she must be informed about materials that will be in the booth. Mary Biblo and Avery Williams will take care of the organization of that (materials and scheduling staff to supervise the booth).

Crawford reminded AC about archives and urged writing of biographical memoirs of early SRRT days. She cautioned that all publications of various SRRT-related groups should be kept.

Additional announcements: SRRT observer needed for Freedom to Read Foundation. Trezza will not be invited to participate in SRRT's program on free access to information in Detroit.

Lillian L. Shapiro
Secretary