

ALA/SRRT Action Council  
Minutes of Annual Conference 1986

June 28, 1986, 9:30 - 11 A.M.

Present: John Sheridan, Colorado College; Doris Kirschbaum, PGCMLS; Barbara Levinson, Rockland BOCES; Jean Kocsis, U. of Mass/Amherst; Gail Warner, Whitman Co. Library; Linda Pierce, Anchorage Municipal Lib; Cathy Seitz, Miami Univ.; Daniel Tsang, UC-Irvine; Peter Kidder, LC; Noel Peattie, U.C.-Davis; Margaret McEntire, Citizens Against Nuclear War; Susan Vaughn, Bklyn College.

The meeting was called to order by John Sheridan.

Elected to three year terms on Action Council are: Gail Warner, John Hostage, Jim Danky.

Election of Officers for the coming year will be held on Tuesday, July 2.

SRRT Newsletters were sent to the Deans of library schools in communities near NYC with a cover letter. Next year, they will be sent to library schools on the West Coast. This will be done for two years in an effort to create interest in SRRT in areas where the conferences are held.

Round Tables will have to become part of the new fiscal policies in ALA. Each round table and each task force, which expends money, will have to have its own number as a line item in the budget.

Vince Jennings asked for a Washington representative to attend monthly meetings of Citizens Against Nuclear War.

The Midwinter minutes were read and approved with one correction. Dan Tsang will speak as an individual to membership about recruitment regarding gay/lesbian librarians.

The Human Rights Task Force will request endorsement of a resolution on South Africa at the next meeting.

Jackie Eubanks will be the SRRT Representative to the Library Education Assembly.

Noel Peattie reported on the Freedom to Read Foundation. The Media Coalition will get a \$5000 annual contribution. the Morison Case is on appeal. FTRF will be an amicus curiae. The Meese Commission report is now being printed. The release date is to be July 8. Discussed were the acid rain films and the Dept. of Justice and the Rating (PG, R, X) of video films in some states.

Margaret McEntyre of Citizens Against Nuclear War is looking for people who may be interested in working with CAN.

There was a discussion of problems arising from the alleged tendency of the Gay Task Force to collect money from outside sources without giving an account thereof. It was felt by some that the Gay Task Force gained an undue advantage over Task Forces not having those kinds of contacts. Moneys allotted the Gay Task Force from Action Council have been accurately accounted for.

Susan Vaughn gave the Treasurer's Report.

Meeting was adjourned.

Doris Kirschbaum &  
Noel Peattie

June 29, 1986, 11:30 - 12:30 P.M.

Present: Elliott Shore, Institute for Advanced Study; Linda Pierce; Helen Lewis Homer Bakkidge Library; Carol Greenholz, SUNY Farmingdale; Gail Warner; Joy Kennedy, Illinois LA/SRRT; Karen Chapman, University of Illinois; Daniel Tsang; John Hostage, Harvard Law School; Jean Coleman, OLOS; Ernest B. Dane, Great Falls, VA; Peter Kidder; Lee Regan, US Geological Survey; Noel Peattie.

The Meeting was called to order.

Daniel Tsang (GAY TF) reported that HM's Customs & Excise has dropped all charges against the bookstore, "Gay's the Word."

A draft resolution on the abridgement of human rights in South Africa was presented by Corinne Nyquist (Human Rights TF). It was originally referred to the Human Rights TF from the International relations Committee. As it condemns the present Dewey Decimal schedule for South African history, which was prepared by Forest Press with the assistance of SAILIS (South African Institute for Librarianship and Information Science), a segregated body, for giving a "white-supremacist" view of South African history, the question was whether the catalogers of Resources and Technical Services Division would support this resolution. This had not been settled, as of date, but SRRT adopted the resolution, unanimously.

The Gay Task Force (Tsang and Gittings) reported that they wanted to be recognized by the Awards Committee of ALA, and they wish to have their Gay Book Award officially sanctioned by ALA and listed in the ALA handbook. Linda Pierce reported that the history of each award presently sanctioned has been different, and that ALA will want details and specifics, sources of funding, etc. The Gay TF replied that most of these have been already determined, but some minor changes may be made. The award will have to go through the ALA budget process. SRRT will support the Gay Task force in this drive for recognition.

Council Document #30, "Equity at issue," was to be introduced at ALA's Membership Meeting. SRRT voted to support this, urged all members to attend and give support.

A letter from Miriam Jaffe, Friends of Montebello (CA) Public Library, and Director (with husband, Sidney) of the Propaganda Research Institute, sent to Beverly P. Lynch, President of ALA and the ALA Council, has been designated as Council Document #39. Presumably it was so designated by Beverly Lynch because it was also directed to Council, but she did not contact SRRT beforehand. It asks Lynch to suspend the meeting of the Task Force on Alternatives in Print, presenting a public program on libraries and education in Nicaragua. This is requested on the ground that the program shows bias by not including speakers opposed to the present Sandinista government of Nicaragua. It also requests that ALA Council "delay adoption of the proposed Strategic Long-Range Plan to be presented to membership for approval June 30 including permanent removal of Priority Area F; 11 and 1:4 Organizational Support Goal, Organizational Area A:2; also that the Plan not be presented until long-range implications of its "Mission, Priority Areas and Goals" are more clearly explained to members." SRRT Action Council was distressed at the letter's being made a Council Document (and Coordinator John Sheridan subsequently sent a letter of inquiry to Beverly Lynch). Peattie provided some background information on Miriam Jaffe. It appears that Jaffe had made an appearance at the Council meeting, but for informational purposes only, since she is not a Council member and there was no relevant motion on the floor.

Meeting was adjourned.

Noel Peattie

July 1, 1986, 11:30 - 12:30 P.M.

Joint SRRT Membership/Action Council meeting.

The meeting was called to order.

Present: Elizabeth Morrisett, Helen Lewis, Doris Kirschbaum, Kate Shackford, Betty-Carol Sellen, Gail Warner, Jeanne Kocsis, Barbara Levinson, John Sheridan, Dan Tsang, Barbara Gittings, Noel Peattie, Peter Kidder, John Hostage, Jeanene McNair, Charles Bfwair, Linda Pierce, E.B. Dane, Joan Goddard, Vincent Jennings, Jackie Eubanks, Leonard Kniffel, Sally Bergen, Mimi Penchansky, Cal Gough, Corinne Nyquist.

Betty-Carol Sellen announced that the progressive dinner, a fundraiser for next year's pre-conference had netted around \$4000. That plus the advance of \$1000, made a good start for the program. The SRRT Newsletter should be receiving names of Bay Area minority people to participate, although basically, this is a program whereby white librarians should work on their racism.

In addition to the resolution, already endorsed, on abridgement of human rights in South Africa, Action Council approved endorsement of the use of Eb Dane's bibliography, "National Security in the Nuclear Age," and a resolution concerning literacy, literature and libraries in Nicaragua.

Action Council also affirmed that ALA be recorded as opposing the appointment of Mr. Agresto and supporting PL98-497 stipulating that professional qualifications, rather than political affiliations be the only criteria governing the selection of the Archivist of the United States.

Action Council will correspond with David Searcy of the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force offering support regarding the lights out and ceiling leaking during the Breakfast. Betty-Carol Sellen, as local arrangements chair will receive a copy of the letter to be written by John Sheridan.

The Feminist Task Force discussed programs for San Francisco.

The Library Union Task Force supports the Hormel strike and a boycott of Hormel products. SRRT voted to support the strike. Local arrangements in San Francisco should be informed that no grapes or wines that are not union, should be allowed.

Jeanne Kocsis was appointed the new editor of the SRRT Newsletter.

The new officers of SRRT Action Council are: Gail Warner, Coordinator; Secretary, Doris Kirschbaum; Susan Vaughn, Treasurer; Linda Pierce, Conference Arrangements.

A request from Elizabeth Morrisett of the Peace Information Exchange Task Force for \$350 for a program was approved.

Meeting was adjourned.

Doris Kirschbaum and  
Noel Peattie