

American Library Association
Social Responsibilities Round Table
Action Council

Minutes of the ALA Midwinter Meeting, Washington, January 7-10, 1989

January 7, 1989

1. The meeting was called to order by SRRT Action Council Co-ordinator John Hostage at 9:45 a.m. Introductions were made of current and past members of Action Council, as well as guests present. It was announced that Sybil Moses, SRRT contact at ALA Headquarters would be attending Action Council meetings as her schedule permitted. John Hostage thanked all present for their interest and strong contributions to SRRT since the last annual meeting in New Orleans.
2. The following additions to the agenda were proposed:
 - a. Report on "Books for Nicaragua" by Jackie Eubanks
 - b. Report on the "We are not Pleased" item
 - c. Discussion of the Center for Religious Ethics and Social Policy Mailing List
 - d. Membership in COSMEP
 - e. Tributes in Chicago
 - f. Resolution on the NOW demonstration
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the 1988 Annual Conference. Action Council members voted to approve the minutes after some background discussion.
4. John Hostage announced the location of subsequent meeting places for Action Council during the midwinter meeting. The time and location of the Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast was announced.
5. General recommendations for Pat Berger's Presidential Programs were elicited. These included the following: more direct action to support affirmative action policies generally in ALA; stronger attempts by ALA to protest politically sensitive policies which affect rights of librarians; more emphasis on importance of intellectual freedom.
6. Jody Bush and Dee Conkling delivered the Treasurer's Budget report. It was noted generally that some committees and task forces are not very prompt in submitting requests for payments, and that the proper documentation of expenses and receipts were often lacking. John Hostage suggested that committee and task force chairpersons be more diligent in submitting complete documentation of expenses as required by the Treasurer. Discussion also followed on whether funds budgeted for the Task Force on the Homeless and International Human Rights Task Force should be returned to the main budget, as no information had been received on whether these groups were still actively functioning.
7. Action Council approved the appropriation of \$120 towards joint ad about various ALA unit awards in the September 1989 American Libraries.

8. Discussions of budget requests for 1988-89 and 1989-90 were held. Chairpersons present of the current committees and task forces gave outlines of past expenses and justifications of budget requests for 1989-1990. Again it was noted that proper documentation of expenses incurred is needed for the future, as payment procedures for expenditures was a little lax in the past. ALA Headquarters has indicated that proper procedures must be followed as described in the administrative guidelines. Jackie Eubanks asked for a supplemental allocation of \$200 for mailing expenses which had not been included in the present budget request. This was approved after some discussion.
9. John Hostage asked that SRRT Action Council members come prepared with their questions for the presidential and other candidates at the ALA President's meeting to be held Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 p.m.
10. Candidates for ALA officers attended SRRT Action Council to present their positions and ask for endorsement. Considerable discussion came from the floor.
11. Chris Sokol, SRRT Newsletter editor, presented a report on newsletter activities since the ALA annual meeting. Two issues of the newsletter were issued since then. She urged Action Council members to increase the number of items which are contributed to the newsletter. Deadline for the next issue is 25 January. John Hostage thanked Chris Sokol for her diligent efforts at co-ordinating and producing the newsletter.
12. It was approved to extend a free subscription to the SRRT Newsletter to the Tidsskriftcentret (The Periodicals Center) in Copenhagen, Denmark.
13. Dan Tsang, SRRT Representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation, gave a report on the activities of the Foundation since the last annual meeting. At this point he asked John Hostage to report on the status of the SRRT inquiry to the FBI on any reports done on SRRT. John Hostage reported that very little information existed in the FBI files about supposed subversive activities of SRRT. He also stated that individuals who are SRRT members may send a request to the FBI for any individual reports on themselves, but a request must be sent to each regional FBI office, as there is no central file or repository for information of this type. A report was given by the Feminist Task Force on a program being sponsored by them called "Librarians as Colleagues across Racial Lines: Strategies for Action". Also the Task Force sponsored a program called "Introducing Women's Groups in ALA". The Gay and Lesbian Task Force sponsored a panel discussion called "Sexual Orientation: Library Employment Practices". Also a report was received outlining a debate co-sponsored by SRRT and the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable called "Two Views of Intellectual Freedom". SRRT's Noel Peattie was to participate in the debate and all Action Council members were urged to attend the debate to lend support.

The meeting was adjourned until Sunday, January 8, at 2:00 p.m.

The SRRT Action Council meeting resumed January 8 and was called to order by Co-ordinator John Hostage at 2:10 p.m.

14. John Hostage reported briefly on the revisions committee for the SRRT constitution and by-laws. It has been extremely difficult to get together the persons who had indicated interest in working on this project. An attempt will be made to get all persons concerned to meet before the last meeting and come up with proposals for 9 January.
15. Bethany Lawton and Carol Greenholz reported briefly on the revision and reprinting of the SRRT brochure. Carol Greenholz has access to a personal computer and will put together a proposed model for the brochure in time for the Annual meeting in Dallas. She will send out the proposal in advance to elicit comments and suggestions from the SRRT membership, and report back at the SRRT Action Council annual meeting in June.
16. Elizabeth Morrissett was chosen to plan and run the SRRT booth at the annual meeting in Dallas. John Hostage thanked her for her interest and commitment.
17. John Hostage reported that there was one volunteer for the 1989/82 term on Action Council:
18. Task Force reports were given by Stephen Stillwell for the Peace Information Exchange Task Force, by Dan Tsang for Alternatives in Print Task Force, by David Searcy for the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force and a report given on the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. No reports were received on the task forces for the Homeless or International Human Rights. John Hostage suggested that a follow-up be done to find out whether these groups are still functioning. A report on this will follow at the annual meeting in Dallas.
19. A report was made on the Civil Rights Task Force book, Social Responsibility in Librarianship. Essays on Equality. John Hostage noted with thanks the extremely effective activities of the task force and noted that a plan is forthcoming to disband the task force. This point will be discussed at the annual meeting in June.
20. Leslie Schotz was appointed representative to the Library Education Assembly. John Hostage thanked her for her interest and willingness to serve in this capacity.
21. It was moved and seconded to extend SRRT Action Council endorsement to the ALA Minority Internship/Fellowship Program, as requested by the OLOS Advisory Committee. SRRT Action Council members approved this motion and Co-ordinator John Hostage will communicate this information to Sybil Moses of OLOS.
22. Discussion followed on the advisability of establishing an internship position on Action Council, based on a memo from Thomas Galvin of October 18, 1988. Action Council approved the idea. John Hostage will present a follow-up report at the annual meeting in Dallas.
23. Action Council approved having an official literature table in Dallas. All requests must be given as soon as possible to meet the ALA Conference planning deadline of 6 February.

The meeting was adjourned until Monday, January 9, at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting was re-convened on Monday, January 9 at 2:10 p.m.

24. As mentioned in point 13, John Hostage reported on the results of the FBI Freedom of Information Act request. No substantive information exists on SRRT in FBI files.
25. Discussion was held on having a representative from the Minnesota SRRT on Action Council. John Hostage noted that the current constitution provides for each state affiliate of SRRT to have a representative at Action Council, so it is up to the state affiliates whether they send someone or not.
26. There was some discussion on whether there was anyone interested in attending the RTSD/CCS Committee on Cataloguing: Description and Access (CC:DA). It was felt that little interest was evident, so this point could be raised again at a future Action Council meeting.
27. More reports on various SRRT activities were received. Jackie Eubanks reported on the overwhelming success on the "Books for Nicaragua" program and passed around photographs documenting the events. John Hostage thanked her for her efforts and interest in the project. More information was given on the "We are not pleased" question, but no substantive action ensued.
28. Action Council approved a recommendation to give access to the Center for Religion, Ethics and Social Policy to the SRRT mailing list. It was noted that ALA generally will give access to official mailing lists, but these must be purchased from Headquarters, and SRRT cannot just give the list away.
29. Steven Stillwell of the Peace Information Exchange Task Force received SRRT Action Council approval for an annual Peace Award to honor a library or a librarian for contributions to the advancement of knowledge related to the issues of international peace and security. The award is to be financially supported by SIRS.
30. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the SRRT Action Council meeting. This was approved by a majority of Action Council members. The next SRRT Action Council meetings will be in Dallas, June 24-27, 1989 at the ALA Annual Conference.

Very respectfully submitted

Carol A. Davies

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June 23, 1989