



MINUTES SRRT Membership Meeting

June 28, 1993 - New Orleans

Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr., presiding

In attendance:

Donnarae Mac Cann, CRTF; Carol Greenholz, Action Council; Elaine Harger, LUTF, PLG; Jeffrey Blankfort, Middle East Labor Bulletin; Becky Ray; Roland C Hansen, GLTF, SRRT Treasurer; Carol Barta, KS SRRT; Majed Khader, Marshall University; Herb Biblo, LILRC; Mary Biblo, U of Chgo; David Williams, ICPL-TF; Chris Stewart, ICPL; Dan Hodge, Data Center Oakland CA; Diedre Conkling, Lincoln County Lib. Dist., Newport OR; Mark Rosenzweig, LaGuardia Community College CUNY; Sandy Berman, MN SRRT; Stephen Stillwell, Harvard; Al Kagan, U of Illinois.

1. Endorsed the American Indian Library Association's resolution on Libraries and Native Americans.
2. Received Task Force Annual Reports. All reports are due in writing to the secretary by the end of July. (Note: Only 3 reports were received.)

AIP: Charles Willett from Crises, Inc. is the new coordinator. Report received from Sandy Berman.

Civil Rights: Videotape production to recruit minority librarians is progressing. An edited version should be ready by midwinter. The taskforce is producing an "Action Kit" for librarians to assist with self education for civil rights in the context of libraries. Report received from Donnarae McCann

Coretta Scott King: No Report.

Environment: Maria Jankowski is the new coordinator. The Task Force is evaluating the exhibits for the most environmentally correct, use of recycling, etc. Report received from Carol Barta.

Feminist: The Second Annual Feminist Authors Breakfast was very successful. The Task Force is working on ways to get more small presses to exhibit at ALA. Report received from Teresa Tobin.

Gay and Lesbian: Wendy Thomas has agreed to complete the remaining term as female co-chair, replacing Karen Whittlesey when she accepted a position with ALA. The GLTF program was very successful with an attendance of about 300. The '94 program will most likely be a spin-off with the subject of juvenile and young adult literature. Report received from Roland Hansen.

Intellectual Freedom: disbanded.

International Human Rights: Unfortunately, no one attended the scheduled meeting at this conference. The Task Force has proposed a name change to International Relations Task Force. Report received from Mark Rosenzweig.

Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries: The taskforce is concerned about membership rescinding the resolution opposing Israeli censorship and the general tone expressed by both ALA administration and Council. Programs around this topic will continue. Report received from David Williams.

Library Unions: Ray Markey is the new coordinator. Report received from Elaine Harger.

Immigration/Homeless: disbanded.

Peace: The Task Force award, sponsored by SIRS, was given to the library at the Peace Education Center. Their program was well attended. Report received from Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.

Affiliate Reports were received from Kansas (Carol Barta), Minnesota (Sandy Berman) and Oregon (Dee Conkling).

NEW BUSINESS:

1) ALA and International Relations: A presentation at membership meeting will be given to help members clarify what we should or shouldn't be doing in regard to international relations. Nancy John, IFC Chair, Stephen Stillwell, and an IRC representative will serve on the panel.

2) Presidential Task Force on conduct of meetings and ALA values: President Miller proposed and the Executive Board approved a special committee to examine the role and conduct of the Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries Task Force. Stephen reported that he and David Williams both appeared at the Saturday morning Executive Board meeting to answer their questions on topics such as the responsibility of Task Forces to Action Council, reportage, allegations of abuse and suppression at events sponsored by this Task Force and the general formation and financing of Task Forces. Noting that this type of investigation had a very chilling effect on the entire organization,

and that it appeared to be a form of "witch hunting" it was recommended to Action Council that SRRT should not cooperate with the investigation.

4) AIP Task Force Friday Evening Buffet: Discussed the AIP buffet which was held Friday night of the conference. It was suggested SRRT could make this a stronger, better event by sponsoring it as a Round Table and contributing more money. Suggestions for improvement were made such as a cash bar and food, advance ticket sales, a Book Fair/Social combination, combining the social with the membership meeting. Al Kagan reviewed the plans for the SRRT Founders Gathering that is in the planning stages. The discussion turned to lengthy dialogue on the nature of SRRT and the Task Forces. While SRRT membership is growing the membership meeting has low attendance. Herb Biblo pointed out that as SRRT members become more successful and move up into higher positions, they are most likely unable to attend SRRT meetings and programs. Stephen suggested the possibility of instigating some outreach at the Miami conference, as it will also be the 25th anniversary of SRRT. Charles Wieland suggested that Action Council function as a RE-action Council and that the Task Forces should be the driving force behind SRRT. Herb Biblo suggested combining several things into Friday night event, including the SRRT Founders Gathering, the AIP Buffet, and the Anniversary with the inclusion of Arthur Curley, ALA President-elect and SRRT member in some capacity. Sandy Berman suggested we examine issues that are not being addressed as part of the outreach activities. Discussion continued concerning library budget issues, the effects of social issues on libraries, and the overall legitimacy of SRRT and how all of these factors interact. Stephen requested that each Task Force prepare a list of recent activities/programs in order to review the immediate past, and help in setting priorities. All members attending were in favor of building SRRT and setting priorities. Carol Barta pointed out that we should also be examining the many technology issues that impact libraries, and what will be done about those changes. Mark Rosenzweig re-emphasized the concept that SRRT is shaped by the Task Forces and there is much to be done to revitalize SRRT. Teresa Tobin agreed, and suggested that each year Task Force programs might center around a "core" issue and how this issue relates to each Task Force. Chip Stewart suggested combining the membership meeting with the Friday night event. Further discussion concerning direction, methodologies and procedures in determining the direction of SRRT will take place at Midwinter. The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Submitted by Debra Gilchrist, SRRT Secretary and Roland Hansen, SRRT Treasurer