

SRRT Action Council  
Sat. June 24, 1995  
Mariott Hotel  
9:30-11:00

Those present: Sandy Berman, Linda Pierce, Rosemary Stevenson, Steven Harris, Elaine Harger, Mattye Nelson, Stephen Stillwell, Dan Tsang, Roland Hansen, Al Kagan, Chris Dodge, Mark Rosenzweig, Marta Terry, Carol Barta. (constructed from minutes, sign in sheet missing)  
Introductions

#### Approval of Minutes

Al Moved Minutes of the Midwinter Action Council meetings were approved.

New members elected by mail ballot are Dottie Granger, Al Kagan, Mark Rosenzweig, Nel Ward, Steven Harris were noted.

A Self-study committee member may be coming to talk to Action Council about the proposed changes (never came).

We have already been asked to endorse one of the three presidential candidates. Barbara Ford is a past SRRT coordinator and has asked that we endorse her. This will be discussed at Midwinter.

Stephen read a letter from ALA regarding lessening the number of meetings at conferences.

Stephen has been appointed to the Committee which oversees OLOS.

The checks finally issued for GLBTF events during the 1994 annual conference.

A brief discussion about new officer elections was held. We also need to appoint liaisons and one member of the newsletter editorial board.

The Task Force on Homeless, Migrant and Refugees was declared disbanded at the request of the task force chairperson, Elizabeth Morrissett.

Marta Terry, from the National Library of Cuba, was introduced as a guest by Mark Rosenzweig. She will be speaking at a program. Due to the sporadic nature of travel accommodations between the United States and Cuba, Ms. Terry had to come a week early. The International Responsibilities Task Force requested more budget in order to cover hotel and expenses due to her early arrival.

Al Kagan moved and Elaine Harger seconded this request. An additional \$500 was unanimously approved to cover these expenses.

Petition for new task force on poverty issues was presented by

Sandy Berman and Al Kagan. They asked for a start-up budget of \$400. Sandy Berman said that this task force represents a cardinal issue in libraries, but ALA has never had group to address this issue. Because of this there has been no interest in implementing the "poor people's resolution" by ALA. The Task force will motivate ALA in this regard.

It was moved and seconded, by virtue of the petition, that task force be formed.

Chris Dodge spoke to the issue that more fees being charged for reserves and transfers from one branch to other. This is in direct conflict with the resolution.

Sandy replied that we need to make public reference to the ALA standards that are not being implemented. Stephen questioned why we should create this new task force when a similar one just failed.

Sandy replied that the issue of poverty will be central approach of this task force. Theresa Tobin remarked that there will be a political action focus of the new task force. The Feminist Task force will have a liaison due to impact of poverty on women.

Stephen concluded that we can use this issue to bring together all task forces. Sandy concurred. Several people expressed the idea that library workers are among those forced to exist at poverty levels.

Sandy will try to get a midwinter formation meeting scheduled.

Linda Pierce suggested that we should get together with PLA as this is a good issue for cross group ties.

Approval of the new task force comes from two votes at 2 consecutive meetings. The initial vote passed unanimously.

There was a further discussion of our ongoing problem relationship with OLOS. There is a problem with the CSK plaques, which are still in Atlanta because they have not been paid. They will be Fed-ex'd here by Tuesday. Several people got wrong information regarding meeting times and locations from Mattye.

The OLOS steering committee is an ongoing committee. Kathleen McCook is chair.

Peggy Barbour will set up a meeting with staff. She will get a list of things they will be able to do for us and what they won't do so that we know what we can ask for.

Roland expressed a concern that the management of the OLOS office is an issue that must be addressed also.

Sandy suggested that there be a liaison from new task force to OLOS. Stephen stated that their meetings are open so anyone can

attend.

At this time we should all send copies of all correspondence to OLOS to Peggy Barbour and SRRT coordinator.

SRRT Booth/KIOSKS: ALA now has kiosks in registration area. We should be prepared to have it set up during registration. GLBTF staffing it on Saturday.

Elaine spoke about the PLG program "Censorship at the Smithsonian." SRRT decided at midwinter to sponsor this program and asked IFC and IFRT to help mount an exhibit on Enola Gay. Elaine did the intellectual content, Fred Stiehlow put together physical booth. However they did not use Elaine's material, they decided this really wasn't a censorship issue. Elaine and Mark put together their version and will ask that it be displayed.

Although ALA sent out a press release on the exhibit it didn't get into any of the library press.

Dan Tsang reported on the Freedom to Read foundation meeting. There is a concern about libraries buying software called "Surfwatch". It could cause problems if it doesn't do what it says it can. A library could be held liable if someone finds something offensive that wasn't screened out.

) There is a need to diversify the FTR board. A few people of color  
' tried to restructure to vote for categories.

Stephen asked for short written reports from task forces and liaisons. These can serve for newsletter articles as well.

Deb Gilchrist has been elected to ALA Council.

Rosemary Stevenson suggested that it might be useful to run a slate of candidates composed of members from the Black Caucus, Reforma, American Indian Library Association, etc.

Rosemary will send a letter to see if there is any interest. Forming a coalition and having some lead time could prove useful to getting diverse viewpoints on council.

Mattye suggested that an "Ethnic Council" would be an idea. Progressives and people of color lost out in these elections. More numbers are involved in these issues than is perceived by membership

She also suggested that groups could pool money to do publicity for their campaigns.

Stephen reminded everyone to push bullet voting. Elaine remarked that if the self study is implemented it will significantly effect who can run.

There will be a Diversity Summit on Monday. Linda suggested that not just names are needed, but ballot issues also. There will be a meeting at midwinter to discuss this further.

Rosemary will represent SRRT at the Diversity Summit. There was consensus in the room to proceed with this idea. We will come back at midwinter with list of people and issues.

Steven suggested that we have liaisons to other progressive groups. It is very difficult to get people to serve in the slots we have now. Stephen said he would send letters to chairs of any groups that someone expresses interest in attending.

Carol suggested we find out who belongs to both groups so they can be approached to serve as liaisons.

Sandy volunteered to be liaison to IFRT.

Agenda for next time:  
Appointment of Liaisons  
Election of Offices  
Self-study