

Tuesday June 27
Heat Regency
Action Council

Those present: Billy C. Beal, Al Kagan, Mark Rosenzweig, Elaine Harger, Melissa Riley, Beth Sibley, Bill Delzell, Chris Dodge, Jonathan Betz-Zall, Roland Hansen, Madeleine Tainton, Linda Kimsey, Dotty Granger, Theresa A. Tobin, Nel Ward, Fred Stoss, Charkes Willett, Dan Tsang, Steven Harris, Ian Ducker, Carol Reid, Michael L. Nitz, Wendy Thomas, Michael J. Miller, Mark E. Martin, Stephen Stillwell, Carol Barta.

Introductions

Agenda additions

1. Self study
2. Liaison appointments
3. Membership meeting
4. OLOS
5. Peace Info TF
6. Resolution
7. Item on Mumia Abu-Jamal

GLBTF celebrated their 25th anniversary. It was an exciting and overwhelming event. It was attended by Betty Turrock and 2 of 3 presidential candidates. Roland Hansen was commended for his outstanding job on local arrangements.

The FTF also had a gala event with all our foremothers present!

Roland reminded those people who need reimbursement should copy their receipts and send them to him within the next 6 weeks. Roland will send out a handout on reimbursement.

Membership--David Williams issue has been laid to rest according to ALA lawyer.

All by-law changes have been approved.

OLOS update. Stephen met with Peggy Barbour, went over draft document of OLOS responsibilities and RT responsibilities. She has gone over it with Mattye. We have a draft that we can negotiate with them. They are open to negotiation.

SELF -STUDY

At the membership chat the feeling in room was overwhelmingly negative, hostile to restructuring. LAMA board meeting voted unanimously against the implementation of the self-study. Round table Coordinating committee all against it. They asked that all round tables send letters and they will forward them as a package. GODORT has written two pages of criticism and Regina Minudri, the one councilor in GODORT got an earful when she came to their business meeting.

Comments for the SRRT letter:

It will increase the cost to membership by having to join different societies/centers.

It works against people coming to conferences, just directors would be coming to conferences.

It works more specifically against people coming to midwinter.

The letter should address underlying assumptions, such as "speaking with one voice."

Finite number of outcomes is a problem. Who defines who are the collaborators.

Deciding in centralized way a problem.

Societal gateways are discriminatory.

Only large libraries will prevail.

There is a trend in professional organizations to streamline and aim at big-name players for prestige.

The following resolution was proposed by Al and seconded by Mark R.

WHEREAS all the ALA self study Committee reports have an anti-democratic thrust; and

WHEREAS the provisions already implemented have decreased participation and democratic practice; and

WHEREAS the final ALA Self-Study report has been roundly criticized by diverse bodies within ALA; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the SRRT calls on the Self-Study Committee to withdraw its final report and its request for an implementation committee.

Resolution passed unanimously.

SRRT liaisons:

Committee on membership:

CCS committee on cataloging: Sherry Kelley

FTR: Dan Tsang

Library Education Assembly: Jill Holman

Literacy Assembly: Tom Wilding

Planing and budget: Roland Hansen

Recruitment: Deb Gilchrist

Editorial Board:

Madeleine Tainton

Beth requested as task force chair that the Peace Information task force be dissolved and allowed to merge with international responsibilities task force because the PITF membership is dwindling.

Motion was made to accept decision of PITF to dissolve and merge wit IRTF. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark proposed the following resolution:

Resolution on Ameritech

WHEREAS the Fund for American Libraries took upon itself to arrange a sponsorship deal for ALA conferences with the Ameritech Corporation involving an unusual and unseemly degree of corporate promotion for an undisclosed consideration; and

WHEREAS the deal involves giving Ameritech the right to use the official ALA logo in promotional material; and

WHEREAS the 'selling' of the sponsorship of major conference events to Ameritech and the special privileges given that corporation made this powerful organization seem to dominate the conference as a whole, be it therefore

RESOLVED that SRRT rejects the inappropriate sponsorship arrangements made with Ameritech by the Fund for Libraries, and the process by which these arrangements were made, and calls for the renegotiation of these arrangements for the upcoming Mid-winter conference; and be it further

RESOLVED that in the future such arrangements be conducted through proper and established ALA channels and that the use of the ALA logo be a matter for open discussion in the Association.

Charles seconded. Many members found the Ameritech president's sales pitch at the opening session offensive. There was considerable opposition to allowing this kind of sponsorship among the executive.

This is similar to the McDonald's resolution. In the current issue of AL they are using our logo on their advertising as a seal of approval.

Dottie questioned allowing vendors to sponsor events. Others felt the major problem is having the Ameritech logo displayed too prominently. They don't want ALA's logo being given over to another

Motion carried unanimously.

Elaine presented information about the journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal who faces the death penalty in Pennsylvania. He was involved in a shooting in which policeman was killed. During his trial there was a question if he had done the killing. Unless he receives clemency from the governor he will be executed August 14. His lawyers want to appeal the conviction, based on information from FBI that he had been targeted by FBI unjustly. Many organizations have sent letters to put pressure on governor of Pennsylvania for clemency.

Elaine proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States guarantees every citizen a fair and impartial trial; and

WHEREAS there exist serious questions concerning the fairness of the trial that put Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row; and

WHEREAS Mumia Abu-Jamal, a prominent radio broadcaster, journalist, author and former President of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists, has been subjected to gross violation of his First Amendment Rights both concerning his trial and , following conviction, throughout his imprisonment; and

WHEREAS the ultimate injustice is for the state to kill a person for a crime that person might not have committed; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association call upon Governor Thomas J. Ridge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reverse the death sentence signed June 2, 1995 and to allow Abu-Jamal's lawyers to appeal his conviction.

Dan seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Charles reported on the development of "Counterpoise" by AIP. It was approved at midwinter. On March 7 David Epstein wrote to Mattye about this. He hadn't received a reply 2 months later. There are difficulties in administration. It is not moneymaking for ALA so they don't want to publish it. Publishing Committee declined to get involved and sent it back to SRRT.

Charles Asked SRRT to approach administration directly for help in publishing "Counterpoise." He is going on a tour to promote "Counterpoise." Anyone in the area can help with this tour.

Theresa suggested that the agenda for midwinter be to get resolutions written and encourage TFs to get folks to membership so we are ready to deal with issues. The Presidential Candidates are Charles Beard, Chin Chi-Chen, Barbara Ford.

Elaine will pursue planning a program for NY. The theme will be "SRRT Cares for You." The program is on the health hazards of working in libraries. TFs should send Elaine note to reduce conflict times.

Thanks to the outgoing members

Roland moved that the meeting be adjourned, Elaine seconded.

The meeting reconvened to welcome new members: Dottie, Al, Mark, Nel Ward, Steve Harris.

Election of Officers:

Roland Hansen, Treasurer, accepted by acclamation

Carol Barta, Secretary, accepted by acclamation

Stephen Stillwell, Coordinator, accepted by acclamation

Dottie suggested coordinator elect. It is not in our by-laws at this time to have a coordinator elect so

Elaine volunteered to be the unofficial coordinator elect.

Motion to adjourn was made by Elaine. Mark Miller seconded.

Meeting adjourned.

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