

SRRT Action Council Meeting
Saturday, July 6, 1996
Crown Plaza, New York City

Those present: Mark E. Martin, Wendy Thomas, Roland Hansen, Caite Kendrick, Stephen Stillwell, Steven Harris, Kristin Carlson, Uta Fellechner, Madelaine Tainton, Dotty Granger, Elaine Harger, S. Michael Malinconico, Sandy Berman, Daniel Tsang, Chris Dodge, Kim Edson, Linda Pierce, Al Kagan, Michael Miller, Michael Nitz, Carol Barta (recorder).

1. Mark Martin moved to approve the minutes as written. Elaine Harger seconded. The motion passed.
2. A resolution concerning the Zimbabwe Book Fair was introduced by Al Kagan and seconded by Steven Harris. It is on the agenda for the International Relations Committee to discuss. The motion carried unanimously.

A resolution regarding independent booksellers was moved by Sandy Berman and seconded by Elaine Harger. Elaine noted that there has been discussion of a boycott. Sandy clarified that the ABA is not concentrating on chain stores, but on mega publishers. The motion carried unanimously.

A resolution concerning the modification of Subject Headings related to class and poverty was introduced by Sandy Berman and seconded by Roland Hansen. Dotty Granger commented that it is such a chore to modify subject headings that the Library of Congress snaps at people who request changes. Sandy noted that this resolution is also being circulated as a petition which creates extra leverage to get the changes made. Michael Miller noted that revised headings are accepted more easily now. This resolution can be taken to Council. The motion carried unanimously.

3. There will be an NMRT meeting in Sheraton as an orientation for new conference goers. They would like to have a SRRT Representative at this session.

Task Force leaders should remind their members that we need liaisons to the Freedom to Read Foundation and ALCSS. Sandy Berman has been appointed as liaison to the Intellectual Freedom Roundtable.

Three of the ten candidates on the SRRT Progressive/Diversity were elected. They are Mark Rosenzweig, Kathleen Bethel, Loreine Roy. A letter from Rosemary Stevenson was read by Al Kagan. A copy is attached to the minutes.

4. Women's Studies section of ACRL is asking SRRT for co-sponsorship of a program at the 1997 Annual Conference. No money is involved. Sandy Berman moved to co-sponsor the program. Kim Edson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
5. It was suggested that SRRT develop a homepage. Some task forces have them. Perhaps the newsletter could be mailed electronically. There was a general discussion of the topic including some specific concerns. Mark Martin noted that somebody has to be responsible for maintaining it. Madelaine Tainton volunteered to maintain the homepage. Steven Harris commented that it should be a unified point of access to SRRT. It should have a link to the ALA server as well as links to many access points.

Madelaine suggested that the webmaster be an elected position. Stephen suggested that we make it part of the editorial board.

Mark Martin moved to assign the project to the editorial board. Wendy Thomas seconded. After more discussion the motion carried unanimously.

The other discussion included: Steven Harris is trying to compile an index of sites useful to SRRT groups

which can be added to the page. Dan Tsang suggested putting up the membership brochure on the page. Rob Carlson was mentioned as having been helpful to setting up the GLBTF listserv. The page should be done by midwinter.

Do we want to start offering an electronic alternative to the newsletters? Mark Martin noted that the GLBTF charges \$10 for their newsletter subscription. They maintain their membership list that way. The Minnesota SRRT newsletter has an electronic format as well as paper. This could contribute to the visibility of SRRT. We could ask people to check off which format they want on their registration. This poses the possibility of snafus. If we can't dispense with paper, could cut down on it. The electronic format newsletter could be used as a membership recruitment tool.

Linda moved to refer this matter to the newsletter board for discussion. They will be charged with studying the feasibility of electronic distribution of the newsletter. They will report back no later than the San Francisco conference in 1997. Mark Martin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Editorial board will meet to discuss having a publisher mail our newsletter along with their catalog.

6. All-task-force-meetings were discussed. The question of whether it would be advantageous to have all the task forces have at least one meeting all together in one room was considered. It was noted that this may not work for awards or nominating committees.

Al Kagan noted that this system works for the IRC. It may be easier to find out where the meetings are. There tends to be too many meetings to attend all of them. It was also noted that we have tried to have the groups submit their meeting schedules, but it doesn't work. Sandy Berman moved that we try this first at midwinter to see if it will work and which time slots would be the most useful, but that it is not mandatory. Kim Edson seconded. The motion carried.

By next action council meeting Stephen Stillwell will poll members and see which time would be best. Perhaps 9:30 Saturday. The coordinator will do the scheduling for that meeting and will need to be in touch with the task force chairs for the number of people expected to attend from each task force.

7. Steven Harris suggested that proposing a slate of candidates be an ongoing process. He asked if we need to form a task force now to do this. Stephen Stillwell noted that candidates are usually discussed at midwinter.

There is some question whether we will have the money to do this next year. Elaine noted that PLG is going to discuss the formation of a progressive caucus. There is a problem in developing coalition in that the racial minorities don't recognize the GLBTF as a minority. Sandy Berman moved that we form an adhoc committee to look into how SRRT can form liaisons with other groups in order to influence elections. Elaine Harger seconded. The motion passed. The committee will be appointed at the next meeting. Sandy Berman also suggested that there be piece in the newsletter about the elections.

Agenda for Tuesday includes:

OLOS, budget, promotional materials, appointment of liaisons and an editorial board member, election of a new coordinator and secretary.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Tuesday, July 9, 1996
New York City

In attendance: Roland Hansen, Nel Ward, Uta Fellechner, Madelaine Tainton, Dotty Granger, Sanford Goin, Tom Wilding, Elaine Harger, Chris Dodge, Kim Edson, Johanna Nolan, Steven Harris, Charles Willett, Linda Pierce, Al Kagan, Sandy Berman, Mark Rosenzweig, Michael J. Miller, Jules Tate, Wendy Thomas, Theresa Tobin, Stephen Stillwell, Michael Nitz, Mark E. Martin, Dianna Inch, Carol Barta (recorder).

1. OLOS there will be one or maybe two positions on the search committee for the new OLOS director. This entails several phone conferences and maybe travel to Chicago in early January.

Al moved that we endorse the idea of hiring a roundtable services coordinator. This would not reduce the OLOS staff. Sandy Berman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Appointments:

Liaisons:

Freedom to Read Foundation-- Sanford Goin

ALCTS-CCS Committee on Cataloging-- Larry Heiman

Thanks to Dan and Sherry for the work they have done over the years.

"Project Group for ALA Elections":

Rosemary Stevenson

Al Kagan

Elaine Harger

Michael Miller

3. The editorial board was approached by the Hayworth Press Publisher. They would like to mail the SRRT newsletter along with their catalog. The editorial board met to discuss this possibility. There was discussion regarding this idea:

We do not want to include advertising on a regular basis. Theresa Tobin stated that she is loathe to do this. It is a conflict of interest as we might not be able to review books from this press. Elaine opposed to doing this because if we do it for one publisher another will complain. Charles Willett noted that AIP hasn't discussed this yet, but that a conflict of interest would be impossible to avoid. Linda Pierce said that she would be more comfortable with paid advertising, have the newsletter as an insert is not as clear a relationship with the publisher as advertising would be. Mark Rosenzweig agreed with Linda. He is opposed to sending the newsletter out this way. It sets a bad precedent and limits our ability to speak against ALA's corporate endorsements. Tom Wilding also agreed and noted that to take paid advertising the cost would be too high and it would totally change character of the newsletter.

Mark Martin moved that the newsletter not accept any advertising. Michael Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Madeleine Tainton reported that the board also discussed the electronic format. The board favors a website, as it is more interesting graphically. They felt it would be appropriate for the editorial board to oversee the website as it is a publication. Michael Miller suggested that it could be done as both. Steven Harris conformed that we could do it as both print and electronic format. Tom Wilding suggested that you have a choice of receiving it either way. Madeleine noted that they had talked about having a SRRT webmaster who could work with the editor.

Stephen Stillwell noted that we needed to elect someone to replace Carolyn Myall on the editorial board. Chris Dodge moved that Theresa Tobin be nominated to the editorial board. Kim Edson seconded. It passed by acclamation.

Mark Martin noted that ALA said there was a lack of money for mailings. Roland clarified that this was a just a rumor. There is money for mailings.

4. A resolution from Feminist Task Force regarding the support of workers in the Omaha Public Library was presented. It passed unanimously.

5. Roland gave the budget report. A copy is attached to the minutes. He can give copies to the task force chairs. We don't have money for supplemental requests. He discussed the accrual account. Posting of dues is done month by month. We need to reapprove figures on this basis. By midwinter we should be back on track.

GLBTF is working hard to find a way to make their awards self sustaining by the year 2000. The inventory of award labels was not put in the account the right way. It was not put in as supplies. This has been straightened out.

The round tables are able to carry money over from year to year. The Administration of ALA takes 5% out of the dues as overhead. Mark Martin noted that the GLBTF may have money to put in to awards budget if money carries over. The money goes back into SRRT pot from task forces at the end of budget year.

Michael Miller noted that there is also a means to set aside money for special things--such as an awards endowment. Roland will look into if there is a listing in the by-laws as to what types of accounts are allowable. Some authors contribute royalties (in 1995-- \$3400). No one knows quite who or where this money comes from.

There is some confusion regarding the fee to join SRRT. The brochure says \$10 but we raised it to \$12 in 1995. The brochure is out of date and needs to be updated.

Elaine Harger asked if one has to be a member of ALA to be member of SRRT. Roland answered that since a change made about 5 years ago you must be a member of ALA to be part of SRRT.

Stephen Stillwell noted that we have to be aware that for an indefinite period we will be connected to OLOS. Sheila Graves is doing work of many people. There is no professional in that office, only one support staffer. The GLBTF members noted that Sheila has been very helpful in getting the conference ready.

Mary Gihkas arrived to talk about OLOS. She suggested that the resolution passed earlier regarding the round table coordinator be sent to COPES.

Mark Martin noted that two years ago they had talked with OLOS about an endowed fund for the GLBTF award. At that time they were told that they need a minimum of \$50000 and would get 2% interest return on this money.

Mary Gihkas suggested that he talk to Ray Calloway, the ALA investment person about the endowment and returns.

Sandy Berman expressed concern on behalf of the Poverty Task Force that OLOS should be expanded so that it can truly handle its responsibilities in regard to minorities and especially the poor peoples resolution.

Mary Gihkas said that staffing will remain a director and one support staffer with back up by some temporary help at peak periods. There is some staffing that is grant supported but she can't move those people around. If ALA had unallocated funds she would hire more staff in this area. She stated that we need to continue to speak out as to what we feel our priorities need to be we need to keep our issues at the forefront.

Elaine noted that the top end of OLOS director's salary is \$60,000. She questioned the possibility of having two people in the OLOS office for the price of one really highly paid person.

Mary Gihkas noted that she has to try to balance out the salary range to treat staff equitably.

Give any other concerns to Roland. Mary will respond to e-mail.

Chris Dodge suggested that we start to redesign the brochure. Stephen Stillwell will get an inventory level. Sandy will coordinate the redesign of the brochure. Stephen reminded that the Task Force coordinators will need to look at paragraphs regarding their task force. Elaine noted that we should recycle the old brochures.

Sandy Berman moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Steven Harris seconded.

In regard to the meeting schedule it was noted that on Tuesdays from 9-12 the women's groups decided not to meet in order to attend the council meeting in support of our representatives there. Stephen suggested that we need to look at whole package of meeting times. Elaine stated that membership meetings should be no conflict.

Stephen reminded everyone about Barbara Ford's request for ideas. They can be sent to: bjford@gems.vcu.edu. Doty said that the Feminist Task Force completed one as a group. Mark Barbara's theme is going to be International Issues.

Mark Rosenzweig noted that we should encourage people to get involved in the International Responsibilities Task Force. Al Kagan new chair of the Task Force. There will be a SRRT program on international responsibilities in Washington.

Stephen reminded all Task Forces that have changed chairs need to send data on incoming chairs to coordinator and secretary.

Sandy Berman moved a resolution of thanks to Stephen Stillwell for his sterling if occasionally flamboyant leadership over the past few years. Al Kagan seconded, especially for the leadership.

Mark move adjournment. Sandy seconded.

The meeting was reconvened. Newly elected members Wendy Thomas, Steven Harris and Carol Barta were welcomed. Roland Hansen reelected as treasurer. Elaine Harger volunteered to be secretary and Wendy Thomas volunteered as coordinator. Both positions were approved unanimously.

There being no new business, Mark Martin moved to adjourn. Steven Harris seconded. Meeting was adjourned.