

ALA SoCial Responsibilities Round T able Newsletter

September 1, 1969. No. 2

SRRT Elections

The election procedure to next year's Action Council and Clearinghouse is beginning now. Marjorie W. Barker has been appointed by Bill De John, Coordinator of the present Action Council, to act as SRRT Recording Secretary; she will handle all the paper work with ALA Headquarters.

This year, since it is our first, ten people will be elected to the Action Council and six to the Clearinghouse. In the future, the number to be elected will be five and three respectively; one-half of those elected this year will serve for only one year instead of for the two prescribed in the Organization and Procedures of the SRRT.

As you know, the SRRT has abandoned the traditional ALA-type "nominating committee," and the names of volunteers are needed for ALA Headquarters VERY SOON! If you want to serve on either the Action Council or the Clearinghouse, volunteer! The Organization and Procedures statement describes the jobs of the Action Council and the Clearinghouse; read this statement and volunteer for the area of activity that you feel best qualified to work in.

By OCTOBER 15, send the following information to Marjorie W. Barker, Prince Georges County Memorial Library, 507 7th St., Laurel, Md. 20810.

NAME: _____

CHOICE OF ACTIVITY: Action Council _____ Clearinghouse _____

PRESENT POSITION: _____

PAST PROFESSIONAL ASSIGNMENTS: _____

LIBRARY SCHOOL, DATE OF GRADUATION: _____

PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENTS (present and past in the order of their importance to you): _____

Again, please get the above information to the Recording Secretary by OCTOBER 15. You will be required to make a statement on an issue, chosen by the Action Council, which will be printed in a future issue of the newsletter and on the ballot. The Recording Secretary will inform volunteers of the topic and length

of this statement which, in accordance with the Organization and Procedures, will be of more importance to your election than your "establishment experience." So, be aggressive and volunteer if you want to work in the SRRT. The usefulness of the Round Table in the profession depends on you!

National Task Forces

The following task forces were formed at Atlantic City:

Task Force on Reorganization to Work with the President's Activities Committee. Seven people volunteered for this task force at Atlantic City; it will also include the three SRRT members not chosen by President Dix to serve on the Activities Committee. This task force should funnel suggestions and recommendations to the President's Committee through our members on it and should keep a record of the Committee's progress and recommendations. Maybe also learn parliamentary procedure. Leonard Grundt (Nassau Community College Library, Garden City, N. Y. 11530) and Dave Weil (Merrick Library) are co-Coordiators of this Task Force.

Task Force on Community Participation. Thirteen people. Mickie Vaccaro (288 Chestnut Hill Ave., Apt. 22a, Brighton, Mass. 02135) is the Coordinator.

Task Force on Intellectual Freedom. Eleven people. At this group's first meeting, attended by four members, Saturday, August 26, it was decided that they would concentrate on the specific issue: that there be established without delay a support fund for librarians who are coming under attack for upholding intellectual freedom standards. The next meeting of the Task Force will be on September 25. Jean-Anne South, 6040 Kennedy Blvd. East, Apt. 2L, West New York, N. J. 07093) is Coordinator.

Task Force to Evaluate the Reprinting of Literature and Media on the Negro. Thirteen people. Sherrie Friedman (9963 66th Ave., Rego Park, N. Y. 11374) is acting Secretary.

All Task Forces are expected to work closely with the ALA unit working on the same subject--if there is one. It is hoped that the Task Forces will come up with some specific recommendations by mid-winter (an interim report at least), and that surely by ALA Detroit, a report embodying specific recommendations and means of their implementation

will be ready for presentation to the SRRT business meeting for discussion and to the ALA membership meeting for recommendation to Council.

ALA COMMITTEE ON NEW DIRECTIONS

President Dix has appointed as Chairman of the new activities committee Frederick Wagman, Director of Libraries at the University of Michigan and former ALA President. The three SRRT members, selected by Dix from our slate of six, are George Alfred, Arthur Curley, and William Hinchliff; the JMRT appointees are Katherine Laich, Glenn Miller, and Shirley Olofson. J. Maurice Travillian is the first of the President's six appointees to accept.

By-Laws Report

To correct the error in the election process of the SRRT, Jackie Eubanks, Chairman, By-Laws Committee, has proposed the following changes in the Organization & Procedure presented to the membership at Atlantic City (changes are underlined):

5. a. 1. An Action Council of ten members shall be elected by mail and shall take office immediately following the annual conference. At the annual conference, prior to the business or program meetings of the Round Table, the new Action Council will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Coordinator, and a Coordinator and a Recording Secretary will be selected by the new Council from volunteers in its membership. The Coordinator shall be a non-voting member of the Action Council.

5. a. 3. The term of office for both committees shall be for two years, with five members being elected each year for the Action Council and three members being elected each year for the Clearinghouse.

Published by the SRRT Clearinghouse. Address correspondence to Joan K. Marshall, Clearinghouse Secretary, 1969 E. 14 St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229

Proposals for SRRT Projects

Miss Ann Webb, St. Charles County, Mo. Library, has suggested that a project on sex education, a prime target of the John Birch Society this year, is needed. This might be a project for the Task Force on Community Participation. A part of the program might be the distribution throughout the country of fact sheets on the Sex Education Information Council of the United States and the Movement to Restore Decency. The NEA Office on Professional Responsibilities has materials for distribution on the SIECUS controversy; perhaps the RT could cooperate with NEA in the collection and dissemination of information. Part of the project might involve suggestions to libraries for their participation in sex education projects. In Prince Georges County, Md., where a sex education program will be started in the schools this fall, the library in a number of its branches during July and August is giving a pre-view to parents and other interested adults of a representative sample of the films and filmstrips approved for specific grade levels to be used in the school program.

Another suggestion from Miss Webb is that we start a collection of underground newspapers. Diana Vesclius (Akron Public Library) reports that the Young Librarians Association (Northeastern Ohio) is collecting samples--not subscriptions--of "controversial" literature: magazines, newspapers, pamphlets. This collection (and a pamphlet) will be on display at the Ohio Library Association Convention in Cincinnati. After the convention, the collection will be looking for a home that will keep it up to date. A university? The SRRT?

The collection has been neither difficult nor expensive to build, and the Young Librarians Association has plenty of suggestions on how to duplicate their effort. Groups interested in such suggestions should

write to the Clearinghouse. If we get response, suggestions will be included in the next newsletter.

I'm sure there are other collections around. In New York City there is the Liberation News Service, 160 Claremont Ave., New York, N.Y. 10027, 212-749-2200. This is a national news service to the radical press and to anyone else who would care to subscribe (libraries?). They have a large collection of samples of radical press literature and are open from noon until all hours.

Sources around the country for samples of this type of literature would be very helpful to many of us. Write to the Clearinghouse if you have any information; perhaps we can publish a list. Write to the Clearinghouse if you have any suggestions concerning the SRRT and the radical press.

The Radical Research Center which indexes "over 200 periodicals of the alternative press" is still looking for subscribers, indexers, and money. If you can help in any way, address them Radical Research Center, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn. 55057.

A CORRECTION AND AN APOLOGY

The first issue of the SRRT newsletter contained a report from St. Charles County, Mo. which included the hypothetical supposition that the California Library Association did not openly oppose the proposed 1966 California censorship law or the organization called CLEAN which supported the law.

The California Library Association's strong and successful opposition to the bill and to CLEAN is, however, well known and was well covered by the press at the time. I apologize to the CLA for my poor editorial judgment in publishing a hypothetical situation that used real people and situations and reversed the facts.

Joan K. Marshall, Editor

What is happening regionally

NEW YORK--NEW YORK CITY

ILLINOIS

A meeting to organize a Chicago area SRRT is planned for September 16, at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Evanston, Ill. All librarians in Northern Illinois are invited. For more information, call or write Ruthanne Boyer, 1640 Hertel, Deerfield, Ill. 60015, 312-945-7446.

MISSOURI

A meeting to organize a Missouri SRRT is to be held at the Missouri Library Association meeting October 1-3.

MISSOURI--ST. CHARLES

In order to provide information to the churches in their area on the issue of race relations, particularly the current issue of "reparations" as expressed in "The Black Manifesto," Nina Ladof and Ann Webb have collected for the St. Charles County Library a number of statements, articles, clippings and other materials representing all sides of this emotional subject.

A bibliography of these materials, which will be added to periodically, has been prepared and sent to St. Charles County clergymen and interested lay persons. The listed materials are available in the St. Charles County Library; copies of materials are available at 10 cents a page.

NEW JERSEY

Mrs. Jana Kerner of the Montclair Public Library (07042) is the coordinator of a new local SRRT in New Jersey. The group's first meeting, attended by about thirty people, was held July 24. A meeting to acquaint librarians with New Jersey's social and political problems is being planned for September.

The New York SRRT held two emergency meetings during the summer to discuss the forthcoming New York Library Association convention to be held at Lake Placid, N. Y.

The convention had been moved from the originally proposed site in New York City to Lake Placid because of facilities problems. However, the Lake Placid Country Club, one of the new facilities NYLA had planned to use, was alleged to have discriminatory membership policies. Mrs. Eleanor Smith, Conference Chairman and President elect, advised the SRRT meeting that NYLA would attempt to obtain a statement from the Club stating that they did not discriminate in their membership.

Many librarians at the SRRT meeting felt that this statement in view of the alleged discriminatory history of the Lake Placid Country Club would not be a sufficient guarantee. A resolution was passed to the effect that members of the N. Y. C. SRRT investigate the financial holdings of the Lake Placid Country Club; if it was found that the Club had substantial holdings in the hotels in the Lake Placid area, members present would not attend the convention and would actively discourage others from doing so; if it was found that the Club did not have such holdings in the area, the members would attend provided all arrangements with the Club were withdrawn.

At a subsequent meeting, Mrs. Smith announced that arrangements with the Club had been withdrawn as the Club had declined to issue any statement regarding its membership policy. Also, investigation of the Club's holdings failed to reveal any interests in hotels in the area.

As a result of the Association's failure to immediately recognize the inappropriateness of the proposed site, an SRRT committee has been formed to draw up resolutions for changes in the Association to be presented at the NYLA convention.

Ellis Hodgin, director of the Martinsville, Va. Public Library has been fired for "bad judgment." City Manager Tom Noland has refused to elucidate further. In the July 30 Martinsville Bulletin, Larry Selden of the ACLU of Virginia, which has filed suit on behalf of Hodgin, said that he feels, in the absence of any charges against or complaints about Mr. Hodgin's performance as a librarian prior to his dismissal, Hodgin was fired because of his part in a suit filed against the City School Board seeking discontinuance of the weekly religious education program.

The knowledge that the Intellectual Freedom Committee of ALA has proposed action for the future to support librarians in his position will not help Ellis Hodgin now meet his day to day living and legal expenses. Mr. Hodgin intends to stay in Martinsville and fight. Under the auspices of the N.Y.C. SRRT plans are being made to print a brochure stating the facts of his case and soliciting contributions. Anyone willing to distribute brochures at forthcoming meetings, through library associations, and the like please contact Mrs. Pat Schuman, 10 W. 16 St., New York, N. Y. 10011.

NEW YORK--SYRACUSE

CLOUT, the graduate student organization of the School of Library Science, Syracuse University, has become an affiliate member SRRT.

OHIO

Social Responsibilities Informal is a new affiliate RT. For information contact Diana Vescelius, Akron Public Library, Akron, Ohio 44309.

OHIO/INDIANA

There will be a Social Responsibilities meeting at the Ohio Library Association Conference in Cincinnati, on Friday October 17, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m., Room 219 of the Convention Hall. The fall conference this year is a joint conference of

the Ohio and the Indiana Library Associations; all interested librarians are welcome. The purpose of the meeting is to explain SRRT to Ohio-Indiana librarians who weren't at the ALA Atlantic City Convention and to help set up some local and regional groups.

Anyone interested should contact Jacqueline Johns, Akron Public Library, or Judith Mowery, University of Akron. People are needed to work on the program, to lead groups, to define problems that need action, and, of course, to get or give financial assistance.

PENNSYLVANIA--PHILADELPHIA

Local public librarians and those college librarians that could be contacted were notified of a meeting to form a Philadelphia SRRT which was held August 12 at the Drexel Institute Library. School librarians will be contacted this fall. The RT now includes twenty-three librarians representing the Free Library of Philadelphia, Temple University, the Drexel Institute of Technology, and the Philadelphia College of Art. The group's concerns are social problems as they relate to libraries and the recommendation of improvements in library service to the community.

Joseph Lindenfeld is coordinator of the newly formed group. They plan activities on: how to bring Black Studies to white Americans, ways of encouraging intellectual freedom in Pennsylvania, preparing action bibliographies. They have issued an informational leaflet urging area citizens to ask their Congressional representatives to defeat a proposed \$89 million cut in federal appropriations to schools and public libraries.

The Clearinghouse is collecting information on any problems encountered in organizing SRRTs. And on how you solved them.

Related Groups' Activities

The NATIONAL CALL FOR LIBRARY REFORM has addressed a statement, reproduced in part below, to library workers, library school students and faculty.

The statement urges us

To accept our moral responsibility.

To commit ourselves to social and political issues such as war, poverty, and racism.

To commit ourselves to the restructuring of the American Library Association into a democratic and vital organization.

To commit ourselves to reform the structure and content of library education.

To commit ourselves to take action in support of librarians in cases where job security and integrity are threatened.

To commit ourselves to the communities' participation in determining the services which are relevant to it.

To insure that library workers have a voice in decisions that affect them;

To commit ourselves to the formation of a national association of library workers.

Finally to reaffirm our total commitment to library service and to every individuals right to free access to information.

The National Call for Library Reform hopes that through the establishment of a central mailing office a mailing list of all concerned librarians and library groups can be established. This central clearinghouse could assist in planning future activities of concerned librarians. If you feel you wish to commit yourself to any or all of the points made above, the group would welcome your name, address, and personal comments. If you do not wish to commit yourself but wish to be placed on the mailing list for further information and news, the group would also like to hear from you. Address: National Call for Library Reform, P.O. Box 10150, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232.

LIBRARIANS FOR 321.8 (i.e.: representative democracy) has issued the statement following. They are also trying to buy and distribute at state conventions this October "321.8" or "Librarians for 321.8" buttons. About \$250.00 is needed for 5,000 buttons (fewer buttons, more money). Individuals or groups interested in placing an order--\$10.00 minimum, hopefully \$25.00 from the larger states--should send money by September 15 to Carolyn Forsman, 764 Fairview Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20012, or to Trish Raley, 519-A Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003, 202-547-9166. If you agree with the statement, perhaps you should wear a button! Copies of the statement are also available for distribution.

LIBRARIANS FOR 321.8

Because we believe that democratic procedures are essential to the healthy functioning of any association, and as we hold that change should be possible when the members of the association desire it, and because representative democracy in the association is subverted when responsibility for Council actions cannot be ascertained, and when stated objectives are not followed by appropriate fiscal action, and when action against members who do not support the Bill of Rights of the organization is not forthcoming, and, further, when the elected officers of the association ignore the clear mandate of its members, we have banded together to urge all candidates for Council and President to support the following minimum platform:

Whereas Article III, Section 3c, of the bylaws of the American Library Association indicates only that the professional address of each nominee shall be given on the official ballot; and that in practice biographical notes on nominees have been supplied with the ballot; and that this publication is not provided for within the bylaws; we believe this publication of information about nominees should be expanded immediately to include personal statements by the nominees on professional issues and concerns.

Knowledge of nominees' beliefs and attitudes gained from such a statement would enable members to vote more intelligently and responsibly. Such action does not require Council approval.

We further believe that if intelligent decisions concerning the leadership of the Association are to be made, the membership must be aware of the voting records of individual Council members on all matters of policy concerning the Association. We, therefore, ask that a roll call vote of Council members be taken at the request of any Council member so desiring, and that the results of these votes be published in the Bulletin of the American Library Assn.

Whereas President Dix has said that intellectual freedom is the first priority of the American Library Association, we believe that this concern should be reflected in the budget of the Association.

We therefore propose:

1. That the staff of the Intellectual Freedom Office be enlarged by at least four full-time staff members.

2. That the Intellectual Freedom Office be provided with funds sufficient to engage in an active, nationwide informational program and campaign in opposition to all forms of censorship and in full support of intellectual freedom through the press, television, radio, and any other appropriate media.

3. That an adequate supporting fund be created to help librarians and libraries in their effort to maintain intellectual freedom.

4. And further, that those libraries and librarians, including trustees and other American Library Association members, who by their actions do not support the Library Bill of Rights, be suspended from the Association as provided in Article III of the Constitution. Wide publicity of such action should be taken through the Bulletin of the Association and through paid advertisements in the regular library press.

Also, as the membership of the Association has endorsed the resolution of the California Library Association and the Association of College and Research Librarians urging academic status for librarians in the California State Colleges, we specifically urge that this resolution be immediately adopted by the Council.

The failure of the Council to act upon this resolution at their annual meeting in Atlantic City drastically points to the need for a change in the membership of that Council in order to make it more responsive to the expressed desires of ALA members.

We feel that it is necessary that in this time of change, both in the profession and in the society it serves, that both Council and membership of the American Library Association be brought more fully into the policy deliberations on issues affecting our profession. To this end, it is necessary that the membership and Council meetings be allotted sufficient time for deliberation on important issues and that discussion not be constrained by considerations of available time or conflict with other meetings.

We believe that this minimum program is a necessary first step for any change in the American Library Association. We so strongly believe this that we ask all nominees for Council positions, and the Presidency of the Association to let us know publicly that they support this platform.

Furthermore, we expect to have at least one candidate for every Council position and the Presidency running on this platform. We plan to inform the membership which nominees have not taken a public stand in favor of these important proposed changes.

In order to succeed in electing at least twenty-four Council members and a President in favor of change, we will need the immediate support of all concerned American Library Association members. If you agree with

us that these modest changes, at least, are necessary, if you were as shocked as we were by the do-nothing actions of our Council last June, and if you would like to have a Council that cares about the desires of the members, then write to us now letting us know that you will be one of the one hundred necessary to sign our petition to give the members a chance to express themselves in the spring election. Write to the Library Journal, the Wilson Library Bulletin, and the ALA Bulletin and let them know that we do want a democratic library association.

Librarians for 321.8

John Forsman, Chairman--Federal City College
Trish Raley, Secretary--Library of Congress. 519-A Independence Ave., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. 202-547-9166.

A SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Professor John A. McCrossan, as editor of "Aware" (ALA bulletin), requests that SRRT members send him information about their RT projects. The purpose of "Aware" is to assist librarians in keeping pace with new developments in the profession. If we want awareness to include knowledge of developments in the area of the social responsibilities of librarians and libraries, send information about your projects--description, cost, what was or is to be learned from it, its successes and failures, why it succeeded or failed, etc.-- to:

John A. McCrossan
University of Michigan
School of Library Science
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
Joan K. Marshall, Secretary
Brooklyn College Library
Bedford Ave. & Ave. H
Brooklyn, New York 11210

JOIN or START an **SRRT** and get involved.