

# SRRT NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT

ISSUE 171, JUNE 2010

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## Proposed Amendment to SRRT Bylaws Part IV, Section 2

by Mike Marlin with input from members at large

SRRT Bylaws, Part IV "Action Council," Section 2 currently reads:

"The 10 elected members of Action Council shall be elected by mail ballot procedures outlined below and shall take office immediately following the Annual Conference. At the final Action Council meeting of the Annual Conference, the incoming Action Council will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Council to select a coordinator, treasurer, recording secretary, exhibits coordinator, and a membership/recruitment chair. These officers will preferably be elected from the at large members of Action Council, but may be selected from the Task Force representatives or the affiliate representatives. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no single person shall serve Action Council in more than one of the six designated offices."

Suggested changes (**boldface** and ~~striketrough~~):

"The 10 elected members of Action Council shall be elected by ~~mail~~ ballot procedures outlined below and shall take office immediately following the Annual Conference. At the final Action Council meeting of the Annual Conference, the incoming Action Council will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Council to select a **coordinator-elect**, treasurer, recording secretary, exhibits coordinator, and a membership/recruitment chair. These officers will preferably be elected from the at large members of Action Council, but may be selected from the Task Force representatives or the affiliate representatives. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no single person shall serve Action Council in more than one of the six designated offices. **At this same meeting, Annual Action Council second meeting, the existing coordinator-elect will be recognized as the new coordinator and take office upon adjournment of the ALA Annual Meeting.**"

Summary of Amendment:

Add provision for selecting a coordinator-elect position so that this individual: 1) may act as backup for current SRRT coordinator, 2) be copied in on communications from ALA OLOS office sent to current coordinator, 3) confer with current coordinator regarding planning and administrating for the round table, and 4) in general learn the duties and tasks required for the position in preparation for assuming the primary role the following year. The selection of a coordinator-elect will enable a smooth transition for Action Council each year, providing consistency and continuity of leadership.

Rationale:

The practice of the election of the Action Council Coordinator at Midwinter AC2 meeting has become an ad-hoc process and needs to be formalized in order to serve the flow of SRRT as well as parallel other ALA Round Tables and fit in better with ALA election procedures.

## Proposed Amendment to SRRT Bylaws, Part IV, Section 4 by Myka Kennedy Stephens in collaboration with Jennifer Caldwell, Gary Colmenar, Erik Estep, Alison Lewis, Heather Stone and Julie Winkelstein

SRRT Bylaws, Part IV "Action Council," Section 4 currently reads:

"The editor of the SRRT Newsletter shall serve by appointment of Action Council. The newsletter editor shall serve a term of 3 years. The editor shall be considered an ex-officio member of Action Council. An editorial board of 3 members shall also serve by appointment of Action Council. Whenever possible, the editorial board should be selected from members of Action Council. If Action Council members are unavailable to serve, the editor may nominate members from the SRRT membership to Action Council for approval. The term of office for the editorial board shall be 3 years. There will be staggered terms of appointment. The editorial board will advise the editor upon request on matters of editorial policy."

Suggested changes (**boldface** and ~~striketrough~~):

<sup>1</sup> **All members of the SRRT Newsletter editorial staff shall be selected from current SRRT**  
<sup>2</sup> **members.** The editor of the SRRT Newsletter shall serve by appointment of Action Council **on**  
<sup>3</sup> **recommendation of the SRRT Newsletter Editorial Board or other body responsible for**  
<sup>4</sup> **reviewing applicants.** The newsletter editor shall serve a term of 3 years **and may be**  
<sup>5</sup> **reappointed for one additional term.** The editor shall be considered an ex-officio member of  
<sup>6</sup> Action Council. An editorial board of **5 to 7** members shall serve by appointment of Action  
<sup>7</sup> Council **on recommendation of the newsletter editor and already appointed members of**  
<sup>8</sup> **the editorial board.** ~~Whenever possible, the editorial board should be selected from members~~  
<sup>9</sup> ~~of Action Council. If Action Council members are unavailable to serve, the editor may~~  
<sup>10</sup> ~~nominate members from the SRRT membership to Action Council for approval.~~ **Both Action**  
<sup>11</sup> **Council members and SRRT members at-large shall be represented on the editorial**  
<sup>12</sup> **board. Whenever possible, the editorial board will consist of equal members from Action**  
<sup>13</sup> **Council and SRRT membership at-large.** The term of office for **members of the editorial**  
<sup>14</sup> **board shall be 3 years, with the option to be reappointed for an additional term. An**  
<sup>15</sup> **editorial board member may not serve more than two terms consecutively, but may be**  
<sup>16</sup> **reappointed to the board after 3 years off. Editorial board appointments will be staggered**  
<sup>17</sup> **on a 3-year rotation, such that approximately 1/3 of appointees shall turn over annually.**  
<sup>18</sup> The editorial board shall advise the editor ~~upon request~~ on matters of editorial policy.

Summary of amendment:

- Add provision for the process of selecting the editor and offer 1-term reappointment option to editor
- Increase number of editorial board members from 3 to 5-7 and revise provision that editorial board members should be selected from both Action Council members and SRRT members at-large.
- Clarify terms of editorial board appointments

Rationale:

- Lines 1-2 boldface: An addition clearly indicating how the newsletter will be staffed removes any ambiguity that non-SRRT members would be among the number considered for SRRT Newsletter positions.
- Lines 2-4 boldface: It should be clear how Action Council is expected to make the appointment of SRRT Newsletter editor.

- Lines 4-5 boldface: Almost all other leadership positions mandated by the SRRT bylaws are either elected or appointed for a term of three years with option to serve one additional term. The newsletter editor should be offered the same options as at-large Action Council members, other volunteers and liaisons. See Part IV, Section 5, Subsection 3 and Part IV, Section 6, Subsection 1.
- Line 6 boldface: An editorial board is essential to assist the editor in producing a high-quality publication. A greater number of members allows for wider delegation of tasks among volunteers who are already busy and pressed for time. 5 members were appointed in Midwinter 2010.
- Lines 7-8 boldface: see rationale for Lines 1-3 boldface.
- Lines 8-13 boldface and strikethrough: The language we are replacing seemed exclusionary and too unwelcoming to newer members who are looking for ways to become more involved with SRRT. We recognize the value of both having both Action Council members and members-at-large serving on the editorial board. One brings institutional knowledge while the other often brings a fresh perspective. Both perspectives are essential for continuing the newsletter's tradition of lively and provocative journalism.
- Line 13-14 boldface: added for clarification and style.
- Lines 15-17 boldface: see rationale for Line 5 boldface. Also, requiring a board member to serve the length of an entire term off the board before being reappointed will be a healthy practice for both board and board member.
- Line 18 boldface and strikethrough: updated to strengthen the language and make consistent with other changes.