

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table
American Library Association
Midwinter Meeting, 2007

Steering Committee II

Red Lion Hotel Seattle
Bainbridge Room
January 22, 2007
8 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

In attendance : Cal Zunt, Keith Trimmer, Steve Stratton, John Sandstrom, KR Roberto, Holly Mercer, Dustin Larmore, Lisa Johnston, Robin Imhof, Paul Higdon, Roland Hansen, Bob Graziano, Martin Garnar, Norman Eriksen, Rich DiRusso, Lewis Day, John Bradford.

Visitors reporting : Mary McInroy, Rod Hersberger.

1. Call to Order Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt
The meeting was called to order at 8:11 a.m. by Co-Chair Cal Zunt.
Norman Eriksen reminded the group of additional items for the agenda (those not completed in Steering Committee 1 on Saturday).
2. Introductions Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt
3. Approval of Agenda Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt
4. Reports from Coordinators, Councilors and Liaisons

Co-Chair

Norman Eriksen

Norman announced that he had attended the RUSA meeting. He also announced that ALA Treasurer candidate Rod Hersberger would attend briefly to speak about his candidate; as with the presidential candidates in Steering Committee 1, the meeting would pause to hear from him.

Diversity Council

Lisa Johnston

Lisa attended the meeting of the Diversity Council and brought a number of issues to the Steering Committee.

Diversity Council wants to know if the GLBTRT is interested in co-sponsoring programs. The consensus was yes; there have been too many scheduling conflicts in recent years.

Diversity Council offers *ALA 101* at Annual Meeting; this year the Committee on Diversity will offer *Diversity 101* as a part of the program.

The 10th anniversary of the Spectrum Scholars program is 2007.

There is a Diversity Blog in the works; the GLBTRT should participate.

Who is running for Council?

Freedom to Read Foundation

Lewis Day

Lewis attended the FTRF Board meeting on Friday, January 19.

The FTRF will be holding its fundraiser at the Seattle Public Library at the same time we are having ours there; folks interested in hearing frequently-banned author Chris Crutcher should think about attending before or after the GLBTRT Social.

Lewis mentioned that the FTRF is seeing an upswing in GLBT-related challenges and bannings; we should be proactive in bringing any cases of GLBT-related free speech and free reading problems to the FTRF and ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom.

Action Item 1

Write a newsletter article on FTRF activities.

Lewis Day

The GLBTRT is behind in payment of dues.

Action Item 2

Renew membership in the Freedom to Read Foundation.

Dustin Larmore

Since no other liaisons were present, the agenda items from Steering Committee 1 were considered.

5. Agenda Items held over from Steering Committee Meeting 1

Old Business

Final status of Read Aloud

Norman began the discussion by reminding the Steering Committee that no Read Aloud program was scheduled for Washington. Conversation ensued, mostly about how sad it was that a program which had once been so popular had become poorly-executed and –attended. Paul Higdon suggested not having a physical event, and creating a podcast instead; Lewis suggested modeling the event on a poetry slam, and moving it from conference hotels to other locations (bars, restaurants, public spaces).

Motion 1

Place the Read Aloud on hiatus for ALA Annual Meeting in June 2007.

Motion John Sandstrom

Second John Bradford

Pass unanimous voice vote

Discussion ensued about creating an ad-hoc committee to discuss options for the Read Aloud and present a report at ALA Annual Meeting in June 2006.

Motion 2

Create an ad-hoc Read Aloud Committee to consider options for ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim (June 2008); and to issue an interim report in June 2007 and a final proposal in January 2008.

Lewis Day ... Chair

John Sandstrom

John Bradford

Motion John Sandstrom

Second John Bradford

Pass unanimous voice vote

New Business

Two proposals for new committees were held over: Legislative and Advocacy Committee and Bylaws and Policies.

Legislative and Advocacy Committee. Larry Romans brought the idea to the agenda but was not present at either Steering Committee meeting. There was no discussion and no action was taken.

Bylaws and Policies. Lewis spoke of the need to create an official, ongoing committee to work on GLBTRT Bylaws and produce the Policy and Procedure manual. Organizationally, it should be located within the Secretary's purview.

Motion 3

Establish the Committee on Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, with the Secretary as Chair.

Motion Roland Hansen

Second John Sandstrom

Pass unanimous voice vote

Roland Hansen, current keeper of the Bylaws and GLBTRT institutional memory, agreed to serve on the committee; Norman agreed to be the third member (though mostly as adviser, given his duties as Co-Chair).

As discussion of the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee ended, ALA Treasurer candidate Rod Hersberger arrived and the agenda paused to hear him (see *Addendum*).

6. Reports from Coordinators, Councilors and Liaisons (resumed)

Round Table Representative—ALA Council Mary McInroy

Mary congratulated the GLBTRT on the new ability to directly elect a Council Representative. She asked that Steering Committee members consider attending the Round Table Coordinating Council meeting on Fridays.

Mary asked if the Steering Committee had any issues to be brought before ALA Council during the Seattle Midwinter Meeting. Norman replied that the issue of the Spectrum Scholars' program's lack of recognition of GLBT people and persons with disabilities as classes in its programming and in the awarding of scholarships. Mary replied that it was "a substantial and worthwhile" concern. Rich DiRusso asked if the RT has taken an official position on the issue, and Cal said no. Mary asked if the Steering Committee would be making a proposal to Council at Midwinter and Cal and Norman said no. Cal mentioned that Satia Orange (Director, OLOS) had suggested the GLBTRT raise the money to sponsor parallel scholarships to the Spectrum Scholars (echoing Nancy Davenport's comments at Steering Committee 1). Lewis asked if this meant ALA was recommending we *buy* a place at the table. Mary said she would look into it, saying she was not fully aware of the issues. Norman thanked her for coming.

7. New Business

Recommended Books for Young Readers Roland Hansen

Roland reported on the initiative, tentatively titled the *Rainbow Reading List*. The list, modeled on the *Amelia Bloomer Project* (a list of "feminist books for young readers" produced by the Feminist Task Force of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table), which would produce a yearly list of books on GLBT themes for young readers. Roland and Lisa Johnston have been working on a proposal with Jane Cothron and others to bring the list into being for the 2008 Annual Meeting (reflecting the 2007 publishing year).

Bob Graziano asked how this project would differ from the projected addition of a children's/YA prize to the Stonewall Book Awards. Roland said he hoped there would be synergy between the committee working on this list and the Book Awards Committee. Norman reported that the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) is interested in working on this project. Lisa said it would be helpful to have a list of children's/YA titles considered for the Stonewall Book Awards. John Sandstrom thanked the committee for its work and said he looked forward to their final report in Washington.

Action Item 3

Report on the Rainbow Reading List.

Roland Hansen

Membership Issues

Paul Higdon

Paul reported that he writes to each person who declines to renew membership in the GLBTRT to give them a sense of closure and to find out what might be helpful in encouraging members to renew. He said many are also dropping basic ALA membership, saying they are "not getting their money's worth out of membership." Forty (40) such letters have gone out since ALA Annual in New Orleans; there have been eight (8) responses, and all but one cite disappointment with the association. Mary McInroy said she is on the ALA Membership Committee, and they are looking into this issue.

Norman asked Paul how many new members the GLBTRT has. Paul replied that reliable numbers are difficult to obtain from ALA, and that often membership numbers he gets do not

jibe with those given to GLBTRT Treasurer Dustin Larmore . Mary said she had comparative numbers:

December 2005 ... 752

December 2006 ... 881

Paul replied that this represented a third number. He said he and John Chrastka (ALA Membership Marketing Manager) are working on a reliable process for getting membership information to the RT.

Action Item 4

Work with John Chrastka on obtaining consistent and reliable membership numbers; report to the Steering Committee.

Paul Higdon

Books and Bookmarks

Cal Zunt

Cal said there had been interest expressed at Steering Committee 2 in New Orleans to create and publish an annotated list of Stonewall Book Award winners and honor books. She said she would like to see movement on this matter. John Sandstrom said he would be happy to get information from ALA Publications. Rich DiRusso mentioned the Caldecott Book Award bookmarks and asked if these might be a model for a GLBTRT product. There was support for the idea. John Sandstrom said such a bookmark would have to be issued by ALA Graphics. Steve Stratton responded that ALA Graphics and Publications have been neither communicative nor supportive of past efforts. He said if a private publisher were to be interested it might work better. Mary McInroy said ALA has right of first refusal when it comes to publications by ALA entities. Lewis Day said "perhaps ALA should be doing its job." Robin Imhof said ALA publishes lists including Newberry, Caldecott and Coretta Scott King titles, but not Stonewall Book Awards.

Action Item 5

Investigate publishing possibilities with ALA Graphics and Publications; report to Steering Committee.

John Sandstrom

Cal Zunt

Spectrum Scholars

Cal Zunt

Cal expressed her ongoing disappointment at the exclusion of GLBT people and persons with disabilities as represented groups within ALA's Spectrum Scholars program. John Bradford said the Steering Committee could prepare a resolution for ALA Council, reminding Council of the association's extensive diversity statement, which includes both the disabled and GLBT people. Steve Stratton asked if anyone had spoken with members of ALA disability groups; he said Jerry Reynolds has been involved in work with this community). Lisa Johnston advocated reaching out to the Libraries Serving Special Populations Section (LSSPS) of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA). Cal agreed and said there may be other communities being overlooked. Bob Graziano reflected

that at the ten-year anniversary, any discussion of the purpose of, and communities represented by, the Spectrum Scholars program may be moot.

Steve Stratton offered a couple of reflections: “this group” (the GLBTRT Steering Committee) “is awfully white,” and “if we want something, we have to fight for it.” He said the GLBTRT still has to struggle with ALA to place articles in ALA publications regarding the Stonewall Book Awards, and is nowhere to be seen on the podium at the traditional awards announcements. Lewis agreed, saying the RT must become political in order to break down these barriers. Cal observed that a perception of low numbers of members from the days when the RT was a SRRT task force still lingers in some corners of the association. Lewis asked, “why isn’t lavender a color in the spectrum?” Cal volunteered investigate the matter and provide a report in Washington; Steve agreed to be a resource for this effort.

Action Item 6

Investigate issues of inclusion surrounding the Spectrum Scholars program.

**Cal Zunt
Steve Stratton**

Steve mentioned Mario Gonzalez as a possible resource.

OLOS/Jean Coleman Lecture

Steve Stratton

Steve reported that Barbara Gittings has been asked to deliver the 2007 Jean Coleman Library Outreach Lecture at ALA Annual in Washington. He mentioned that Anne Moore would be visiting Barbara and Kay Lahusen soon. John Sandstrom suggested asking Barbara to present the award in her name at the 2007 Stonewall Book Awards brunch in Washington (which is scheduled for just after the Coleman Lecture).

Discussion of the Coleman Lecture and brunch led to discussion about the name of the committee which produces the brunch. Since the event is now a brunch, and no longer a breakfast, it was felt the name of the committee should reflect this.

Motion 4

Rename the Breakfast Planning Committee the Stonewall Book Awards Celebration Committee.

Motion Lewis Day
Second John Bradford
Pass unanimous voice vote

Housing

Lewis Day

Lewis mentioned that he had heard of ALA groups establishing housing blocks for members, and wondered if such a block of rooms in a common location might be of interest to GLBTRT members. There was consensus that looking into the matter was worthwhile.

Action Item 7

Investigate reservation of a housing block at the 2008 Midwinter in Philadelphia and beyond.

Lewis Day

Breakfast Meeting

Lewis Day

Lewis reported on an OLOS breakfast that he and Dustin Larmore attended in Chicago. Would Steering Committee members be interested in looking at the cost and logistics of adding a continental breakfast to one or both Steering Committee meetings in the future? Members were receptive, providing the cost wasn't too high.

Action Item 8

Investigate adding a breakfast component to one or both Steering Committee meetings.

**Roland Hansen
John Sandstrom**

8. Announcements

New exhibitor. John Sandstrom reported that Vibrant Publishing, a Canadian GLBT firm, are first-time exhibitors; go see them.

ALA Pavilion. Norman reported that RUSA met regarding the difficulties in scheduling people to staff the ALA Pavilion. Paul Higdon said John Chratska told him that the Pavilion is replacing the free both OLOS has provided in years past. There was unhappiness with this; Cal said this was not what they had been told at the Round Table Coordinating Assembly. Paul said he would check into it and report to the Steering Committee list.

Action Item 9

Gather details regarding the ALA Pavilion and status of the booth.

Paul Higdon

Social. John Bradford reported there had been no collection of donations at the Social at the Seattle Public Library. The difficulties of producing the Social from a great distance and questions about the appropriateness of having the Social a part of the Program Planning Committee ensued.

Motion 5

Move responsibility for the Social from the Program Planning Committee to the Membership Committee.

Motion John Sandstrom
Second Dustin Larmore
Pass unanimous voice vote

Intellectual Freedom. Martin Garnar brought greetings and congratulations at having an ALA Councilor from the Intellectual Freedom Round Table. He reported that work has been completed on *Out in the Library: Materials, Displays and Services for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community*, a new toolkit to deal with challenges to GLBT-related material and content. The Steering Committee thanked Martin for his work in this effort.

Motion 6

Motion to adjourn.

Motion Lewis Day

Second John Bradford

Pass unanimous voice vote

The meeting was adjourned.

Addendum

Visit to the GLBTRT Steering Committee 2 meeting by ALA Treasurer candidate Rod Hersberger.

Rod Hersberger

Rod Hersberger arrived during the discussion of the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee.

Rod touted his qualifications, including the MBA (as well as MLS), and said he'd been active on LAMA, working on budget and finance. He also has served as an ALA Council member for LAMA.

He currently serves on BARC, "a good apprenticeship for ALA Treasurer."

If elected, Rod is committed to making plain the "arcane, complex world of accounting" for ALA membership. Paul Higdon asked how he would publicize his initiatives, and Rod said through visits to groups and Round Tables, through the website, and other means. Norman said getting on-time reports has been a struggle and would be greatly appreciated in a new Treasurer; Rod agreed, saying the information should be on the ALA Treasurer's website..