

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table
of the American Library Association
2009 Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois

Steering Committee I
Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2009

I. Call to order

David S. Vess called to order the regular meeting of the GLBTRT of ALA at 8:00 a.m. on July 11, 2009 in the Clark Room of the Palmer House Hotel.

II. Introductions

Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT Secretary recorded the names of those in attendance. The following GLBTRT members were present: John Andrews, Ellen Bosman, Matthew Ciszek, Norman Eriksen, John Furlong, Roland Hansen, Peter Hepburn, Lisa Johnston, Dale McNeill, Tracy Nectoux, Barbara Pickell, Jerry Reynolds, Rob Ridinger, Larry Romans, John Sandstrom, Jim Simonis, Ambrose Thompson, Samantha Hypatia Thompson, and David Vess. Special Guests from PFLAG Chicago, Peter Ji and Jackie Frett were also in attendance.

III. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion 1**
- **Approval of Minutes**
- **Motion: John Sandstrom**
- **Seconded: Norman Eriksen**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

IV. Report from RT Councilor, John Sandstrom

Up for discussion are three resolutions. Steering Committee members and GLBTRT members may vote on supporting resolutions. The text of the resolutions are attached in Appendix 1.

a) Resolution on Civil Marriage Equality Regardless of Sexual Orientation

- **Motion 2**
- **Permission to fully support resolution**
- **Motion: Norman Eriksen**

- **Second: Jim Simonis**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

b) Purchasing of Accessible Electronic Resources Resolution

- **Motion 3**
- **Permission to fully support resolution**
- **Motion: John Sandstrom**
- **Second: Tracy Nectoux**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

c) Accessibility for Library Websites

- **Motion 4**
- **Permission to support this resolution**
- **Motion: John Sandstrom**
- **Second: Matt Ciszek**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

d) Resolution on Libraries and the Continuing Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A Resolution calling for us to leave Iraq and Afghanistan and repatriate the intellectual content that we've taken during the course of the war. Exact wording is not out yet.

- **Motion 5**
- **Table this until we have exact wording of resolution**
- **Motion: Matt Ciszek**
- **Second: Jim Sandstrom**
- **Passed. 1 abstention**

V. Address from Peter Ji and Jackie Frett (PFLAG)

PFLAG would like more collaboration between libraries and local PFLAG chapters. They want to increase comfort levels for parents trying to find books. Librarians should know that we have the option to refer parents of LGBT children, as well as children of LGBT parents, to PFLAG.

A discussion concerning building relationships with other PFLAG groups in conference cities followed. Perhaps we could plan something with PFLAG in 2013? We will work at keeping up our ties with Chicago's PFLAG chapter.

We'd also like to work on a collection development program for a future conference.

For more information:

www.pflag.org

www.pflagillinois.org

630-415-0622

Peter Ji: pjiman1@hotmail.com

630-297-3658

Jackie Frett: JackieKF@aol.com

VI. Approval of 2009 Midwinter Meeting Minutes (SC I and II)

- **Motion 6**
- **Motion to approve Midwinter 2009 minutes**
- **Motion: Matt Ciszek**
- **Second: Barbara Pickell**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

VII. Reports of Officers and Liaison to ALA Executive Board

e) Co-Chair Report (None)

f) Treasurer Report

The Round Table is in good financial standing. Our funds have been carefully and prudently used for the last several years, building a legacy for the current Steering Committee to continue.

As of March 31, 2009, the latest information available from ALA, our operating fund assets total \$36286.05.

Our revenue for the 7-month period ending March 31 was \$7,065.62. Of this, \$6,067 was dues. Donations at the midwinter social were all cash and were applied to the catering bill in Denver. These donations (and corresponding expenses) are not shown in our financial reports. The amount of dues is very close to what we had received last year in March.

Our expenses totaled \$604.03.

Here are the details of expenses:

- \$200 membership in Freedom to Read Foundation
- \$141 bank fees
- \$244 awards (actual awards for the Stonewall Book Awards in Anaheim)

- \$18 distribution center (ALA) charges

In addition, ALA charged \$618 for overhead costs.

Expenses for the Social in Denver will be shown on the Midwinter 2009 financial report. However, keeping in mind that the numbers above do not include these figures, the cost of the Social was \$892. \$422 was collected in cash and went to catering. We paid \$320 for catering and \$150 for the room rental. Our next report will reflect this \$470 expense.

Our endowment fund balance as of March 31, 2009, was \$66,606.78. We received \$1,640 of donations in the last seven months. We received \$1,513 in interest/dividends. The fund had losses of \$13,214. While this sounds bleak, it's useful to recall that the fund balance was just above \$50,000 in November 2008. At the highest, the balance was a bit more than \$76,000. We're making progress to returning to that balance. To support two book awards, ALA would now like us to have a fund balance of \$100,000. To support three book awards, we need to work toward a fund balance of \$150,000. This is clearly an achievable goal. I challenge and encourage each member of GLBTRT to make a contribution—of any size—to the GLBTRT Endowment Fund before our anniversary gala next year in Washington, DC.

As this is my final report as your treasurer, I would like to thank each of the members, donors, volunteers, and supporters of the Round Table. I'd especially like to thank the former Treasurers, whose work greatly assisted me. When I attended a party given by the GLTF in Chicago in 1985, I never imagined that I would one day be the treasurer of what would become this Round Table. I'm both humbled and honored to have served as Treasurer and to have been elected as co-chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale McNeill
Treasurer, GLBTRT, 2007-2009
Co-chair, GLBTRT, 2009 (after conference)-2011

g) Secretary Report (None)

h) ALA Executive Board Liaison

1. ALA finances have been hard hit, mostly due to the loss of 2,400 members. We've had an increase in student membership, but YALSA is the only group that hasn't lost members. The budget is 2.7 mill. less in revue. They do expect an upswing in a few years, however, and they are trying to get some of the stimulus money to go to libraries.

2. We had a program that addresses this situation: Libraries In a Tough Economy. There is a Toolkit for this. Search: “advocacy university” on the ALA site.
3. Electronic participation. Virtual participation in committees. This is very expensive. Internet access to meetings would cost \$144,000.
4. There is currently a debate about whether an accrediting organization should be able to tell individual programs what to teach. We are looking at a different way to accredit programs and overall library school accreditation.
5. Certification of support staff is also still being discussed.
6. Judith Krug. ALA is putting together a qualification application for her replacement.

Larry Romans,
ALA Executive Board

VIII. Reports from Committee Chairs

i) External Relations Committee

The External Relations Committee has been working with two organizations, GLSEN and PFLAG, to develop toolkits. Related to these undertakings, the Committee has worked to include a discussion with Chicago-area PFLAG members at Steering Committee I at the ALA 2009 Annual Conference.

Committee members Jesse NACHEM and Anne Moore prepared a submission for ALA Cognotes to publicize GLBTRT events at Annual.

Committee member Anne Moore collaborated with other RT members on a bibliography of materials related to age and ageing in the LGBT community for use at the 2009 Annual Diversity Fair.

Committee chair Peter Hepburn will join two other RT colleagues to represent the RT at the Spectrum Leadership Institute to be held before Annual.

The Committee proposes no agenda items at this time. The Committee looks ahead to the period between Annual and Midwinter 2010 with a view to reconsideration of what its proper role in the RT should be. To this end, the Committee will welcome the outcome of any related discussion at Annual.

Peter Hepburn,
External Relations Committee Chair

j) Membership Committee Report

Current Membership Statistics:

The latest Membership Statistics report from the OLOS office is attached to this report From April 2009. The report indicates the following membership trends from the year before:

- Membership in the round table is 921 members
- Personal membership has decreased about 5%
- Student memberships have dropped over 7%

Membership feedback when dropping membership states that economic pressures are the leading cause for members leaving the round table. This is a trend that is affecting the entire association.

Membership Brochure

Tina Coleman in the ALA Office for Membership Promotion has created a new membership brochure for the round table that is making its debut at Annual in Chicago. This brochure will be available at the membership kiosk, the social, the book awards brunch, and at other round table events to publicize the work of the round table.

Committee Volunteer Form

The Membership Committee in conjunction with the Steering Committee is working on a committee volunteer form that can be used each year to make committee appointments and gauge interest in the work of various committees and projects. This form will be linked from the GLBTRT page and send the information to the Steering Committee or another “volunteer” email list.

Membership Database

The Membership Committee would like to suggest that we discontinue the membership database started by Keith Trimmer. Current membership information from ALA, in conjunction with the new volunteer form, is sufficient. Thanks to Keith Trimmer and David Connors for collecting and maintain this information.

Membership Pavilion Events for Annual 2010

Annual 2010 is the 40th anniversary of the GLBTRT. Over the next year, the Membership Committee in conjunction with Program Planning Committee and the ALA Office of Membership Promotion will work on events for the Membership Pavilion next year.

Matthew P. Ciszek
Membership Committee Chair

k) Newsletter Committee

I printed 150 copies of the Summer 2009 issue and will make them available at the kiosk, in the GLBTRT distribution box, and at the Social. Without funding to print and send additional copies, I could not afford to follow the excellent suggestion to mail hard copies of this issue to all the businesses mentioned in the Out in Chicago Feature. I printed 100 copies of the Winter 2009 newsletter; about 50 were picked up.

Tracy Nectoux and I have been posting reviews and selected articles to the GLBTRT blog.

As the Summer 2009 issue is my last, I have updated and clarified the Newsletter procedures and style guide prepared for me by Ken Wells, my predecessor. They are ready to pass along to my successor as soon as one is named.

Tracy Nectoux has indicated she is willing to continue on as Reviews Editor and hopes to begin reviewing GLBT music with the Fall 2009 issue. I will continue writing articles and/or reviews for the Newsletter.

Article submissions from GLBTRT committee chairs and officers, to keep the membership informed and engaged, are always welcome.

Also welcome are submissions of articles from members and friends about their local GLBT library and archive collections, services, resources, or challenges. Tracy Nectoux has a large stable of reviewers but is also looking for additional folks willing to critique books, films, audiobooks, and music.

John Bradford,
Newsletter Committee Chair

l) Nominating Committee Report

This year, the GLBTRT had two open elected positions:

- Male-identified Co-Chair
- Treasurer

Co-Chair Nominees:

- Dale McNeill
- Walter “Cat” Walker
- Victor Schill

Treasurer Nominees:

- Ellen Bosman
- Bill Holden withdrew his due to his partner's job change

The incoming Co-Chair is Dale McNeill.

The incoming Treasurer is Ellen Bosman.

It was agreed at Midwinter SC 2 that the Nominating Committee would no longer exist, the duties would now be taken over by the Membership Committee.

Lisa N. Johnston,
Nominating Committee Chair

m) Program Planning Committee

The Program Committee has developed two programs for the Annual Conference in Chicago in July, 2009. Our Tango program has become very exciting with the recent addition of the two authors of the "And Tango makes Three" book, however we must sadly report that two of our Librarian panelists have had to drop out for health reasons. I am sure that we'll have a great program anyway and we are seeking a replacement panelist.

Forty Years from Stonewall - a discussion of the history of and since the Stonewall riots, in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of that event.

- Presenter - John D'Emilio
- Gender & Women's Studies [MC 360]
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- And previous winner of the Stonewall Book Award

What makes Tango so frightening? - Censorship Attempts Involving GLBT Themes in Picture Books and Elementary Literature

- Background on challenged picture books with GLBT theme/characters - Carolyn Caywood accepted
- YS Librarian, discussing how materials are used in libraries/importance to collection – currently undetermined
- Defending this material - Jamie LaRue accepted
- Silent censorship, how concern about purchasing affects acquisitions decisions – Opening question to all librarian panelists to comment on
- Authors of And Tango Makes Three, Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, have accepted.

In a change from recent policy, the Steering Committee did approve paying a fee of \$500 to Dr. D'Emilio and Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell. The Committee may want to further discuss adding a line for program funding to the budget.

We have one suggestion for a future program that I am aware of at this time. The idea is to do a program on working with community partners to provide better services to the GLBT patrons or family members. PFLAG was one example of a community partner since the Chicago group had asked to do such a program. This is a program that might work well with different library types, since I'm sure there are campus organizations that could partner with academic libraries, etc.

I have provided my resignation as Program Planning Chair due to budget and travel reductions from my library. This has been a great learning opportunity, and I appreciate all of the support.

Barbara Pickell,
Program Planning Committee Chair

Stonewall Book Awards Committee Report Discussion:

The Program Committee needed a youth services librarian for the What makes Tango so frightening? program. (They had two cancellations.) Barbara asked for someone with a youth services background, and John Andrews volunteered to fill in.

It's time to begin thinking about future programs. The Membership Chair suggested a "retrospective look back" program. Norman Eriksen has two posters that Israel Fishman gave to him. Perhaps we can make use of those.

Additionally, we need to think about a new committee chair, since Barbara's time ends after Annual. Barbara's excellent work as Program Planning Committee Chair is greatly appreciated.

n) Rainbow Project Committee Report

Steering Committee 1 – Chicago – 7/11/09

Our projects during the past six months include the printing of 10,000 bookmarks for distribution at conferences and related meetings, cooperation with GLSEN in their highlighting a Rainbow book on their website each month, and the development of a data base for potential Rainbow nominations. Current web presences: www.rainbowlist.wordpress.com; http://www.myspace.com/rainbow_list; http://twitter.com/rainbow_list; and <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=48654643189>.

Bylaws language for the Rainbow Project standing committee has been presented for the 2009 Membership Meeting. Chair-elect John Andrews will take over the chair position following Midwinter 2010.

Members are as follows: John Andrews, Washoe County Library System (Nevada); Michael Cart (Indiana); Lynn Evarts, Sauk Prairie High School (Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin); K.T. Horning, Cooperative Children's Book Center (Wisconsin); Arla Jones, Lawrence High School (Kansas); Michael Santangelo, Brooklyn Public Library; Victor Schill, Harris County Public Library (Texas); Laurie Spurling, Schlessman Family Branch Library (Colorado); and Nel Ward (Oregon).

No agenda items.

Respectfully submitted
Nel Ward,
Rainbow Project Committee Chair

o) Stonewall Book Awards Celebration Committee Report

Ads for the Stonewall Book Award Celebration booklet were sold totaling \$500.00 in revenue. The completed celebration booklet was sent to Elliott Mandel at ALA for printing on June 12th. Final preparations for the Celebration Award program were made including speaker line up, arrangements with publishers & book store for book distribution, and the selection of the menu.

No agenda items at this time.

John Furlong,
Stonewall Book Award Celebration Committee Chair

p) Stonewall Book Awards Committee Report

The membership of the committee is set for 2009/2010. Below is a list of the members with their terms, email addresses, and affiliations.

- Elizabeth Briggs - past chair, 2008/2009, BRIGGSE@ecu.edu, Professor, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC
- Amanda Clay - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, aclay2@gmail.com, Library Media Specialist, Norman, Oklahoma
- Lewis Day - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, lewis_day@harvard.edu, Technical Services Librarian, Houghton Library, Harvard University
- Sharon Flesher-Duffy - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, searchresearch@hotmail.com, Library Media Specialist, Nashua High School, NH

- Frank Giammarino - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, frank_giammarino@yahoo.com, Community Library Manager, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, Carson, CA
- Lisa Johnston - incoming chair, 2010/2011, lnjohnston@sbc.edu, Associate Director, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, VA
- Analisa Ornelas - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, analisa.ornelas@yahoo.com, Systems Librarian, Innovative Interfaces, Inc., Emeryville, CA
- Jason D. Phillips - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, jdphillips@library.msstate.edu, Government Documents & United Nations Librarian, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS
- Robert B. Ridinger - 2008/2009 - 2009/2010, rridinger@niu.edu, Electronic Information Resources Management, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL
- Christopher Shoemaker - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, Christopher_Shoemaker@nypl.org , Young Adult Programming Specialist, New York Public Library
- James Simonis - chair, 2009/2010, simonis@lemoyne.edu, Librarian Emeritus, Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY
- Roseann Szalkowski - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, RSzalkowski@skokiepubliclibrary.info, Senior Cataloger, Skokie Public Library, IL
- Gypsy Teague, - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, gteague@exchange.clemson.edu, Gunnin Architecture Library, Clemson University, SC
- Corwin Watts - 2009/2010 - 2010/2011, thaumbody@windstream.net, Gifted Children Mentor, Lincoln, NE

Some statistics about the committee:

- Half are female identified and half are male identified.
- Seven are from academic libraries, four are from public libraries, two are from school libraries, and one is from a corporate library.
- Two are from the Midwest, four are from the Northeast, four are from the South, and four are from the West.

Four are returning from 2008/2009, and ten are new to the committee. Five of the new members are from the list which the co-chairs compiled of people who were waiting to serve on the committee. Four are individuals who have reviewed books for our newsletters. (My apologies to Tracy for stealing so many of her reviewers.) I contacted these reviewers about membership on the committee because we needed individuals from public and school

libraries with a background in children's and young adult literature. One of the new members was a referral from a person who could not serve on the committee but who could recommend an expert in young adult literature. Six of the new members have experience with children's and young adult literature, which will be very important as we select for the first time a children's and young adult award. Two are members of YASL.

Several people turned down membership on the committee because they could not commit to travel to Midwinter. Everyone on the 2009/2010 committee has committed to travel to Midwinter; however, only a few planned to attend the 2009 annual convention. For this reason the committee is not meeting at annual. Lisa Johnston and I did have conference calls this week with the members to orient them to the procedures of the committee. Our first task will be to review a list of approximately 150 titles we have identified as possible nominations and decide which ones to request for review. We expect to complete this task by the end of July and to begin requesting and reviewing titles in August.

Respectively submitted,
Jim Simonis,
Stonewall Book Awards Committee Chair

Stonewall Book Awards Committee Report Discussion:

Naming of children's award. Has there been any resolution on this? Is there a list of possible names to send to membership? Continued discussion of this topic was added to the Steering Committee II agenda.

BAC does not follow current bylaws in terms of the duties of the Chair and Chair Elect. Who appoints the members of committees? This should be addressed in the bylaws revision.

q) **Website Committee Report**

Committee Status:

Kristen Dietiker, Sara Rofofsky Marcus, and Gayle Keresey all joined the web committee after the 2009 Midwinter meeting. Each of us has been trained in Collage, the Content Management Solution used by ALA. After getting a fuller picture of what the website committee work entailed, both Kristen and Sara have decided to step down from the committee due to time issues and Collage's poor compatibility with Macintosh computers. Gayle has expressed interest in becoming the Chair.

Web site Status:

Minor changes on a few web pages were performed:

- The news page has been updated twice, with the spring and summer 2009 newsletters uploaded and linked
- The newsletter archives page has been updated twice, with the winter and spring 2009 newsletters being added to the archive
- The oversight groups page was updated with the names of current committee chairs and members.

Recommendations:

- New web committee members may want to use a Windows-based PC for editing the site. I found it to be very buggy on my Mac
- ALA prefers that tables not be used (for example, committee rosters). Thus, the web committee should redesign the groups page to incorporate the ALA style guides
- Populate the “Initiatives”, “Social Network” and “Popular Resources” pages or remove them from the site
- Survey committee membership to get an idea of what the membership uses the website for; what information they are looking for or think would be useful there before making any major changes to content or design

Kristen Dietiker,
Web Committee Chair

IX. Report from Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA)

July 10, 2009 Meeting (Note: the GLBTRT representative was not able to attend the first half of the meeting.)

Orientation to RTCA for incoming people is needed. Solution might be a hybrid model with textual information on Connect, (“frequently asked questions”) then live question and answer sessions online (or asynchronous boards perhaps?) on a schedule.

Kim Olsen-Clark (Dir of ALA Dev. Office) How Development Office and Round Tables can work together:

- They are there for guidance / a resource for round tables.
- Go them to plan approaching someone or an organization for money. They need to be a hub for these activities. (Many sponsors are approached by ALA groups. This makes ALA look bad. They can help bundle proposals for several groups and approach targeted sources of funds with a strong proposal.

- Olsen-Clark suggests always having an annual membership fund drive. Come to them for help with planning your annual fund raising drive.
- They can help a great deal, such as identify someone willing to do a matching donation (i.e. put up \$500 as an incentive to raise another \$500).
- Use existing events (or other things that you can leverage) that you already have in place/do as a fund raising opportunity.
- Look to see what other organizations are doing for fundraising and planned giving – inside and outside ALA, what can you apply to your plans?
- They will post sample sponsorship agreements; venue agreements; author agreements, etc. so that we can all see language.

Jenny Levine, Leader of the ALA Connect Project

- No one can edit posts
- If you want to collaborate, then use an online doc
- You can attach subject headings to your group. Contact Jenny to get others added for this ability in Connect.
- Profiles:
 - Jenny encourages people to fill out profiles and make them public. (note the default profile only have your name – that can be seen by anyone.
 - You can fill out your profile and not make it public so only those in ALA would be able to see your profile information.
 - You can do interesting things in the confines of Connect:
 - LITA members made a form in google docs and embedded that form in Connect.
- GLBTRT had images/maps and google maps linked off to events in their calendar for annual
- Jenny encourages us to make as much RT content public as possible to build interest in our groups.
- They are working on building committee workflow into the system
- i.e. to have preset reminders for when a committee report is due and then share those reports together.
- Coming soon – 2009
 - opportunities exchange (grants, fellowships, awards, volunteer opportunities,

- improved searching

David S. Vess,
Co-Chair, GLBTRT

X. Unfinished Business

None.

XI. New Business

r) Alyson Books Partnership – Don Weise

Don Weise would like to do an LGBT literacy campaign, and wants to partnership with us. Matt suggested putting together an ad hoc committee to move this forward. Is this the purview of External. Relations? Or should this be the responsibility of those who deal with Cognotes and other committees within ALA?

It was decided that it's best that Membership Committee take on issues that pertain to membership within the ALA. However, combining External Relations and Membership would be the most efficient way of getting business done.

Additionally, we will contact various publishers and ask them to place catalogs on our kiosk.

s) Membership Survey

A lot of the information in the survey is redundant, since most of it can also be found on the ALA database. Should we remove it from the website? The only difference between the survey and the committee volunteer form are two questions: (1) gender; and (2) sexual orientation.

After some discussion it was decided that we would keep the information that we have, but use ALA's survey for future information gathering.

t) Rainbow Project Cost Sharing

The question of paying for shipped books was discussed. The Rainbow Project is committed to not shipping if they don't have to. Boston and San Diego are already paid for. We will cover some of the shipping costs; it's a procedural thing, easy to figure out; and SRRT will help cover the cost.

- **Motion 7**
- **Table the rest of the Rainbow Project items until SC2**
- **Motion: Matt Ciszek**

- **Second: Lisa Johnston**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

u) **2010 Midwinter Social**

We are still in need of volunteers. If we decide to have the social at a local library, we plan to ask attendees to bring a book for donation.

XII. Adjournment

Steering Committee I was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

- **Motion 8**
- **Motion to adjourn**
- **Motion: Matt Ciszek**
- **Second: Lisa Johnston**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT Secretary, August 2009

Minutes approved by the GLBTRT Steering Committee Meeting I, January 16, 2010, ALA Midwinter Meeting.