

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table
of the American Library Association
Midwinter Meeting, 2009 Denver, CO**

Steering Committee I Minutes

Colorado Convention Center, Room 202

January 24, 2009

8A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Note: These minutes will not be formally approved by committee until the 2009 Annual Conference in Chicago.

Attendees

John Bradford, Elizabeth Briggs, Matthew Cizek, Norman Eriksen, John Furlong, Lisa Johnston, Todd Krueger, Dale McNeill, Tracy Nectoux, Barbara Pickell, Rob Ridinger, K.R. Roberto, Larry Romans, John Sandstrom, Nancy Silverrod, Jim Simonis, Steve Stratton, and Keith Trimmer

Reports From Committee Chairs

Fundraising Committee

Some ideas for raising money for the 2010 Gala in DC were discussed, including selling t-shirts that say "I love books." Perhaps we could ask Alison Bechdel to design a shirt portraying Mo in library school. Or Mo kissing Barbara Gittings.

One of our previous ideas was to sell raffle tickets for the BAC Brunch at the Midwinter Social. But this idea—put forth by Lisa Johnston—was never pursued. Lisa asked for an explanation of what happened. Who should have followed up on this? K.R. Roberto took responsibility and graciously apologized for the miscommunication.

Membership Committee

Matthew Cizek will present membership statistics soon, but claimed that "not much has changed" since the June 2008 report. As of October 2008, total membership has risen 2%, but student membership is way down.

David Connors has been maintaining the membership database, but can't continue to do so. Do we want to keep a separate membership database from ALA?

Re: Membership promotion. Matthew plans to talk with John Chrastka about ways for us to participate in ALA's membership drive.

Newsletter Committee

The Newsletter's Editor, John Bradford, expressed concern that his library will no longer offer funding for most travel. Nancy Silverrod suggested we discuss the possibility of electronic participation for future conferences.

Nominating Committee

Lisa Johnston reported that the GLBTRT has two open elected positions: Male-Identified Co-Chair and Treasurer.

Dale McNeil, Walter "Cat" Walker, and Victor Schill will be running for Male-Identified Co-Chair.

Ellen Bosman will be running for Treasurer.

Program Planning Committee

Barbara Pickell discussed two programs that are in the planning stages for 2009 Annual in Chicago: *Forty Years Since Stonewall* and *What Makes Tango Frightening?* There will be four people on the panels.

Victor Schill will discuss youth services. Jamie LaRue will speak on defending challenged materials. Nancy Silverrod will present on "Silent Censorship." We have invited Justin Richardson, but have not yet received a response from him.

We have received a request from PFLAG, who would like to do an additional program on helping "panicked parents" who are having a hard time coming to terms with their children's orientations. We think it would be a good idea for a librarian who is a parent of a gay or lesbian youth to be included in this program.

Elizabeth Briggs pointed out that we'll be announcing the Youth Award at Annual, and having PFLAG there would be a wonderful way to promote more recognition of the books. Elizabeth volunteered to help with this any way she can.

Website Committee

Keith Trimmer reported that the ALA server that runs the software is constantly down. This is a real problem for him, as the ALA down time doesn't coincide with his schedule for updating our web page.

Keith also pointed out that it's long past time for him to be rotated off as Committee Chair. We will need someone to take over soon, and he or she will need the necessary training, which is pretty involved.

Keith will add book award winners asap.

Reports From Officers

Co-Chairs

Round Table Coordinating Meeting

K.R. reported that he and Nancy attended the Round Table Coordinating meeting. There was a discussion about the ALA website. None of the RT representatives seemed too happy with the site.

As an alternative to the site, GODORT has been adding content to the ALA Wiki, and posting that all of their new content can be found there. If we wanted to follow their example, these questions would need to be addressed:

- ☒ *What kind of information should be there?*
- ☒ *More than one person can edit the pages*
- ☒ *Collage is a steep learning curve*
- ☒ *We' d need consistency across the board*
- ☒ *Are people having discussions on the new Wikis?*

ALA is starting to use OPAL, and encourages its units to do the same. However, OPAL doesn' t work well for Macs.

Emerging leaders

There are different levels of sponsoring emerging leaders. Should smaller Round Tables jointly fund them? EMERT is sponsor one for a project. Norman Erikson states that Camilla Alire is trying to put as many emerging leaders onto committees as possible.

Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA)

John Chrastka has stated that the CPSA is not a good idea. He encourages us to contact the Acting Chair of the Commission to say so. The number is: 301-504-7923.

Rainbow List (RL) Mediation

K.R. Roberto and Nancy Silverrod will attend this mediation, which will also have two members from SRRT, Allison Lewis being one of them. Tracie Hall will be the mediator.

Satia Orange wants this meeting to result in a compromise. The thought process going in is that we'll ☒dump it or reach a compromise.☒

After much discussion, Nancy stated that she hopes to work with YALSA also, but meeting with the RL shows good faith. Lisa strongly feels that someone from BAC should be at this meeting.

Tracy asked about a liaison, but John Bradford stated that having a liaison isn't really something we do at this level, and that it is very important that, no matter the outcome, we work with YALSA on the award.

Treasurer

An edited version of Dale McNeill's report follows:

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 the final close out of the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008, our operating fund assets total \$30,443.44.

Our total revenue for our endowment fund was -10,240. We received \$193 in donations, \$373 in interest/dividends, and a realized and unrealized loss of \$10,807 of endowment value. As of November 30, 2008, the current value of the endowment fund was \$50,887.31.

Round Table Councilor

John Sandstrom has been nominated for Executive Board.

Reports From Representatives and Liaisons

ALA Executive Board

Larry Romans reported that libraries are in tough economic times. The Washington office sent a report to the Obama transition team. They also invited us to participate in panels that would be discussing two issues: What can libraries do with fewer resources? What message shall we send to President Obama?

If it receives any bailout money, ALA plans for the resources go toward: Repair and moderation of buildings; Services for seniors; Head Start; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The ALA is also working on a *Tough Economy Tool Kit*. It can be found at the Office for Library Advocacy.

Re: the ALA budget. Membership has held steady. Dues are remaining somewhat steady. Individual groups are having problems, however. There are fewer attendees at Midwinter, and fewer vendors also. The loss is around \$100,000. ALA has cut \$500,00 from its budget.

ALA Connect, which is currently in beta, is hoped to be a positive component of the website.

We will see an ALA membership survey in about six weeks. It is very important for the RT membership to answer the survey. The more who respond, the better the GLBTRT will be represented.

The Task Force on Electronic Member Participation will present soon. We can expect better guidelines on e-meetings, etc.

The ALA will also be addressing the problem of lead in books.

Re: the Staff Certification Program. They are doing this a year early. How will the bad economy affect this? There are concerns about the cost of getting staff certified.

Suggestions to Larry from the SC

John Sandstrom mentioned the problems that Keith has had regarding the amount of time the website is down. We informed Larry of how the down time affects our ability to get our pages updated.

Nancy said that she finds the ALA Wiki impossible to use, and asked about some possible training for those who might need it.

Reports from Standing Committees

Stonewall Book Awards Committee

Children's and Youth Award

It is important that everyone understand that this award is a new *category*, not a new *award*. It is a new category within the Stonewall Book Awards. Elizabeth Briggs discussed BAC' s selection criteria. They felt

it would be a waste of time to “reinvent the wheel.” The Coretta Scott King Award criteria seems a “natural fit.”

Discussion of the Award’s name

ALA’s process for naming a new award entails going through the ALA awards committee. Steve Stratton cautioned that ALA will not want us to associate anyone’s name with the award until they have approved it.

In the past, our awards have honored those who have supported the Round Table. Do we want to follow that trend?

John Bradford asked what would happen if our award was named after an author who then writes a children’s book that is eligible for the award. Elizabeth explained that language would have to be written that would address such an occurrence.

Elizabeth suggested Maurice Sendak. He is out; he is extraordinarily talented; and he is well-known and respected.

Nancy agreed that having a recognized name is important, and that would make both the award and the RT more visible. Elizabeth added that it would be easier for a librarian to put the winning book on the shelf if the award was named after someone as respected as Sendak.

K.R. stated that he preferred that the award be named for a librarian, such as Ann Symons. He pointed out that it would just make sense to have our past naming process continue. Elizabeth explained that if we follow the pattern of how *other* youth awards are named, we should be focusing on authors. Moreover, this would propel us to the forefront.

Elizabeth continued that *American Libraries* has already approached her about the winners. We need this publicity. We are not a “young” Steering Committee. If we go with a well-known, out, *deserving* author, we’d attract both publicity *and* younger members who will want to get involved.

Barbara Pickell asserted that these authors should be qualified, not just popular. Dale McNeil said that the value in a “big name” author comes from this being a “multi-year process.”

Nancy said that one of her hesitations regarding Sendak is that, while he’s out and his work is “wonderful,” it is not gay-themed, and suggested another author. Elizabeth explained that the committee couldn’t find any information that the suggested author is out. Nancy volunteered to contact him and ask him directly. It is important that we respect an author’s privacy about this.

Motion 1

Table this discussion for the time being

Motion: Nancy Silverrod

Second: Dale McNeil

Passed by unanimous voice vote

Discussion of BAC membership

Elizabeth stressed the importance of announcing the new category asap, since the first award will be given at our Gala in DC. At present, there is no process of selection for committee. There are those who may not be qualified to critique a children's book according to accepted standards. K.R. pointed out that we've given out awards for YA titles in the past. Elizabeth agreed, saying that we don't want to propose a separation amongst the committee, but rather expand the numbers on the committee we already have. There is no need to break it down to three committees. It's already working well now. We don't want a subcommittee makeup.

Nancy pointed out that in her experience as a teen, children's, and adult librarian, there are some adult librarians who may not have experience with children's or YA literature. She hopes that we make a concerted effort to recruit and approve people to the committee who have experience in YA and children's literature.

Dale McNeil, reminded us that we are supposed to be reading youth material already, so this isn't going to be vastly different from what we've already been doing.

Elizabeth asked about the "magic list" of people waiting to be on the BAC. She stressed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the BAC should keep that list, and that they should seek out these people, especially YALSA folk who are gay.

It was agreed that the winner will be announced at Midwinter 2010. We need to start this immediately, and begin planning a time line.

Dale asked about a possible co-sponsorship with YALSA. Elizabeth answered that no, YALSA would only *serve* on the committee, not help sponsor the award.

Motion 2

The BAC will not be subdivided.

Motion: Elizabeth Briggs

Second: Tracy Nectoux

Passed by unanimous voice vote

Motion 3

Affirming the creation of a new category of the book award for children's and young adult literature. The new award will function under the same guidelines as the current structure.

Motion: Elizabeth Briggs

Second: Dale McNeil

Passed by unanimous voice vote

Barbara Pickell requested further discussion of the award criteria. Nancy agreed that this was necessary, and stated that criteria for the illustrations should reflect excellence of execution in the artistic technique employed, as stated in the Caldecott Medal criteria.

Dale asked about categories. We decided that we do not need to lay the groundwork for that now, but that the book must be written for a pre-K – 12 audience. Or infants – 18.

Motion 4

Accepted criteria, as amended

Motion: Elizabeth Briggs

Second: Barbara Pickell

Passed by unanimous voice vote

It was decided that we not discuss Book Award Seals until we have agreed on the name for the award.

Elizabeth next asked when a press release may be made. Nancy encouraged us to turn it in today. Dale suggested that someone work on this during All-Members. He also said that we owe a great deal of thanks to Elizabeth for working so hard to get this off the ground. Norman added that she'd taken on a huge task. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Briggs, Lisa Johnston, John Bradford, and Tracy Nectoux agreed to write a press release for *Cognotes* after the meeting.

Reports from Representatives And Liaisons

Budget and Review Council

Norman Erickson reported on BARC, saying that the council will be working with the task force on e-participation. They will present an information piece on where we need to go with this. If we move to e-participation, it will have an impact on conference revenues as to attendance, as well as impact their own expenses once they provide this. The technology budget will go up, and it's hard to predict because the cost is different for each city.

Re: our by-laws and procedure manual. Norman has forward Nancy the work he was doing on the procedures manual. He got information from the committee chairs how they ran their committees and their particular procedures. Some of the information is outdated. We need updates badly. The bylaws should be shrunk and simplified.

Nancy has been compiling information to add to Norman's work. We need the bylaws committee to set up some procedures. Two questions to consider:

1. Do we want a separate committee for bylaws changes?
2. Do we want a separate ad hoc committee?

Motion 5

Motion to continue for 15 more minutes

Motion: Barbara Pickell

Second: Elizabeth Briggs

Passed by unanimous voice vote

Reports from Ad Hoc Committees

Local Arrangements for Chicago

John Bradford asked if he could commit money to the plans for Chicago. Nancy said that \$1,000 should be doable. Dale warned that ALA likes to reimburse funds, rather than advance them, so be sure to get receipts for the expenses.

Motion 6

Adjournment

Motion: K.R. Roberto

Second: Matthew Cizek

Passed by unanimous voice vote