

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

Colorado Convention Center, Korbel Ballroom 4A

January 26, 2009

3 to 6:00 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, Franklin Espondedo, John Furlong, Peter Hepburn, Martin Garnar, Lisa Johnston, Dale McNeill, Tracy Nectoux, Barbara Pickell, Jerry Reynolds, John Sandstrom, Terry Switzer, Sarah Wright, David Woolwine

Visitors: Carrie Gardner, Kent Oliver

**1. Call to Order (K.R. Roberto)**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00PM

**2. Introductions (K.R. Roberto)**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved after the following changes:

- ☑ Addition of Peter Hepburn's report on Seven Measures
- ☑ Addition of Kent Oliver's address regarding his candidacy for ALA President
- ☑ Discussion of Trans issues within the Round Table
- ☑ Discussion of the BAC waiting list
- ☑ Possible co-sponsorship of a program at 2009 Annual in Chicago
- ☑ Discussion of the a possible date change for our Social at Annual

**Motion 1**

*Approval of agenda*

*Motion: Matthew Cizek*

*Second: Barbara Pickell*

***Passed by unanimous voice vote***

**Address from Kent Oliver**

[Kent Oliver's Website](#)

## Reports from Coordinators, Councilors, and Liaisons

### Round Table Councilor (John Sandstrom)

There are a number of resolutions being discussed:

☑ *Should ALA take a stand on the conflict in Gaza*

*There is ongoing discussion regarding the language of this resolution.*

☑ *Raising awareness of Gaza*

☑ *Unit endorsements of candidates*

No ALA units may endorse any candidate for ALA elections. However, several units are doing this anyway. Executive boards have not stepped in to change things.

Because unit endorsements are not binding, do we want to consider endorsing candidates for the next election? This will give us more influence at the ALA level.

#### **Motion 2**

*Do we want John to encourage endorsing candidates and speak positively for this issue?*

*Motion: Barbara Pickell*

*Second: Matthew Ciszek*

***Passed by unanimous voice vote***

### Diversity Council (Barbara Pickell)

Diversity Council is looking at possible future programming that might cross boundaries. There's been a suggestion to do a program on our honor book: *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South*, by E. Patrick Johnson. Doing this might bring in minority candidates and speakers with a GLBTQ background.

Diversity Council suggests that we coordinate better than we have in the past. It wants to create a list of counsel candidates who are GLBTQ, as well as members of Diversity Council, and then advocate for them. John Sandstrom explained that it's permissible to list the candidates, but not endorse them. Dale stated that it might take a huge amount of time deciding which candidates to endorse. Nancy said she's in favor of the list because it will help those who aren't yet involved to have a voice. Barbara asked if this is controversial. John explained that At-Large and individual Chapters don't care much. A minority of councilors have interest in this, but most are neutral. K.R. said that counselors who represent certain constituencies will have stronger feelings. Primarily, Diversity Council and SRRT want to do endorsements.

#### **Motion 3**

*K.R. called to question: all in favor of supporting our Councilor's involvement in this resolution*

*1 no; 3 yes; 3 abstentions*

John Sandstrom stated that, since this is minor issue, he won't spend a lot of energy on it.

### **ASCLA Accessibility Assembly (Jerry Reynolds)**

The current administration is very new. They don't know about our issues and there is a lot of competition for funding right now. We are encouraged to contact legislators about our issues. Having even one legislative as our friend would be beneficial. The policies under the old administration were hostile toward GLBT issues, so we should focus on changing this with the new people in charge. Current topics of concern:

☒ *The issue regarding lead in books does involve our membership, since many of us have had children and/or are adopting them. We're being asked to keep our eye on this issue.*

☒ *Funding for Talking Books and the transition to digital format for the disabled is in good shape, and they'll be able to go forward as planned and on schedule.*

☒ *Promoting open government. There is a lot going on with Google and the Washington office website.*

☒ *Broadband. This needs to be extended to libraries.*

☒ *Intellectual Freedom Committee Privacy Resolution. [Privacyrevolution.org](http://Privacyrevolution.org). We need to be aware that privacy issues are extremely important to us. The GLBTRT needs to focus on this.*

☒ *Focus recruitment. We need to legislatures on our issues.*

### **Intellectual Freedom Round Table (Martin Garnar)**

Martin sent his report in writing. It will be distributed.

### **Membership Promotion Task Force (Matthew Cizek)**

Matt met with John Chrastka, Nancy Silverrod, Jesse Nachem, and Peter Hepburn (the latter two being new members of the External Relations Committee), and they discussed some initiatives that ALA and the GLBTRT will work on together in order to enhance membership. John will help us celebrate our two upcoming milestones. John and the Membership Promotion office have funds and resources to help mark our 40th anniversary. We will give them an idea of what we want, and they will design materials for us at their expense, or we can come up with what we want and pay for it and they will help us promote it.

Discussion focused on highlighting our presence at our booth, ALA having a GLBT recognition theme, etc. We could have cake, other refreshments at our booth if we want to pay for that. Matt, Nancy, Anne Moore, and External Relations will meet to talk about informing the membership office about what we need and what we want to do.

### **New Members Round Table (Matthew Cizek)**

Matt spoke in place of Amy Elliott. In the past, NMRT has held a social sponsored by 3M, but they cannot anymore. They're currently looking for alternative ways to hold their social at Annual Conferences.

### **PLANNING AND BUDGET ASSEMBLY (Dale Mcneill)**

Dale could not attend because the meeting conflicted with BAC. However, he said that our main issue is the loss of value of the endowment fund.

There is also great concern about revenue from the Midwinter meeting and whether or not electronic participation is encouraged.

### **Young Adult Library Services Association (Franklin Espondedo)**

YALSA is concentrating on increasing reading and on whom they serve. LGBT youth that come out in college often don't have a place to go.

They are very excited about our new youth award and want to be involved. They've specifically asked to be a part of the award committee, which we want too. Elizabeth explained that we are in the beginning of the naming process and that the award is "strictly under our auspices." John Bradford encouraged YALSA members to contact us about joining the GLBTRT and being a part of the BAC.

### **Freedom to Read Foundation (Barbara Pickell)**

FTR plans to go over all of the legislation for intellectual freedom issues.

COPA has been denied and will be neither discussed nor enforced.

### **Address from Roberta A. Stevens**

[Roberta Stevens' Website](#)

## **Old Business**

### **Local Arrangements For 2009 Annual (John Bradford)**

Our normal time for having our Social will conflict with FTR Foundation's 40th anniversary gala.

Sidetrack will be glad to have us on Saturday instead of Sunday. It will cost \$600 to rent a space from The Center on Halsted, and we'll need to arrange for catering and security, in addition to paying for a bartender.

We decided to have our social at Sidetrack on Saturday. Matt stressed that we must publicize this and make sure that membership knows that our usual night has changed for our Social at Annual.

### **Rainbow Project (Satia Orange)**

Satia reported that Nancy and K.R. did an excellent job in a difficult situation. There were very strong opinions on both sides, but the major concern for everyone was the continuation of the Rainbow List, and consensus was eventually reached. The Rainbow List will have a "shared home" within GLBTRT and SRRT.

Satia said that we could not hold an official vote on this, since everything had already been decided.

Nancy explained that all members of the RL will need to be members of both Round Tables. The Rainbow Project will become an official Task Force of SRRT. Because our Task Force structure is different, we need to figure out if we want the RL to be a Task Force or Committee of GLBTRT.

Dale pointed out that our members have a huge interest in this, and expect something to come from this meeting. He suggested that we defer to our Co-Chairs to make an announcement on the list.

Finally, Satia encouraged us to continue to be involved with other groups. We should network, be vocal, and be representatives. We need to include other groups and to make sure they work with us.

The Diversity and Outreach Fair will focus on older adults. We should have exhibits at the diversity fair.

### **Seven Measures Focus Group (Peter Hepburn)**

The SMF Group discussed designing a tool to help ALA perform better as an organization. They are working toward a tool data dashboard. ALA had previously identified three avenues to better performance as an organization:

- Becoming data driven
- Engagement in dialogue
- Becoming more adaptive

The Seven Measures effort deals with the first of those three (data driven)

- Concept of notion-based decisions
- This goes beyond simply collecting data
- It is distinguished from being data controlled  decisions guided by the data but also by other variables qualitative feedback from members, for example.

Each RT wanted its own data. However, we won't all get what we want. Paul Meyer will talk with IT staff in February. We will be asked to prioritize what data will be needed, but before doing so, we've been advised to think about how we'll apply it.

There is no timeline for finished product, and there won't be until after Paul talks to IT staff. The dashboard concept takes a lot of training. Programming developing is really tedious. In terms of training, not only will it need to be easy to get off the ground, but given that leadership rotates there will need to be a good sustainable program of training.

### **Newsletter (John Bradford)**

John expressed concern that the newsletters aren't getting picked up at conferences. He asked for thoughts and impressions on the following questions:

- Is a paper newsletter useful?
- Should it mainly focus on reviews of films and books?
- Do the bylaws say we must have a newsletter that addresses news?

Nancy said that she thinks it's important to have print copies at conferences. How can we better distribute them?

It was generally agreed that distributing our newsletter electronically is fine, but it's important to have them at the booths at annual and at our socials.

David Woolwine suggested that our liaisons take them to their various meetings. Lisa Johnston added that when she served as representative to Diversity Council, everyone brought their newsletter, and our liaisons should do the same.

John Bradford encouraged everyone to contribute to the newsletter. Small updates from our committees would be greatly appreciated.

Barbara Pickell said she likes the idea of a semiannual newsletter. Reviews are always helpful, but we don't particularly need the entire newsletter. The reviews could be a separate part, like on the Blog.

K.R. said that the content of the newsletter should be left up to the Newsletter Committee.

Matt Cizek volunteered to create a survey and send it out to the membership. Membership Committee will work with the Newsletter Committee to create the survey.

### **Budget and Fundraising**

Nancy informed us that we have to put together a budget request for the upcoming year as soon as possible.

### **2009 Annual Conference in Chicago**

Nancy said that it would be useful to the GLBTRT to offer a transgender sensitivity workshop. She knows someone who will come to Chicago in exchange for transportation and an honorarium of \$100.

Matt asked when this will be held. After much deliberation and discussion, we agreed to keep this internal, exclusive to our own RT for now. John Sandstrom suggested that we make this a theme of our All-Membership meeting.

Steering Committee is responsible for the content of the All-Membership meeting, and we agree that there is a real need to address topics of privilege. Nancy will talk to her friend and get back to us about scheduling. We'll ask for the time extension immediately.

### ***Motion 1***

*Make arrangements for a Transgender Sensitivity Workshop to be held during our All-Membership meeting at 2009 Annual*

*Motion: Elizabeth Briggs*

*Second: Matthew Cizek*

***Passed by unanimous voice vote***

### **Committee On Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, And Transgendered History (Clgbth)**

John Bradford explained that the CLGBTH is looking for programs that they can sponsor. John D'Emilio is a member of this committee. They'd like to sponsor our program on [Forty Years Since Stonewall](#).

## **Motion 2**

*Accepting CLGBTH' s offer to sponsor our program on Stonewall at 2009 Annual*

*Motion: John Bradford*

*Second: ??*

***Passed by unanimous voice vote***

## **Book Award Committee**

Nancy expressed concern that there are a number of people who think that they're on a waiting list for the BAC. It was proposed that the Co-Chairs maintain a waiting list for both this and for RL and submit the names to the Book Awards Chair. Matt said that he has a list of 526 names and will forward it to K.R.

Dale said that in the past, Co-Chairs have recommended names to the Book Awards Chair. Or they've made appointments. Or they've told the Chairs "to your discretion."

Our bylaws say that the Committee Chair can actively recruit members. Matt suggested that if there is a long list of people waiting, we could ask them to join other committees while they're waiting. Franklin said that YALSA does the same thing. Doing this is a nice gauge of seeing if the person will actually be and stay involved.

Nancy asked that everyone who has names to send them to her and K.R., and to please include: location, what library, and how long they've been on the list. They will then give the list to the BAC Chair and Vice Chair.

Dale added that we should provide an explanation to the members on how to get on the waiting list. We don't necessarily need complete transparency, but some info. should be out there for the members.

## **Motion 3**

*First motion to extend the SC meeting*

*Motion: Matt Cizek*

*Second: Barbara Pickell*

***Passed by unanimous voice vote***

## **Bylaws**

Nancy explained that Committee Chairs are required to attend both SC meetings and also the All-Members meeting. Do we want to change the requirements? K.R. suggested that we look into reinterpreting the guidelines so that submitting a report counts as participation.

Matt said that in other RTs the Committee Chairs are not members of the Executive Board. Do we need quorum? Perhaps we should require the Standing Committee Chairs to come to both meetings or rewrite the bylaws so we have at-large members.

K.R. suggested that a proxy should be acceptable if the Chairs cannot attend.

Nancy stated that she wants people to attend the meetings because it helps with discussions.

Roland Hansen explained that finances are a big part of members not being able to attend both conferences. We need more flexibility. Perhaps we could have an Action Council like SRRT? He also added that there is nothing in the bylaws about needing quorum for voting.

Dale stated that he doesn't think we need to revise the bylaws, and he stressed that we should acknowledge the difference between "absent" and "excused." Chairs of the various committees should report the conflict to SC, send a report, and express an opinion. This isn't ideal, no, but it's better than nothing. Dale likes the way the SC works. Our structure is broad. He added that those of us who do have funding are primarily obligated to our employers, and should not be scolded for behaving as such.

Barbara stated that she will have to step down soon because she has no funding. She pointed out that most public librarians do not get funding. She warned that rewriting the bylaws to enforce attendance at both conferences will make participation for most people impossible.

Lisa Johnston reminded us that lack of funding for conference travel will only get more common in the future, and suggested that we try conference calls.

Matt suggested wifi participation.

Nancy added that participation is important for decision-making, and she volunteered to talk to Satia about other units who are also affected by this.

Dale stated that we should always let people know what we need in return if they can't show up to some meetings. That person can then agree to not have a vote.

Nancy asked who we thought should absolutely be at all meetings. Matt answered that in his opinion, only the five officers, the Book Award Committee Chair, and the Membership Chair.

#### **Motion 4**

*Second motion to extend the meeting for five minutes*

*Motion: Nancy Silverrod*

*Second: Dale McNeill*

**Passed: 1 abstention**

Do we want to combine a few committees? This would make it easier for everyone involved. People agreed that this was something to consider.

#### **Motion 5**

*Motion to adjourn*

*Motion: Matt Cizek*

*Second: Dale McNeill*

*Passed by unanimous voice vote*