

GODORT Membership Meeting
Sunday, June 25, 2017, 3:00-4:30pm
Sarah Erekson, GODORT Chair
Laura Sare, Secretary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Everyone in the room introduced themselves and their roles in GODORT.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Sarah was asked to add the Federal Information Interest Group to New Business.

3. Announcements

Reminder of the Award Ceremony at 6 PM and the GODORT program on Monday on Preservation.

4. Treasurer's Report

GODORT's total revenues were \$20,497 and total expenses were \$17,118 for a net gain of \$3380 and an ending balance of \$140,974. *DttP*, GODORT's publication, had a net loss of \$8649 but this was due to the startup costs for the move to online format and a payout to the editor that had been neglected for a few years. The Rozkuszka scholarship had a net gain of \$10,001 and an ending balance of \$97,873. Rebecca Hyde will be the new treasurer.

5. Councilor's Report

Council is working on the resolution of Libraries as Responsible/Safe Spaces. The President's Report came out and had an emphasis on Librarianship as a Career Choice and suggested working with journalism programs to address the fake news problem. ALA membership is down overall, but some divisions and round tables are up. Budget revenues are flat due to low membership. ALA Publishing is the main revenue for ALA, followed by conference income. Attendance is 21,700 but there were more exhibit badges this year – Council requested the numbers of full-attendance, not raw numbers. The search for the ALA Executive Director is open. Council passed the Climate Change Resolution suggested during ALA's Virtual Membership Meeting.

A question on what ALA mean by "safe space" – this was due to the Gun Violence Resolution that was passed a year or so ago, and that we need to make our libraries safe for free and open discourse but it would not dictate enforcement. Council is going to consider a guideline paper related to ALA Ethics about politics in the library, that it should be fair and open to all parties.

Another question was if round table membership was growing, why is ALA dialing round table activities back - no numbers on that, but round tables are allowed one big program and the new rules say you can have a big program and a chair's program. Other programs may have to go through a jury process. What ALA is trying to do is take all the programing and put it in the convention center, then if there is space left over meetings can be held in the convention center. Remaining meetings would have to meet at hotel spaces.

A question on why is ALA membership going down - Retirements and 22,000 librarian jobs were lost in 2008 and 2009 - also fewer institutions are supporting their librarians to go to ALA. MLS graduate numbers are down, most are going into non-traditional library jobs so we are not replenishing our ranks.

6. Task Force Reports

No Action items from Task Forces.

7. Committee Reports

David Utz had an action item on the agenda from Bylaws that is under Old Business.

Hallie Pritchett had two action items – one to coauthor with MAGIRT on a letter supporting USGS Libraries. They also conducted a survey of GODORT members before annual and will post the results and summarize the survey on the GODORT wiki soon.

Andrea Sevetson reminded people to go bid on the vacation packages for the GODORT scholarship.

Shari Laster reporting for Programming asked Stephen Woods to create a private LibGuide for GODORT members to share research ideas with each other

Rachel Dobkin reported that GODORT 101 went well and thanked HeinOnline for sponsoring GODORT Happy Hour. She also thanked all the GODORT 101 speakers.

Bernadine Hoduski asked if we were going to vote on the USGS Resolution. She was concerned that USGS Libraries were going to become a dark archive and only have two research librarians if the current funding structure stands.

Hallie moved to endorse in principal the letter that MAGIRT and GODORT will be writing to support USGS Libraries. Bill Sudduth seconded. Sarah called for a vote that passed unanimously.

8. Liaison Reports

Mary Mallory asked for ideas for Freedom to Read and said she would be glad to take any government information ideas to the committee. Bernadine said there was considerable concern about government databases being taken down and threatened. Bernadine said that the meeting is all day long and that GODORT should have a member there to keep the committee informed on gov info.

Rachel Dobkin said that Government Information for Children is now attending the Civics and Community Engagement Members Interest Group.

9. Old Business

Bylaws change – David Utz updated everyone about the bylaws change. The changes have been posted in several venues. This is the necessary language to amend the bylaws to what we are trying to do - to create a new GODORT executive officer, a bylaws coordinator, they would be a member of the steering and executive committees and they would have a vote and they would be elected with a two year

commitment with an optional extra year. They would do what the bylaws committee would do. This will simplify things.

Karen Hogenboom said it was a good idea but wondered about succession planning and how the new person will ramp up as the old bylaws person steps down.

Sarah said that in practice the other bylaws members were not stepping up and helping out the chair. Bylaws does need a skill set, but the mentoring in a committee structure was not working.

David said that he stepped in for an additional year because someone else dropped off the committee.

Andrea added that because steering has changed the way we work, like having multiple meetings between conferences and that we need a more nimble response and just having one person accomplishes that.

Sarah called for a vote of the membership on the bylaws changes – it was unanimous - the motion carried. Sarah thanked everyone for this plan for reorganization and thanked David for all his hard work. David thanked Steering for all the help they provided.

Next item was the Preservation Working Group programs - yesterday's program was very well attended and very informative - FEDLINK was suggested as a model to consortia agreements and working together to do preservation.

Tomorrow's program is also about preservation and is about what has been done in practice - the preservation of the Serial Set Readex Project. These two programs were the result of the preservation working group. Sarah thanked them for their service and said that Aimee Quinn and some others are going to have some publications soon.

Sarah brought up GODORT's investment in preservation advocacy - we need to be stewards of these collections. We could use some additional consensus building. Sarah wanted to hear some discussion on ways to move forward with advocacy and raising awareness and working with other stakeholders in getting the message out.

Shari felt it was important that Tom and Bernadine's work in the Preservation Working Group be acknowledged and that GODORT needs to have a clearer voice. She is asking as incoming chair is to develop conversations and concerns within GODORT and ALA policy bodies to have a voice and have a voice that is moving ALA forward.

Hallie said that one of the things we have been talking about as a program is a preservation summit where we can get not just opinions of GODORT but try to get a broad spectrum of people who are decision makers at our institutions - there is not a good consensus on what our stand on preservation is, saying that preservation is important is not enough. We need to have something more formalized.

Sarah added that there are some interesting things out of GPO - she was not aware that they have gotten legal guidance that they can help move materials through N&O. There is maybe some new initiatives coming out of GPO to keep this conversation going.

Hallie said if we are doing a yearlong summit that we need to have measurable outcomes, like a clearing house on preservation information.

Jill Vassilakos-Long said it is given that we are for preservation as gov docs librarians. She felt we needed to help people do preservation, and how to be useful. Survey people to see what they need to do preservation well.

Hallie followed up that GODORT as a whole needs to be able to take something to the Washington office, and to coordinate with others who work with government information.

Bernadine has been working in Montana with librarians and historians who all want preservation and want a state plan. She also said there is great interest in Washington DC for preservation as well. She said that state chapters need to participate too, and that people need to go to states.

Stephen said we have been talking about preservation for a long time and there are many perspectives on it. He said sustainability is the main problem. He is afraid that consensus will be hard to achieve. He cautioned that we don't work so hard to find consensus when we should be having conversations and looking at new and different ways to address this issue.

10. New Business

ALA conference remodel - background - Big ALA is remodeling the scheduling and placement of annual conferences and they want to resolve the empty rooms and sprawling campuses to make it easier for people to be able to get to meetings and programs. ALA was looking at contract streams so programs with similar topics would not overlap. There was not a lot of dialog between ALA and the round table assembly and concerns were raised. Round tables are not in a bad position.

Andrea said that now we need to work within the new parameters to do what we want to do regarding programing.

Sarah suggested working with other groups like preservation or cataloging to appeal to broader audiences, the program abstracts have to be submitted by August 25th.

Extra programs would be passed by a jury. It was pointed out that we share a jury member slot with the Video Round Table, so GODORT will only serve a jury member every other year. Steve said this is a good way to work with other groups.

Sarah felt that government info is a hot topic and that good topics will be passed through.

David asked who decided to pair us with Video, and thought MAGIRT would be a better pairing.

Vicki said it was good to not be joined with MAGIRT because they could help our vote on the jury. She was concerned that we needed someone to advocate for programs when we were not on the jury.

Steve reminded everyone that we will still have a Program chair.

Bill said he saw two benefits - one is that people will plan their programs ahead of time and that all the programs will be in the convention center where there is more traffic.

Sarah wanted to move to our next new business.

Suzanne Caro of the Federal Documents Task Force (FDTF) was petitioning to change the name and structure into Federal Information Interest Group (FIIG) – GODORT already passed the bylaws for the interest group option.

Suzanne said that when we were restructuring GODORT many people thought the term “task force” sounded like it was a working group and so people outside of GODORT would be reluctant to visit a working meeting. So changing the name will encourage people to come to the meeting. She also mentioned having a newsletter the - FIIGleaf.

David said that to abolish a taskforce someone has to call for a vote at this meeting because all of GODORT membership are members of the task forces. Then steering could abolish the task force.

Shari was reluctant to make this move right now, because we are dealing with changes in the conference schedule. Also, how does making this change affect how this group is functions vs. how state and international task forces will work. She would like to see them moving the same way that works for these groups and would like a coordinated conversation.

Justin Otto is in favor of this change and that we don't need to have everything perfect at this moment and that we should not miss the opportunity to engage people with a name change.

Suzanne moved and David seconded to vote that FDTF requests of steering to change to an interest group FIIG, membership voted and the motioned carried.

Andrea said that we need to look at bylaws to see what has to happen at annuals as part of this new conference remodel.

Sarah thanked Michael for his great job as treasurer.

Stephen added former GODORT Chair Helen Sheehy is retiring at the end of this month.

Bernadine noticed from the Treasurer's report that we have not paid dues to Freedom to Read. Michael said he would look into that.

Bernadine said we should send Helen a thank you note and flowers.

Shari moved to adjourn, James Jacob second.