

ALA Annual GODORT Membership Meeting

June 24, 2018 @2:30pm, Morial Convention Center, New Orleans LA

Shari Laster, Chair

Renée Bosman, Secretary

Shari called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

Welcome and Introductions

Round of introductions consisting of name, institution, and GODORT position when applicable.

Adoption of the Agenda

There were no amendments. Bill Sudduth motioned, Rebecca Hyde seconded.

Approval of the minutes from Midwinter 2018 (posted on the wiki): no amendments. John Stevenson motioned, Justin Otto seconded.

Announcements

Update from the ad hoc web redesign task force: anticipated completion of the new website by Labor Day. There are plans to sunset the wiki. The task force is Hallie Pritchett, Aimee Slater, Robbie Sittel, Tom Adamich, Samantha Hager, and Kian Flynn.

Treasurer's Report, Rebecca Hyde

Report distributed prior to meeting and additional copies were available at meeting. Overall financial outlook is good. Rebecca noted that we received fewer donations this year as compared to the price of the awards reception, so we may want to increase fundraising moving forward. Though she also noted that the conference location impacts the reception price, and it is more expensive to hold in certain cities.

We also have some outstanding expenses not yet reflected in the budget, but things are good.

Councillor's Report, Bill Sudduth

Forums moved to 7:15am Monday and then one at 4pm. Council I passed "Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation." Bill seconded the resolution and asked that GODORT endorse it. Other resolutions coming forward include one that GLBTRT is working on for gender-neutral bathrooms at conferences. This has been a noticeable issue at the New Orleans conference, given the size of the convention center; the few that are here are not always conveniently located.

Council also discussed ALA reorganization, specifically addressing two questions: 1) what would you fix in ALA? (Bill said to rationalize the complexity), and 2) if you were creating an organization today, what would you do? (Bill thinks the organization needs to proactively credit and license the education process that makes us librarians, but what he said was the organization needs to think about the Information part of the profession).

Finances will be discussed in Council II. ALA is changing the budget ceiling to an available revenue/expense model. Leadership wants to take `1.7M out of assets, which will include updates to IT in Washington & Chicago offices. They are also exploring what to do with the Huron St. building.

Conference attendance, as of this morning: 17,434 registrants, which is 1,000 above what they expected. The breakdown is approximately 12,000 members and 5,000 vendors. This is fewer attendees than Chicago, but more than Orlando.

Bill asks GODORT to endorse Resolution to Honor African Americans Who Fought Library Segregation; there were no questions or discussion. The motion was seconded by Daniel Cornwall.

Bernadette Abbott Hoduski asked about the status of the resolution on refugees, and whether anything has moved forward. Bill stated that he hasn't seen anything brought forward to Council and Lynda Kellam confirmed.

Task Force / Committee Reports (action items only)

Bylaws proposal, Vicki Tate

Proposal distributed prior to meeting on govdoc-l, wiki, and GODORT listserv; additional copies available at meeting. Two proposals: 1) reducing the number of steering committee meetings at conferences from two to one; 2) reducing the number of elected officers and moving to appointments for some chair, as it is difficult to get nominations. Executive Committee members will still be elected, but chairs would be appointed, with the process still handled by the Nominating Committee. The floor was opened for discussion:

Sarah Erekson: catching errors in bylaws is the exact intent of Vicki's role, offers thanks.

Rachel Dobkin: does this change the number of folks serving on Steering Committee? No, it will be the same number. Rachel stated that she is against reducing the number of meetings because the face-to-face interactions are what build community. She also doesn't want any big changes until we look at the reorganization of GODORT as a whole. Also, perhaps those who can't attend in-person meetings can Skype in. Shari responded that Steering meetings are primarily operational in nature, and we now use virtual meetings for conference prep and housekeeping, precluding the need for members to arrive early for a Friday morning meeting as much of the work has been done prior to the conference. Rachel asked if these meetings have to be early Friday and Vicki responded that they were historically, as it was at the beginning of the conference.

Andrea Morrison: when she first started in GODORT, she went to Steering meetings to learn about the organization, but now virtual outreach is better for reaching people. Travel budgets continue to be cut and members are less likely to be able to attend something early in the conference schedule. Events like GODORT 101 and Happy Hour are better for outreach, and an extra meeting won't have the same effect.

Vicki moved to vote on the first proposal, Geoff Swindells seconded. The vote carried, with two opposed and the rest in favor.

Second proposal addresses the change regarding task force and most committee chairs, which will be appointed rather than elected. The floor was opened for discussion:

Susanne Caro: strongly supports the proposal as there is usually only one person running for each position and the election is a matter of procedure; moving to an appointment process will be more efficient.

Vicki moved to vote on the second proposal, Aimee Slater seconded. There were none opposed, and the vote carried.

Legislation Committee, Geoff Swindells

Copies available of “A Tribute Resolution Honoring the 25th Anniversary of the GPO Access Act.” Geoff moved that membership support this act, James Jacobs seconded. resolution in the back to honor the 25th anniversary of GPO access act. Moves that membership support this act. There were none opposed, and the vote carried.

Liaison Reports (Freedom to Read, IFLA)

Freedom to Read, Mary Mallory sent a report to govdoc-l. Shari announced that we need nominations for next liaison to Freedom to Read; contact Shari or Hallie with nominations.

IFLA, Geoff Swindells

Government Information and Official Publications Section is gearing up for conference. There will be a program on global e-government; five papers have been submitted. The conference location (Kuala Lumpur) is an issue and there is an informal boycott of the conference because of the Malaysian government’s position on LGBTQ rights. Some attendees have made travel plans in advance and will still attend, but this issue will be brought to leadership of IFLA.

IFLA is in the middle (year two) of a strategic planning process; the plan will be issued in 2019. If you have questions, send them to Geoff.

Literacy Assembly, Emily Alford

Literacy Assembly is examining a general reframing of the organization.

Old Business

Reorganization Update / State of the Round Table, Shari Laster

Summary of where GODORT is as organization.

Overview of what GODORT has recently accomplished:

- accepted responsibility for GIO as a continuing GODORT project;
- Cataloging Committee continues to refine standards and tools;
- ad hoc web redesign task force is migrating our web presence, enabling newcomers to more easily navigate our information;
- GODORT drafted a position statement on Title 44, supporting advocacy for H.R. 5305;
- 140 attendees at sponsored program this morning;
- We are recognizing accomplishments at GODORT awards ceremony tonight;
- Publications Committee highlights academic writing;
- GODORT participates in ALA governance;
- New mission statement drafted in 2014;

Interest Group structure added, number of virtual meetings increased to gain more participation, and programming was reorganized. Thirteen standing committees and two task forces continue to allow for face-to-face meetings. Oversight still handled by steering. ALA continues to work on organizational effectiveness that will affect GODORT, particularly regarding how Round Tables will interface with the organization. There is also a current proposal of whether to continue the Midwinter meeting. GODORT continues to advocate for adequate opportunities to conduct business face-to-face. We need to focus on important relationships, which depends on initiative and leadership outside of organized channels within GODORT. Our work with Title 44 reform is a good example of this; it wouldn’t have been possible

to have a committee appointed in advance to work on this. Instead, individuals stepped up to help with the process, allowing us to be more agile. Organizational structure is good; it sets expectations and allows everyone a voice, but it is up to the members to prioritize. Shari's vision for GODORT moving forward is that everyone who has a passion for this work has the opportunity to contribute, as it is important that we are getting work done out in the world.

She ended with a Pete Seeger quotation: "The easiest way to avoid wrong notes is to never open your mouth and sing. What a mistake that would be."

Comments:

Rachel Dobkin: It is impossible to do our work, which is about internal communication, and to do outreach; we can bring in new members but then don't know where to put them. We need reorganization on internal communication. Shari: The website reorganization will help with the recommendation of best communication channels, as well as guidance on who is empowered to use our external communication channels. Sarah Erikson: We often have to rely on ALA for our structure, as with Connect, which has been in limbo. During the transition period, we attempted to get an email list for communication and instead of a list of members we were given a list of DttP subscribers. People can be manually added to the listerv, but it is missing many members. Simon Healey: will bring any of our concerns with ALA Connect to his next meeting; Shari mentions that it would be ideal if a login is not required to view posts.

Title 44 update, Geoff Swindells

The Act is still in the House; we don't know its fate but GODORT is preparing for possible movement to the Senate and focusing work on reaching out to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. He will be sending out information about how we can advocate as individuals.

New Business

Bring conference badges for the reception tonight. We can bring bags into the venue, but not bottled later. Cannot take photos. Use the Royal St. entrance.

James Jacobs would like Membership to support a letter from the GODORT Chair to Library of Congress to thank them for making CRS Reports publicly available; will be addressed in the Steering Committee meeting.

Motion to adjourn from James Jacobs, seconded by Vicki Tate.