

SRRT Action Council Agenda

Monday, March 3, 2025

2:00 PM Atlantic / 1:00 PM Eastern / 12:00 PM Central / 11:00 AM Mountain / 10:00 AM Pacific

Present: Olivia Blake (coordinator), Ian Bogus, Tara Brady, Lisa Gieskes, Sherre Harrington, Mark Hudson, Rory Litwin, Hillary Pearson, Karyn Pomerantz, Rachel Rosekind, Mark Rosenzweig, Kristina Shiroma, Derek Wilmott Montoya, Julie Ann Winkelstein, Katelyn Browne (recording)

- I. **Welcome/call to order:** Olivia Blake called the meeting to order at 2:04 Central and reviewed the SRRT Community Commitment, ALA Statement of Appropriate Conduct, ALA Online Code of Conduct, and meeting logistics practices.
- II. **Approve minutes** from [February 12, 2025](#): Katelyn Browne moved approval and Tara Brady seconded. The motion passed unanimously among those voting members in attendance.
- III. **Old Business**
 - Coordinator's Report: Olivia shared plans for ALA Annual
 - Annual Conference meetings
 - a) All Task Force & Membership Meeting: Friday, 2:30-3:30 PM EDT
 - b) Action Council Meeting Number 1: Saturday, 4-5 PM EDT
 - c) Action Council Meeting Number 2: Sunday, 2:30-3:30 PM EDT
 - d) Anyone who is able to help with technology to allow remote participation should e-mail Olivia to volunteer or suggest names. Mark H. and Derek expressed interest.
 - Annual Conference chair's program: Library Advocacy (panel/facilitated discussion)
 - a) Saturday, June 28, 2025 - 10:30-11:30 AM EDT
 - b) People who would like to participate can e-mail Olivia. Kristina asked for information that she and Joseph could share with task force members.
 - c) A brief discussion of the theme ensued. Mark Hudson recommended "[The Fight for Public Library Funding: Demonstrate Value or Demonstrate in the Streets](#)" by Stavroula Harissis (former Action Council member) from *Progressive Librarian* 46
 - Treasurer's Report: Derek gave a brief report
 - SRRT: Looking Ahead
 - Debrief on Feb. 27, 2025 Listening Session
 - a) Derek reported that 42 people participated in the first hour of the listening session. The Zoom shut down promptly after an hour; 17 people rejoined after that closure. Julie noted that the session was not recorded to encourage open conversation. The programming committee did record comments in a document and will summarize before sharing that out. Some themes: the cost of ALA membership and conference/session attendance; the broad scope of "social responsibility" and people's uncertainty about where/how to get involved; interest in groups on social media, an unconference, or other ways to advocate for changes within ALA. Karyn noted an overarching theme of opposition to fascism.
 - Debrief & further thoughts on last month's meeting

- a) Sherre noted that Action Council membership will change in June and wondered whether it's possible to involve folks who are running for Action Council in decisions about the future of SRRT. Mark H. asked about the Action Council members who have not attended many recent meetings; April and Olivia have been in touch with them.
- b) Olivia reiterated the suggestion from last month of having a strategy session with an external facilitator. Katelyn supported this idea and spoke to questions about the place of SRRT within the current ALA environment.
- c) Julie commented that she sees strength in the variety of things that SRRT works on, and the fact that the nature of the work depends on who shows up and participates. SRRT is not top-down or controlling; there is flexibility and open-mindedness even among the spinning-around.
- d) Mark H. described a document submitted by IRTF ahead of the meeting describing a radical position for SRRT.
- e) Tara noted that SRRT can be hierarchical when people step on the wrong toes, and that the debate over how to achieve SRRT's goals has been going on for decades.
- f) Sherre reminded the group that we need to be considerate when contracting an external facilitator, remembering our last attempt to do this.

IV. Regular Reports

- The Elder Justice Task Force is working on their core tasks. They are getting ready to send out a call for applications
- The Feminist Task Force's committee, Rise: A Feminist Book Project, has received applications for the 2026 committee and should be announcing a new roster soon. Several members are continuing.
- The Hunger & Homelessness Task Force: Julie was able to speak to a library school class. The "Extending our Reach" materials are being revised.
- The International Responsibilities Task Force has two ideas for programming at ALA Annual: Mosab abu Toha is now working in the US and continues to speak about his work with the Edward Said Library. Peter Beinart has a new book, *Being Jewish After the Destruction of Gaza*, and would also be a big draw. Hillary noted that the initial deadline for internal proposals have passed, but if we have a proposal and a budget, she can see what space and budget would allow. Given the deadline concerns, the possibility of either an online program or a program at another venue was raised. The next step is for IRTF to put together a written proposal.
- The Programming Committee is hosting a day-long summit on April 6th called "Building Spaces of Solidarity and Connection: A Historical, Theoretical, and Practical Lens on Libraries' Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, and Justice." The schedule will be finalized later this week, and then it will be promoted.
- SustainRT reached out to the Social Media & Web Committee, and some members of the social & web team agreed to see if we can help out with their posts. The committee still needs a coordinator.
- PLG is on hiatus.
- Hillary reported that ALA is entering budgeting season for the 2026 fiscal year.

V. Rachel moved adjournment at 1:24 Central, and Derek seconded.