

Rainbow Round Table Executive Board Minutes

Saturday, June 26, 10:30 am CST

Zoom information: https://ala-events.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApf-ippzMpH9NZYNQPtyXsevA_57OXI8JJ

Board Members: Rae Anne Montague, Chair; Kathleen Breitenbach, Chair-Elect; Megan Drake, Past Chair; Shira Pilarski, Director-at-Large; Jessica Jupitus, Director-at-Large; Ahliah J. Bratzler, Director-at-Large; Elizabeth Marshak, Director-at-Large; Lea Wentworth, Director-at-Large; Deb Sica, Round Table Councilor; Ben Gomberg, Treasurer; Anne L. Moore, Secretary.

Call to Order: Rae called the meeting to order at 10:31.

LibLearnX: The agenda was altered to accommodate the arrival of incoming ALA president, Patty Wong. LibLearnX is scheduled in San Antonio, Texas in January 2022. Patty, Karen Schneider, and Alex Rivera spoke to how the RRT can respond, with the Executive Board of ALA, to the anti-LGBTQ legislation being passed in a number of US states, including Texas. It is very expensive for ALA to change locations and, at this point, impossible to ALA to move the conference from San Antonio. There was agreement this provides an opportunity for education to the ALA membership and ALA Conference Services on the impact of these laws; with a focus on building a more mindful approach within ALA's Conference Services around inclusiveness. The importance of working with local lgbtq groups in Texas was noted. Incoming RRT chair, Kathleen Breitenbach, will form a working group to be involved in planning for this initiative. This plan and action will also be discussed at the upcoming RRT membership meeting.

Links: ABA 1887 Fact Sheet:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dQt2ddR1dYhka6uuqSjAPgPbwh4mQHBrSnRQh_qfgn6l/edit

ALA Board Update: Executive Board representative, Karen Schneider, had shared an update in Connect.

ALA Council Update: RRT Council representative, Deb Sica, had shared an update (via Connect) and noted she will have lots to share at the next meeting.

Budget Update: RRT Treasurer, Ben Gomberg, had shared an update, via Connect. The 'six-month' report has been issued (through February). It showed a net positive of \$20,000 in the administrative fund for the RRT and a \$1200 balance in the Stonewall fund.

Update on Non-Book Committees and Representatives: Kathleen reported the first email round of appointment offers has been sent out and most offers accepted. She noted she is still searching for a RRT liaison to BCALA.

Emerging Leaders Sponsorship: Rae has been contacted by the staff liaison for the Emerging Leaders program. This occurred at the end of the cycle so she is not sure why we have not been participating but there was agreement the RRT should participate in this program in the next cycle.

Support for Trans Community: In light of the anti-trans legislation and violence, Rae asked if there is more the RRT should be doing to support the community. IFC liaison, Anthony Davis, mentioned IFC is getting questions on this issue. A statement was issued last year – should this be updated? Rae concluded the RRT should look for more opportunities to share the information existing on the RRT site and try to involve more of the membership when updates are done.

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2021/jun/14/anti-trans-laws-us-map>

Expanding the Children's/YA Literature Award: Lea Wentworth spoke to a proposal (posted in Connect) to expand the Children's/Young Adult Literature Award. In 2014, 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020, the committee asked for compensation to make two awards. This request would make this possibility official – allowing for a children's title and a young adult title to be awarded. The impact on the budget were discussed with Ben Gomberg and Monica Chapman noting the ideal is to have these awards funded by book seal sales. Monica noted the seal sales are growing as the awards become better known. The motion to accept this change in the Children's/Young Adult award was passed unanimously.

Membership Meeting: Rae set the annual membership meeting for Friday, July 9 at 3 pm CT.

Other Business: Rae noted the other RRT events scheduled for the rest of this conference.

Deb Sica thanked the RRT Executive Board members for their leadership and service; notably Megan Drake concluded her term as past-chair and Ben Gomberg has finished his term as treasurer. She also thanked Rae Montague for her service as chair this year. Megan Drake thanked everyone for their support and work in this unusual year. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 CT.