

**Rainbow Round Table Annual Membership Meeting
July 16, 2020 3 p.m. EST/12 p.m. PST**

Online:

<https://ala-events.zoom.us/j/95295489344?pwd=NkZySkwveHdXRzIvalhhZTNaamY1dz09>

Meeting ID: 952 9548 9344

Password: 478783

Meeting Notes submitted by Ana Elisa de Campos Salles

1. Executive Board Introductions, including new members

Megan Drake, Past Chair, called the meeting to order. She explained as ALA staff requested this meeting occur after the Annual Virtual Event and after the conclusion of her term as Rainbow Round Table (RRT) Chair, she would be presiding as her last order of business of Chair.

Introductions of board members:

Megan Drake, Past Chair
Rae-Anne Montague, Chair
Kathleen Breitenbach, Incoming Chair/Chair-elect
Ben Gomburg, Treasurer
Anne Moore, Secretary
Deb Sica, RRT Councilor
Jessica Jupitus, Director-at-large
Shira Pilarski, Director-at-large
Ahliah J. Bratzler, Director-at-large
Elizabeth Marshak, Director-at-large
Lea Wentworth, Director-at-large

Karen Schneider, ALA Executive Board Liaison
Monica Chapman, RRT Staff Liaison, Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services

Thank you for your service:

Ana Elisa de Campos Salles, Past-chair
Sukrit Goswami, Secretary
Walter "Cat" Walker, Director-at-large
Casey McCoy-Simmons, Director-at-large

Trevor A. Dawes, ALA Executive Board Liaison
Briana Jarnagin, RRT Staff Liaison, Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services

2. Membership Promotion Committee Report

Megan Adovasio Jones, Chair of the Membership Promotion Committee, reported on the activities of the committee. The main charge for the committee is to connect new members to seasoned members and to promote participation in the RRT. The committee is in the process of restarting work with the new year and cycle of members. The committee was unable to organize the Buddy Program this year for Annual due to the cancelation of the in-person conference, but is trying looking into making the Buddy Program a virtual happening, in case we are not able to meet in person again. The committee is also developing a survey to send out to membership asking how the RRT can better serve its members, especially given the current pandemic. If anyone would like to contact the committee, all committee members' emails are listed on the Membership Promotion Committee page. Remember to refresh the page after logging in to see contact information.

3. 50th Anniversary Celebration Update

Ann Symons, Chair of the RRT 50th Anniversary Celebration Ad hoc Committee, reported on the activities of the committee. This committee has been active since June 2018, it's going into its third year, and its sole purpose is to plan the 50th anniversary celebrations of the RRT, in conjunction with other RRT committees, especially the Executive Board, Fundraising Committee, and Membership Promotion Committee. Due to low ticket sales and concerns relating to COVID-19, the 50th anniversary gala scheduled for this year's Annual Conference in Chicago was canceled approximately one week before the conference itself was canceled by ALA. Planning continues for a combined celebration at next year's Annual Conference in Chicago of the RRT's 50th Anniversary (2020) and the Stonewall Book Awards 50th Anniversary (2021). About 75% of the work is done, contracts have been maintained for most things, including the venue for the gala, the Museum of Contemporary Art. Anyone who has already bought a ticket for the event will have their ticket honored next year.

4. RRT Archive Project Ad hoc Committee: Call for Donations and Contributions

Jessica Thorlakson, Chair of the RRT Archive Project Ad hoc Committee, reported on the activities of the committee. Since its inception in 2019, the committee has been hard at work, interviewing RRT members for their Oral History Project and periodically putting the call out, encouraging members to donate any and all RRT documents, photos, and other memorabilia to the RRT's Archive, housed within the ALA Archives at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The work of the committee is a continuation of the work begun by two consecutive cohorts of Emerging Leaders who worked on this project in 2017 and 2018; Jessica was part of the 2018 team. Items are digitized at the ALA Archives and staff there are available to work with RRT members who would like to donate.

The committee is particularly interested in interviewing/hearing from RRT members who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), transgender, non-binary, gender-queer, and members with disabilities.

Call to Action: If you would like to donate items (photos, letters, conference to the RRT Archives, please contact Cara Setsu Bertram, Archival Operations and Reference Specialist, via email: cbertra@illinois.edu She is happy to help RRT members who would like to send items electronically or physically to the archive.

Call to Action: If you would like to be interviewed by the RRT Archive Project Committee for the Oral History Project, please get in touch with Jessica Thorlakson via email: jthorlak@ualberta.ca

Check out [the Oral History Project website](#) and listen to the oral histories collected by the committee thus far. You can also view the poster presented by the committee during the 2019 Annual Conference Diversity Fair, entitled [50 Years of Pride: Creating an Archive and Oral History for the Rainbow Round Table](#).

5. Budget Update with Ben Gomburg, Treasurer

Ben Gomburg, Treasurer, reported on the RRT's finances. Things to note:

-The RRT essentially has two sources of money: the General (also called Operating) fund, and the Stonewall Endowment (also called the Stonewall fund. The Stonewall Endowment contains funds specifically designated for anything related to the book awards. The General fund is used to finance anything else.

-Revenue for the General fund comes mostly from membership dues, while revenue for the Stonewall Endowment comes from Stonewall book seals. Both funds also receive revenue from donations.

-Revenue from the Stonewall Endowment is spent mostly on expenses related to the annual Stonewall book award celebrations (program book printing, A/V) and printing of seals.

-Revenue from the General fund is spent on everything else: socials at Midwinter and Annual (sometimes PLA and ACRL), A/V for meetings held throughout the year, etc.

-Up to 4% of the Stonewall Endowment can be transferred annually to the General fund or to the Stonewall fund.

-The fiscal year for ALA runs from September to August. Ben's information below is from September - February.

Ben's complete report below:

Rainbow Round Table FY 2020 Mid-Year Financial Report

Admin or General Fund

Revenues

Dues - \$8,533 (in line with last year)
Sales/Merch - \$0 (no opportunities for sales)
Donations - \$1,999 (20% above projection)
Royalties - \$1,298

Total revenues were \$11,830

Expenses

Meal Functions - \$902
Facilities Rental - \$2,200
AV - \$4,031
Printing - \$996

Total expenses were \$9,980

TL;DR – we brought in \$1,850 more than we spent, even with significant rental and AV costs to prepare for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

Stonewall Fund

Revenues

Sales - \$10,527 (40% above projection, but 30% below last year – seals sales fluctuate based on the popularity of recent Stonewall award winners)

Expenses

Awards - \$3,000
Printing - \$5,450

Total Expenses - \$9,436

Transfer In

From Endowment - \$4,500

TL;DR – we brought in \$1,091 more than we've spent so far, and the transfer from the Endowment will keep the Stonewall fund from decreasing even if seals sales don't continue at this pace.

6. Questions from RRT Members Present

Q. from E.A.: I'm new to the round table and I'm glad to be here. Has there been any thought about interviewing or recognizing the stories of differently abled LGBTQ+ people in the group?

J.T.: Definitely, the committee is interested in recording stories from all RRT members, especially members who identify as BIPOC and members with disabilities.

Q. from K.M.: Is the archive only focused on past events or are there goals for current and upcoming member interviews/materials gathering as well?

J.T.: There has been an emphasis on the past, but all items are welcome. Yes, all members with stories relating to the RRT are welcome.

Q. from A.S.: Can you tell me the total of the principal of the Stonewall Endowment?

B.G.: Unfortunately, I don't have the latest figures on the endowment handy, but I will pull them up and send them to you.

Q. from A.S.: Since our income was more than expenses in the Stonewall Fund, what is the RRT doing with the \$4500.00?

B.G.: This hasn't been discussed yet, but since it's part of the Stonewall Fund, it would either be spent on Stonewall-related things, or go back to the Endowment.

M.D.: I will defer to Rae as Chair to have that discussion, but it is possible to have this money approved to be spent as part of the 50th Anniversary Stonewall Book Award celebration.

Q. from D.S.: I was on the Stonewall Book Awards last year and I know there was talk about proposing a separate poetry award. Did that go anywhere?

M.D.: The board discussed this and is looking into the process of establishing this award, also possibly an international award. It's a lengthy process so it probably won't happen until next year or even the year after.

7. Announcements

Rebecca Hawk, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, introduced herself and asked all present for any suggestions they might have in terms of projects or areas of focus for the Fundraising Committee. Contact Rebecca Hawk with your suggestions at rebeccalikestowork@gmail.com