

## **ALA Rainbow Round Table 2021 Membership Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, June 26, 2022. 11:00 ET. Marriott Marquis – Independence Salon B**

RRT chair, Kathleen Breitenbach (Kat) called the meeting to order at 11:06.

The members of the 2022-2023 RRT Executive Board were introduced.

Kat also introduced the 2021-2022 board members who were present.

Kat detailed the changes this year to the Stonewall Book Awards. The Barbara Gittings Non-fiction Award will include a poetry award. Half of the books being considered by the non-fiction award committee were poetry. The Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Childrens-Young Adult award is being split into two awards - one for children and a young adult.

Call for volunteers to serve on RRT committees (non-book committees)

The forms are not available yet but will be (hopefully) soon. Sheets of paper were circulated to collect a list of interested attendees for these committees.

**Treasurer Update-** LaJuan gave a quick update on the finances.

**Councilor update** - Deb talked about increasing the visibility. ALA will have representation on the Executive Board for the RRT.

### **Banned Books and Challenges :**

Michael Blackwell and another member of the IFRT spoke about the overlaps between the IFRT and RRT. Both groups are faced with an increasing number of

challenges and book bans. The two types of books primarily being challenged are those with BIPOC and LGBTQ content. OIF joined other groups in pushing back against a book ban in Virginia proposed by a legislator, who then lost in the primary for the 2022 election.

IFRT is supporting these types of books by offered awards. Michael also suggested the RRT have a liaison who attends the IFRT meeting and reports back to RRT on the groups work. Michael Miller offered to fill the liaison position from RRT to IFRT.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:** This item should be on the agenda for approval at the next board meeting.

Michael talked about a protest at his library regarding drag time story hour two years ago. He received personal threats. In closing he emphasized how serious these threats to events, books, and library staff are. Deb Sica spoke about the protest by the Proud Boys at a drag time story hour event at a branch of her library in the bay area of California. She emphasized there are protests and challenges happening even at libraries even in areas which are supportive of LGBTQIA books, events, and programming.

### **Membership Question & Answer:**

-a question: why is the Stonewall Book Award event being held late in the day on Monday? ODL0S changed the time for our events. Kat noted they will try to advocate for an earlier time for this event in the conference.

-did anyone attend an ad hoc session on how to deal with the Proud Boys protests? April Sheperd talked about an organization meeting to create a toolkit. She will keep the RRT informed on this matter.

-question - why are there no RRT ribbons for badges. Kat explained the box of ribbons was lost during the move of the ALA offices. Deb Sica spoke to this being part of how the RRT is losing footing.

-question - how and why did the RRT awards not get included in the awards listing in American Libraries. Deb Sica responded that we should write letters and advocate for the RRT.

-question - is there a social media hashtag for the RRT? Deb Sica said we have one and need someone to take on this task.

-question - what committee positions are available - web, news & reviews, fundraising, social, advocacy. The books committee appointments will happen in the fall.

-comment - someone volunteered to take on the social media

### **Announcements & Other Business**

-Kat had posted a spreadsheet on Connect with all of the queer/glbtc events during the conference. They mentioned the remaining events scheduled for the conference.

1:00 - Library Leaders: how to be an ally

6:00 - Social at Red Bear Brewing Company. It is off the Metro Red Line.

Monday: 9:00 - Decoding the Alphabet

4:00 - Stonewall Book Awards

-several people mentioned silver linings: Deb Sica mentioned that the newly elected ALA president is an out lesbian.

-There is a new lgbt book store in DC... [missing details]

-SSRT submitted a resolution to Council entitled 'A resolution on body autonomy, equity, and ALA conference sites.' This is targeting to have ALA avoid scheduling events in states that recognize the right to abortion and put no undue restriction on reproductive rights, healthcare decisions, or bodily autonomy." April noted this resolution is unlikely to pass.

-next year the postponed gala will be held in Chicago.

-several people mentioned positive things they are doing to support the lgbtq community.

Kat wrapped up the meeting by encouraging those present to consider running next year for the open positions on the board. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.