Here are the minutes for AC LSRT Action Council
San Francisco
Minutes for June 28, 1998

PRESENT: Wendy Thomas, SRRT Action Council Coordinator; Roland C. Hansen, SRRT Treasurer; Elaine Harger, SRRT Secretary; Bill Defell, SRRT member; Carol Barta, Action Council; Cici Chapple, Milwaukee Public Library; Linda Pierce, Washington SRRT; Roberta Frye, SRRT member, Oakland Public Library; Dotty Granger, Action Council; Madeleine Tainton, Action Council; Fred Stoss, Task Force on the Environment; Toni Bisessar, GLBTF, Action Council; Michael Nitz, GLBTF, Wisconsin SRRT; Jules Tate, GLBTF; Victor Schill, GLBTF; Yvonne Farley, West Virginia SRRT; Kimberly Edson, Minnesota SRRT; Tom Wilding, SRRT liaison to Literacy Assembly; Alison Hopkins, Queens Borough Public Library; Peggy D’Adamo, AIP Task Force; Steven Harris, Action Council; Helen Hill, Northeastern State University, SRRT member; Ken Thompson, University of Washington; Sandy Berman, Poverty Task Force; Al Kagan, Action Council & International Responsibilities Task Force; Mark Rosenzweig, Action Council, ALA Council; Bonita C. Corliss, GLBTF; Mark E. Martin, GLBTF/Action Council; Jonathan Betz-Zall, Washington State SRRT; Nel Ward, Action Council; Noel Peattie, Kanooti Books

INTRODUCTIONS

Motion to amend agenda for early consideration of resolutions from Mark Rosenzweig.

Minutes of February 15 and 17, 1997 approved as amended. Amendment corrected the report on ALA Presidential Candidates in the Feb. 17th minutes. The second sentence of the second paragraph should read "What is your position on the $700,000 three-year compensation package..." Correction in italics.

RESOLUTIONS

Mark Rosenzweig moved a "Resolution on Gates Library Foundation." As copies of the resolution were not available Sandy Berman moved to have Mark incorporate suggestions that arose during discussion of the resolution, type up, reproduce and make copies available at the OLOS table for AC members to pick-up. Motion approved.

Printed for Al Kagan <akagan@uilic.edu>
Mark next moved a "Resolution for a Progressive Council Caucus" and described the proposed caucus as a place for councilors to discuss issues, a place for democratic discussion and differences to exist. Several questions were raised about how this would be different from the Council Caucus and whether any of the ALA units listed in the resolution had passed it. It was noted that a progressive caucus a logical extension of SRRT’s efforts to get progressive ALA members elected to Council and would serve to assist in getting social issues once again on the agenda of Council.

Bonita Corliss noted that frequently the GLBT, for instance, is invited to participate in ALA discussions, but it often turns out this involvement has no real impact on outcomes. Sandy Berman moved to table the resolution until Monday by which time Mark could make some suggested changes. Motion to table passed.

SRRT VACANCIES

Wendy informed AC that the following liaison positions are open: Freedom to Read Foundation (needs to be at ALA one day before conference); Council Standing Committee on Education; and ALA Standing Committee on Membership. Also, one position on the SRRT newsletter editorial board is open, and Carol Reid leaving as editor.

Volunteers are requested for all these positions.

SRRT BROCHURE & WEB-SITE

Wendy reported that the SRRT brochure is updated and distributed a draft to be finalized at AC II. The brochure will be printed in a run of 1000 on recycled non-chlorinated. Madelaine will mount brochure on the SRRT web-site. Fred noted that the Task Force on the Environment has its newsletter online and receives a large number of responses from people outside ALA. He also noted that since ALA made changes to its web-site TFOE connections are not functioning fully. He suggested that the new ALA staff member in charge of the web-site conferences to keep ALA divisions, task forces, etc. informed about web-site developments.

OLOS REPORT

Wendy reported that Satia Orange wants to know if SRRT AC members have noticed any changes in OLOS services. Michael reported that Satia has been helpful with finances. Elaine reported that a problem with the PLG program listing on the ALA web-site was taken care of immediately by Satia. Fred reported that questions about TFOE membership have been given an immediate response.

Wendy noted that the OLOS table at the ALA office is right up front - a welcome change from its past locations. She also let everyone know that reproductions can be made at the ALA office. The OLOS table will be staffed 4-hours per day during the conference, and Sheila can set up appointments for incoming TF chairs to learn how to work with ALA. Finally, at the OLOS booth the SRRT file box with hanging files has been replaced with stack of baskets and SRRT has only one basket. We might want that to
change. Communications could be difficult without separate boxes/files/baskets for each task force.

FINANCE REPORT

Wendy relayed information from Deb Gilchrist that ALA will undertake a compensation study of ALA staff. Deb thinks SRRT should investigate how study will be conducted. Mark Martin noted that, in order to avoid confusion in relation to financial reports, all task forces can ask for 3-line budgets from ALA. This would list separately operational funds, breakfast funds and award funds. He says this is an easier method to keep track of TF funds than establishing a special fund for awards, which require $5000 to be set up.

AI raised a question about what happens if AC votes a budget that SRRT doesn’t have enough money in its account to cover. His concern is the result of learning that although the IRTF was budgeted for $6500 for next year’s program, there is not that much money in the SRRT account. Roland answered that ALA makes further budget decisions after SRRT passes its own budget and that now we get printouts that don’t seem to coordinate all budget decisions, so there’s some confusion. Roland suggests that, now that a new OLOS director is in place, SRRT needs to pursue several questions regarding budgets.

Wendy directed everyone to give Roland whatever questions we might have regarding budgets and they will be forwarded to Satia. She also noted that ALA might have other sources of funds for programs which should be investigated.

Motion to extend meeting for 10 minutes - approved.

Fred requested tabling discussion of TFoE award till mid-winter. He noted that Barbara Ford, as part of her presidential activities, is providing volunteer opportunities in New Orleans and Washington in which SRRT should be involved. A good project would be one related to environmental racism. Another recommendation was to work with the "M" Street Village which works with homeless people. He also noted in relation to ALA publications and communications that there needs to be a better mechanism for using already existing ALA venues to let ALA members know about SRRT activities, maybe regular reports in American Libraries on the activities of SRRT task forces. Wendy noted that the GLBTF has made good use of ALA publications to promote programs and activities.

Wendy reminded AC that at the next meeting we need to select SRRT coordinator, secretary and treasurer. We definitely need a treasurer.

Dotty noted that several people really liked the all task force meeting arrangement, but asked if it could be scheduled a little earlier to avoid some serious conflicts. Wendy suggested that we could have SRRT meeting start at 8:00 and end at 11:00.

Motion to adjourn - passed.
Meeting ended at 12:40 p.m.  
revised 10/17/97

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Here are the minutes for AC II.

SRRT Action Council II
San Francisco
Minutes for June 30, 1997

PRESENT: Veronda J. Pitchford, Feminist Task Force; Steven Harris, Action Council; Johathan Betz-Zall, Washington Library Association SRRT; Kim Edson, Minnesota SRRT; Carol Reid, newsletter editor (outgoing); Sandy Berman, Poverty Task Force; Dawn Rutherford, new SRRT member; Al Kagan, AC and IRTF; Fred Stoss, TFOE; Dotty Granger, Action Council member; Madeleine Tainton, Action Council member; Mark Rosensweig, Action Council; Samuel Bennett, Kansas SRRT; Neil Ward, Action Council; Ken Thompson, new member, interested in AIP; Jessamyn West, new member, interested in FT; Peggy D'Adamo, AIP; Roland Hansen, SRRT Treasurer; Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator; Elaine Harger, SRRT Secretary; Yvonne Farley, West Virginia SRRT; Noel Peattie, Scholar-poet living in dignified retirement.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Roland was unable to speak with either Satia or Sheila at the OLOS office to ask questions regarding financial reports. He will distribute the end-of-April finance reports to task forces by July 24. Two issues of concern now are: international relations money (we don't yet know if ALA approved the funds); also CounterPoise has requested a supplement, funds are available but the request needs to be okayed. Overall, SRRT is fine financially, but we do need to bring in more funding. ACRL is bringing in corporate funders for programs (IBM, etc...) Roland offered to work with whoever becomes the new SRRT treasurer. Satia is working on a form for SRRT finance transactions. Roland is going off AC after 4 years as SRRT treasurer and expects a very smooth transition. For the information of anyone wishing to volunteer, he noted that the largest amount of time spent by the treasurer is in processing reimbursements and watching financial reports. The work takes about 5 hours per month, of course more time is needed just before and just after ALA conferences. He said it would help to know accrual accounting. He also noted that no task force has ever overspent budgeted funds.

Sandy made a motion to thank Roland for his grueling efforts as treasurer - passed unanimously.

Wendy noted that she just received the Round Table Handbook. It contains
copies of forms and governance information. Is available for everyone to look at.

COUNCIL REPORT

Mark reported that Council I is not usually exciting, but this year it was "hopping." Barbara Ford put forward a proposal to "virtualize" conventions. She believes this would allow more participation, democracy, and allow more members to participate. She also believes that the fate of ALA depends on being on cutting edge of technology. Her resolution was generally supported by council. There will be a test case with 4 major committees to be selected. All committee members must be on-line to carry out all work of the selected committees. Mark reported some opposition to the proposal on the grounds that it would be pseudo-participatory, becoming only a "sounding board" for expression. Also noted was that not everyone has access to e-mail, and that electronic communications are not a substitute for direct face-to-face communications. SRRT should weigh-in on issue, keep abreast of developments.

He also reported on the Council Caucus, which is a "caucus" open to all Council members. It met to discuss the Hawaii outsourcing resolution. Many of those attending the caucus meeting clearly did not support it, and the Council member putting forward the resolution had to argue that it should at least go to council where it could then be voted down. Mark characterized the meeting as "stage managing" Council debates. The caucus meetings are held late at night, in a tiny room. Non-members are theoretically allowed in, but the meetings are not listed in the conference schedule so no non-Council ALA members know about them.

SCHEDDLE CONFLICTS

Wendy has learned that the all task force meetings conflict with ALA's regularly scheduled introduction to women's groups. She suggests we reschedule to meet from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Al urged finding a way to also be sure to not overlap SRRT programs and suggested using the listserv to coordinate program schedules.

Sandy moved that the summertime all task force meeting be held from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - passed.

RESOLUTIONS

(1) Mark reintroduced the "Resolution on the Gates Library Foundation" and noted that a similar resolution is going to Council, but asked that this one should come from SRRT. Noel made the point that some libraries cannot accept such private funds, and asked whether this problem be included in the resolution. Wendy suggested that AC vote on the essence of the resolution, and Mark could post it on the listserv.

The motion passed, with one abstention

(2) Mark next asked AC to support the resolved clauses of the resolution on establishing a Progressive Council Caucus. Kim suggested that to strengthen the call for such a caucus we should get other bodies of ALA to...
sign on to the proposal, perhaps BCALA and REFORMA would also pass the proposal. Mark noted that it's unlikely that other ALA bodies would pass the resolution, although many individuals would support it. Sandy agreed, saying that, unfortunately, there are many ALA groups are conservative or uninterested in social and political matters. Dotty said it is most important that SRRT get more progressive librarians elected to Council and get more average librarians involved. She didn't feel that calling for a caucus was the best way to go about changing Council. Al noted that there was once a progressive caucus, and that Mark's resolution is a revitalization of old idea. Steve added that caucuses are not administrative or legislative bodies, but places where people get together to share ideas and decided how to get their ideas supported. Wendy suggested that the second resolved be toned-down.

Fred moved that AC endorse the first resolved of the resolution – passed, with 2 no votes.

(3) Fred introduced a resolution to increase communications. The suggestion is to ask American Libraries to give SRRT a monthly column. Several questions were raised: who would write columns; do other ALA groups have such columns; if we did get a column it shouldn't just be reports of activities, but about issues. One suggestion was to have responsibility for the column rotate through all round tables. Perhaps other ALA round tables to sign on to the idea.

Motion was made for Wendy to draft a letter to American Libraries with this suggestion, including the idea that the column would be for all ALA round tables, distribute the letter over the listserv for approval of AC and distribute it to other round tables for their action too.

Motion passed.

BOOK REVIEWS

Carol reported that the consensus of Editorial Board is that there should be book reviews in the SRRT newsletter, they shouldn't be random selections, and that we could reprint some reviews from Counterpoise. Mark recommended that we do books that deal with SRRT issues, not simply any books from alternative press. Carol suggested limiting reviews to books on librarianship.

SRRT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Al distributed the report by Rosemary Stephenson and reported that the committee met right before AC meeting. Five SRRT candidates ran, Elaine came closest to winning but lost by 37 votes. All called on SRRT to make council elections a priority. Sandy suggested, as an alternative to mailing postcards, that the SRRT council candidates be listed on the front page of newsletter prior to elections with instructions to bullet vote. Wendy asked that the message about the importance of getting SRRT members elected to council be filtered through task forces, saying it's imperative.
for every task force chair to get members to vote for SRRT slate, same for
state affiliates. AI strongly believes that a postcard sent just before
ALA ballot is issued is more effective in getting out the vote. Veronda
noted that the African-American Studies Section of ACRL posts names of
candidates on its listserv.

AI called on volunteers to fill two vacant positions on the election
committee.

IRTF REPORT

AI spoke with Barbara Ford about funding for SRRT program, and at her
suggestion he will write a report with a request for funds to OLOS. Roland
volunteered to help with writing the proposal.

IFLA SRRT

AI delivered the welcome news that within the International Federation of
Library Associations, some members decided to form an official IFLA SRRT.
Several ALA members active in IFLA, including Michael Malinconico, Don
Davis, and Herb and Mary Biblo all supported the move. Members from nearly
12 countries have signed on, and will be pursuing the establishment of an
official IFLA "discussion group" on social responsibilities. There is
support from 5 institutional members for the establishment of the
discussion group, and the ALA Executive Board has already passed a
statement of support.

LISTSERV

Linda Pierce will become co-owner of the all-SRRT listserv. Will be open
to all SRRT members. Notice will be put in next newsletter to announce
general access to the open list, and if traffic becomes too burdensome the
list can become a moderated or read-only service.

SRRT BROCHURE & WEBSITE

We will be updating, reprinting, and using text of the new SRRT brochure
for the SRRT website. Wendy asked for corrections within the next two
weeks. We need to include URL for ALA and SRRT listserv address. Website
will (we hope) reside at ALA and will have hotlinks to all SRRT task force
websites.

NEW BUSINESS

AIIP wants to include a flyer in next newsletter concerning CounterPoise.
Peggy will draw up flyer. A suggestion was made that the notice could just
be a page in newsletter.

ELECTIONS FOR SRRT OFFICERS

Sandy nominated Wendy and Elaine to serve as coordinator and secretary for
a second term. Wendy informed AC that we don’t have a volunteer for
treasurer, but we do have an Ad Hoc Budget Group consisting of Dotty,
MEETING ADJOURNED

MEETING RE-CONVENE WITH NEW OFFICERS

Mark Martin, Toni Bessissar and Carolyn Games are newly elected/re-elected to AC. Wendy Thomas will serve again as coordinator. Elaine Harger as Secretary. Search will continue for Treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger 7/26/97, revised 10/17/97

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