

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Round Table  
American Library Association  
Midwinter Meeting, 2007

**Steering Committee I**

Westin Hotel Seattle  
Vashon Room  
January 20, 2007  
8—10 a.m.

**In attendance :** John Bradford, Lewis Day, Norman Eriksen, David Gray, Paul Higdon, Robin Imhof, Andy Johnson, Dustin Larmore, Holly Mercer, KR Roberto, John Sandstrom, Keith Trimmer, Cal Zunt.

**Visitors reporting :** Nancy Davenport, Jim Rettig.

1. Call to Order Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt  
The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Co-Chair Norman Eriksen.
2. Introductions Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt  
Norman invited attendees to introduce themselves.
3. Approval of Agenda Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt
4. Approval of Minutes Norman Eriksen, Cal Zunt  
The minutes of Steering Committee 1 and 2 (prepared by former Secretary Andy Johnson) from New Orleans were distributed and discussed.  
A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes.

**Motion 1**

*Approve minutes of New Orleans SC 1 and 2.*

Motion	John Sandstrom
Second	Holly Mercer
Pass	unanimous voice vote

5. Reports of Officers and Committee Chairs  
Norman invited Officers and Co-Chairs to report on activities. Holly Mercer (External Relations) and Andy Johnson (planner of the Seattle Social) were invited to present first, because of needs each had to be elsewhere. Norman also mentioned that ALA presidential candidates Nancy Davenport and Jim Rettig) were expected to speak to the Steering Committee, and that the meeting would pause for each candidate.

**External Relations Committee                      Holly Mercer**

Holly reported that the committee is fully staffed and has two topics of importance for Steering Committee discussion: Linking to and from other websites, and READ posters.

**Linking to and from other websites.** There has been interest expressed by other organizations to link to and from the GLBTRT website, and External Relations needs guidance for action. Cal asked if ALA has a policy about links to and from non-ALA websites, and Holly said she didn't know. KR mentioned ALA One Voice, John Sandstrom recommended checking with ALA. Cal said she would investigate and report to the Steering Committee mailing list.

<p><b>Action Item 1</b> <i>Investigate and report on ALA policy on website linking.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Cal Zunt</b></p>
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**READ posters.** Holly said the committee is interested in the production of READ posters with GLBT content. Norman mentioned that the software is inexpensive, and can be obtained from ALA. Paul said this would be a good promotional item for the booth at Annual. Holly said it would be great to feature Stonewall Book Awards authors on READ posters, and perhaps to have them autograph them. David Gray mentioned that Polaris Library Systems has the technology to produce them; the GLBTRT would have to buy the software. It was agreed to purchase READ software from ALA.

<p><b>Motion 2</b> <i>Purchase READ software from ALA.</i></p> <p>Motion                 Holly Mercer Second                 David Gray Pass                     unanimous voice vote</p>
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Cal noted the wish of the Steering Committee that the READ software be maintained by the Chair of External Relations, and be passed along to successive chairs.

**Seattle Social**

**Andy Johnson**

Andy reported that, while most aspects of the event were moving forward as planned, a couple of last-minute difficulties were keeping him busy. He said he'd need to find a licensed bartender if we were to serve liquor, and that we didn't have the cost budgeted. The Steering Committee's sense was that the event would be fine, alcohol-free. The cost of the room rental at Seattle Public Library's Central Branch is \$700. He said he'd be going to Costco to obtain food and beverages, and solicited input as to the amount of sparkling water to purchase. Cal said a good rule of thumb is to estimate two drinks per person per hour. Andy said guests should enter the library at the Fourth Avenue entrance, and proceed to the fourth floor for the Social. Lewis mentioned that the Freedom to Read Foundation's reception with author Chris Crutcher would also be in the library at the same time.

**Co-Chair**

**Norman Eriksen**

Norman reported that much has been done in the months since New Orleans:

- GLBTRT donated \$500.00 to the New Orleans Public Library Foundation, proceeds from the Social at NOPL's Ladder Branch at Annual. He thanked John Bradford for the idea.
- All committees have chairs and are at full-strength with members.

- The Steering Committee e-mail list is working well.
- At yesterday's Round Table Coordinating Assembly (attended by Norman and Cal Zunt) John Chaskra mentioned there is money available to promote membership (30 per cent of ALA personal members belong to one or more Round Tables; 70 per cent belong to one or more divisions). A visitor asked "What is a Round Table?" KR Roberto answered that a Round Table is an interest group, organized under ALA, which serves members and which has official representation within ALA. Cal added that much of the work recommended to groups in the Round Table Coordinating Assembly has already been done by GLBTRT. Norman also mentioned that since GLBTRT's membership exceeds the new one per cent threshold, GLBTRT is eligible to elect an ALA Councilor this year. Cal explained that this new rule entitles all Round Tables with at least one per cent of the ALA's membership to elect an ALA Councilor; the determination will be made every three years.

Norman said that discussion concluded his report.

**Co-Chair**

**Cal Zunt**

Cal reported she had nothing to add to Norman's wrap-up.

**Treasurer**

**Dustin Larmore**

Dustin reported that no financial statements have been received since August 2006. According to his calculations, the RT budget is \$150 below FY '06 levels.

Dustin asked how he could receive a report on endowment income and David Gray mentioned he had one and would share it.

Norman mentioned that Dustin's term expires on June 30; Dustin said he will not run for re-election.

**Secretary**

**Lewis Day**

Lewis reported on his desire to assemble and produce an Annual Report for the GLBTRT. The issue of the new ALA Pavilion at Annual (in lieu of the RT's own booth) came up, and Lewis asked if design specifications had been issued. Paul Higdon said he would follow up.

**Action Item 2**

*Investigate ALA Pavilion and its impact on the GLBTRT.*

**Paul Higdon**

**Book Awards Committee**

**Robin Imhof**

Robin reported that over 100 titles have been considered for the 2007 Stonewall Book Awards. Voting for the two winners and honor books will take place today. Also today (the meeting is from 1:30 to 6 p.m.), the committee will elect a new vice chair/chair elect to work with incoming chair Rich DiRusso.

There is both a need for a slight redesign and reprinting of Stonewall Book Award cover labels. Bob Jaquay has the artwork and specifications and Robin will work with Bob and Pat Connolly at ALA to produce new labels (expected to cost \$200.00 for 900 labels).

**Action Item 3**

*Produce new Stonewall Book Awards cover labels.*

**Robin Imhof**

Laura Clark (ALA Media Relations), has contacted Robin with regard to covering the awards. Relationships with ALA media seem to be quite good at present.

At this point, Robin's report was paused for a presentation by ALA Presidential candidate Jim Rettig (see *Addendum*).

Norman mentioned that *Seattle Gay News* has an article in the current edition related to the book awards. Cal said *CogNotes* also has an article. David Gray said *ALA Direct* also has coverage online.

Robin asked if the committee might alert the publishers of the winning titles once a decision has been reached. Typically, the announcement is made at the (Sunday night) Social, so this would get word out to some before the usual announcement. Cal said the *official* announcement is actually Monday, along with other book awards, including the Newberry and Caldecott. Mary Morales and Laura Clark are key to coordinating this for ALA's Press Office.

**Breakfast Planning Committee                      John Sandstrom**

John announced all deadlines this year have been met; the next is the January 29 deadline for listing speakers and we still don't have a keynote speaker. A number of names were discussed, including Barney Frank; Cal suggested an acquaintance, Dixon Osborne (of the Service Members Legal Defense Fund).

At this point, John's report was paused for a presentation by ALA Presidential candidate Nancy Davenport (see *Addendum*).

John said he needed a press release for the brunch as soon as the details (both speaker(s) and hotel) are all firmed up. Info on the brunch and its arrangements should also go to the Book Awards Committee. John will get info to Robin Imhof and Holly Mercer.

**Action Item 4**

*Provide brunch details to the Book Awards Committee and the External Relations Committee.*

**John Sandstrom**

**Action Item 5**

*Produce brunch press release.*

**Holly Mercer**

John asked how much we should publicize (and make tickets available) in Washington. John also mentioned that his term expires June 30, and there is a need for a volunteer to step in for the next two-year cycle.

Brunch set-up (including placement of books) will begin after 7 a.m. on Monday, June 24; the brunch begins at 10:30. Volunteers are needed to help with this.

As soon as the hotel, menu and other final details are known, John will forward them to the Steering Committee list.

**Fundraising Committee**

**David Gray**

David reported that the committee is fully populated and up to speed. Their goal is to fully fund the book awards endowment.

The annual mailing appears to be one useful way to fund the endowment. The last mailing cost \$1,200.00 and (as of December 31, 2006) had returned \$4,000.00. Pledges have also been received which have yet to be filled. David said the endowment stands (as of November 30, 2006) at \$45,621.63; he estimated the endowment fund should reach \$50,000.00 by June 2007, which represents two-thirds of the \$75,000.00 goal.

The next move, David, said, should be to approach publishers for both donations and sponsorships (including for the brunch).

Forty-nine percent (49%) of those who gave in response to the appeal were new donors to the GLBTRT. The committee is working with ALA's Development Office on strategies and resources.

**Motion 3**

*Authorizing the Fundraising Committee to solicit donations from publishers for the endowment fund.*

Motion	David Gray
Second	John Bradford
Pass	unanimous voice vote

David said a list of corporate donors and sponsors should be included in printed materials at the brunch. It was noted that the expense of the last brunch was \$6,200.00, and any funds received could offset expenses and provide more income for the endowment and general fund. He proposed creating tiered sponsorships for the brunch and programs.

**Motion 4**

*Creating three levels of sponsorship for GLBTRT brunch and programs, with complimentary tickets to the brunch in acknowledgment:*

*\$5,000.00 ... 8 tickets;*

*\$2,500.00 ... 4 tickets;*

*\$1,000.00 ... 2 tickets.*

Motion	Lewis Day
Second	David Gray
Pass	unanimous voice vote

David gave a word of acknowledgment and thanks to his predecessor, Jim Simonis.

The end of the scheduled meeting time was reached and Norman entertained a motion to extend the meeting.

**Motion 5**

*Extending the meeting time by 15 minutes; starting the All Committee meeting at 10:15 a.m.*

Motion	Norman Eriksen
Second	John Bradford
Pass	unanimous voice vote

**Membership Committee****Paul Higdon**

Paul reported on two key issues facing the Membership Committee: membership profiles and the booth at ALA Annual Meeting.

**Membership Profiles.** Paul reported that the membership profile is up on the website, and asked members of the Steering Committee to fill it out. He said Steering Committee members should look at the profiles which have been posted for programming ideas; the wealth of experiences and interests should be very useful in designing and staffing programs at future Annual Meetings.

**Booth.** Despite some lack of clarity about the future of OLOS's payment for RT booths (given the new ALA Pavilion), the committee would like to have the Steering Committee's sense of how to move forward with the booth.

After experiencing heavy traffic in 2006, there was interest in adding an extra table to the GLBTRT's booth. Paul has contacted Tanga Morris, but doesn't have an answer as to the cost (which would be above OLOS's existing commitment, and thus borne by the RT).

It was agreed that, going forward, the full cost of the booth should be budgeted by the GLBTRT, including the cost of materials to be distributed.

Paul asked Steering Committee members to check the website's list of committees and members and be sure all are up to date.

**Newsletter Committee**

**John Bradford**

John announced that the newsletter has been redesigned, with the following results:

- forty percent (40%) of the content is GLBTRT-related;
- thirty percent (30%) is external to the RT;
- thirty percent (30%) consists of book reviews.

Much approval of the look and content of the newsletter was voiced.

John also reported that there have been no sales of subscriptions to date.

**Nominating Committee**

**Anne Moore**

In Anne's absence, Lewis Day reported that candidates had been nominated for all RT offices in the 2007 election:

- Male Co-Chair ... Norman Eriksen, Bob Jaquay, KR Roberto;
- Treasurer ... Emily Edwards, Dale McNeill;
- GLBTRT ALA Councilor ... Andy Johnson, John Sandstrom, Rob Ridinger.

**Program Planning Committee**

**Gary Wasdin**

In Gary's absence, the report was deferred to Steering Committee 2 on Monday.

**Website Committee**

**Keith Trimmer**

Keith passed around his current list of committee chairs and members, liaisons and other appointees; he asked that Steering Committee members check the accuracy of the roster and make changes where necessary. After Steering Committee 2, he will give a copy of the list to Paul Higdon.

**Action Item 5**

*Update committee lists.*

**Steering Committee members**

**Action Item 6**

*Relay updated list to Membership Committee and post on GLBTRT website.*

**Keith Trimmer**

Given the lateness of the hour, it was proposed to defer the remainder of the agenda to the Steering Committee 2 meeting on Monday, January 22, 2007.

Items deferred were:

8. Old Business

Final status of Read-Aloud

9. New Business

Proposal for new committees

- Legislative and Advocacy            Larry Romans
- Bylaws and Policies                    Lewis Day

**Motion 6**

*Deferring agenda items to the SC2 meeting.*

Motion	John Sandstrom
Second	Paul Higdon
Pass	unanimous voice vote

Norman entertained a motion to adjourn.

**Motion 7**

*Motion to adjourn.*

Motion	Cal Zunt
Second	Dustin Larmore
Pass	unanimous voice vote

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.



## **Addendum**

Visit to the GLBTRT Steering Committee 1 meeting by ALA Presidential candidates Jim Rettig and Nancy Davenport.

### **Jim Rettig**

Jim Rettig arrived during the Book Awards Committee report by Robin Imhof.

Jim began by saying what an important part of ALA the GLBTRT is, and that he is a member of the RT.

He said he feels three current strengths of the association are:

- advocacy for libraries and librarians;
- legislative relations;
- intellectual freedom.

He contrasted those strengths with areas of challenge:

- the departure of significant numbers of 25-44 year-old librarians, representing a brain- and talent-drain on the profession (he mentioned technological innovation, and, specifically, publishing blogs; he advocated boldness in vision and action in discovering ALA's place in this movement, and as a way of retaining technologically savvy young librarians);
- diversity and the continuing struggle for the profession to more fully represent the population;
- ALA/APA, and the need to full-fund APA to fulfill its mission.

### **Nancy Davenport**

Nancy Davenport arrived during the Brunch Planning Committee report by John Sandstrom.

Nancy said it was "important for you to know I am an inclusive person," and that she wants that to be both known and seen.

KR Roberto asked Nancy about her involvement with GLBT issues; Nancy replied that as a supervisor, colleague and mentor she is explicitly fair; on a personal level, she has friends in every walk of life.

Cal raised the issue of ALA's Spectrum Scholars' program being a tool for racial/ethnic diversity, but not for diversity outside those confines (e.g. GLBT representation); Nancy replied that one solution would be for the GLBTRT to raise funds and create essentially a parallel program.