

DRAFT

EIMERT Executive Board Minutes  
July 12, 2009, ALA Annual, Chicago

The executive board met at 11:00 a.m.

In attendance; Tess Tobin, Myra Appel, Homa Naficy, Sylva Manoogian, Ellen Zyroff, Tara Lannon Stanton, Linda Teel, Carole McCollough, Rebecca Stuhr, Irene Iwan

The meeting opened with a discussion about the EIMERT-ALA Web site. Irene Iwan will be the new Webmaster for the site. Tara Lannon Stanton is also interested in working on the site and will work with Irene.

Rebecca mentioned that having the general meeting seemed valuable and a good way to get more people involved in EIMERT. Myra noted that EIMERT had conducted a similar meeting at ALA Midwinter. Ellen commented that it was a good discussion, but it also took the time away from committee meeting time. There seemed to be a consensus that we should allow time for Executive Board, general or membership meeting, and “all committee” meetings.

Myra still has to finalize minutes from Midwinter 2009, and will send those out to the board for approval and then general distribution and posting on Web site.

Myra attended the RTCA (Round Table Coordinating Assembly). There was a discussion about the need for broader representation on the round table. [Later Myra sent out an email from ALA with this action item:

**2.The composition of the Round Table Coordinating Assembly (RTCA) be expanded to include the immediate past president, the current treasurer/fiscal officer/budget chair of each RT, and individuals currently serving on ALA committees as a result of the collective appointment by the RT's.**

RTCA feels that these additional members will help the work of the RTCA in sharing information among round tables and in making recommendations for collective appointments to committees.

This clearly notes that along with the chair, the past chair should attend the meeting, the treasurer of each round table should attend, and it is not as clear who “individuals currently serving in ALA committees as a result of the collective appointment by the RT's” are—HOMA, CAN YOU CLEAR THIS UP FOR ME?)]

Myra reported on RTCA discussion: ALA is having budgetary problems, is considering shortening each conference by one day, both to save money for members, but also for the organization. This will require careful scheduling with attention to the calendar. We should rely on Elliot Mandel to guide us through our scheduling processes.

Ellen discussed her 2010 Annual program to be co-sponsored by RUSA and EIMERT. EIMERT will not be contributing through time or money, but will be formally co-sponsoring the program. The program is scheduled for Sunday afternoon 1:30-3:30.

Myra would like EIMERT to have a common calendar that lists all activities of EIMERT, its committees, and other related communities.

We have several committees and interest groups. We need to describe the function of each committee, fill committee positions, appoint representatives to other groups and post all of this information.

Our membership has dropped during the last counting period –as of May 31, 2009 we have 644 members, down from 692 the previous year. We need to keep our numbers up to retain our counsel representative. Mary McInvoy, the representative to RTCA for small round tables is investigating the possibility of each round table having a guaranteed representative on counsel. This is what each round table would like to have happen. [HOMA, I HAVE MARY MCINVOY AND MARY GHIKAS'S NAMES AND AM CONFUSED ABOUT WHO HAS WHICH ROLE...COULDN'T FIND IT ON THE WEB SITE].

EIMERT Web site: Irene Iwan has made a lot of changes in the last few months. The board commended her for her work. Irene noted that editing was cumbersome and it would be ideal for individuals to add material and make changes for themselves. We should be able to add text. Some text, however, should be protected.

We briefly discussed the EIMERT Facebook page.  
The need for volunteers was discussed

Myra told the board that the ALA Development Office would offer assistance in fund raising. We are free to contact individuals and sources of small amounts of money on our own, but big donors should be contacted only through the ALA Development Office. Myra hopes that we can develop more sponsors for our programs and publications.

We discussed awards. We talked about dropping one, but Satia explained the difference between our two awards and urged us not to back off on any of our activities.

One of our Awards, The David Cohen award, is for publication and research. The Multicultural Awards is for projects. It was suggested and consensus supported that money did not have to be part of this award. Satia suggested creating a plaque that can be engraved and replicated and holding a lecture in honor of the winner.

Satia advised us on a number of issues:

To include the membership meeting time in our program announcement.

She again encouraged EIMERT to do more not less—to give members something to do.

Follow the time lines; don't worry about schedule conflict—everyone will not want to go to everything, but we have a large membership base with a diversity of interests. Each

committee should be planning a program; they should have a clear charge. Every two years they should be doing something—preparing a publication, a book or monograph. Every year they should be presenting a program. The vice president should plan the schedule.

Cut out AV and Internet access in programs because of expense. We can also ask publishers or other possible sponsors to support AV equipment at programs.

Have a printed agenda at membership meetings; provide copies of handouts or memos.

We should rethink the format of meetings—they should recruit, be productive, lead toward the development of resources.

Take advantage of ALA connect.

Divide up responsibilities

Committees should feel empowered to present their own programs (reiteration from above)

[Lynn talked about the children's committee and their possible frustration with their lack of empowerment, Jewish American Information Committee also expressed a similar lack of empowerment—Homa urged the committees to follow deadlines and submit program proposals]

We should send out deadlines, committees should follow up with Homa and Tess.

Everyone should write about what they are doing, multicultural topics... publish in Multicultural Review, Web site, Connect ... (more?)

We talked about booths—and Satia talked about a general Round Table booth to which EIMERT members can contribute their time.

Need more communication; make EIMERT more inclusive

Sylva mentioned that the ability to plan programs gave the committees a voice, made them more visible.

Handouts are an important part of programs. We can post them at the Connect site and develop press releases. Have our site featured on the featured site of the week function at the ALA web site. Communicate throughout the association.

It was announced that Vladimir has published a guide and history of Romanian Jews in the United States from 1950-2010. 2010 will be the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Romanian Jews in North America. He would like to put on a program.

We can still have one general program on Sunday mornings, but EIMERT committees may present throughout conference. Please run ideas and proposals through Tess as Vice President.

Other suggestions: work to develop membership, hold an “unprogram” that would be primarily a discussion, “clean up the Web site,” appoint representative to New Member Round Table (Tara?),

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Stuhr  
Secretary, EIMERT