

## **FMRT Executive Board Meeting**

**Monday, December 2, 2-3pm ET (11-12 PT), postponed from November 25**

**Present:** Brian Boling, Jennifer Carter, Lowell Lybarger, Steve Milewski, Leigh Rockey, Gisele Tanasse, Monique Threatt, Laine Theilstrom, Lorraine Wochna

### **1. Announcements (Gisele, 5 minutes)**

- Ben Franz will be running for Chair-Elect: Thank you, Ben!
- The biographical nomination form is closing soon-- 12/4-- contact Lowell or Gisele to self-nominate!
- Nobody is running for secretary. Gisele has some calls out to people. The bylaws prohibit Gisele from being secretary or she would help out here. This deadline has been moved because of a vendor requirement. It's in our bylaws that we take nominations at Midwinter; that is no longer the case because of issues the ALA voting vendor had with later nominations.

### **2. Committee Updates (Various, 2-7 minutes each)**

- **Vice-Chair (Steven)**  
Steven has set us up a tentative reservation at Amma's, a South Indian cuisine restaurant, and it is for Sunday, January 26 at 6 o'clock. The restaurant looks pretty good. It was on a recommended list, and they have a lot of vegetarian stuff, and they also have gluten-free food. It's only a couple of blocks away from the convention center. We will all take a look at the restaurant by Wednesday, Dec 4 and let Steven know if it's OK. If he doesn't hear from us, he assumes it's a go. <http://philadelphia.ammarestaurants.com/>
- **Communications Committee (Jen)**  
No updates from Jen.
- **Programs (Laine & Lorraine)**  
Laine says she talked to people at Chicago Public Library. Thank you, Brian, for the email regarding the Marshall Project videos about people incarcerated unfairly in the Chicago area. Chicago Public Library has also been involved in a dissident project where they have immigrants make videos. The idea Laine and Lorraine are floating around is how libraries can help social justice activities. Maybe we could have a panel with someone from the Chicago Public Library, someone from the Media Burns archive, and Howard Besser because of his own activist work. We can talk about public screenings or exhibits of some of these videos and their digital platforms and present the work, and of course we could talk about preservation of the work either through workshops that teach people how to work with their own material or finding a way to collect the material so that it doesn't get lost. How do people feel about doing something like that? And doing a panel talk about that sort of thing? Laine feels like we're at a crossroads of how to do better work with social justice in libraries and how to involve local community people.

Gisele says she loves the idea, and she thinks you'll want to come up with a good description for framing it as a conversation between organizations and libraries to elevate social justice materials/programs and to preserve their documents and make them accessible.

Lowell says there are privacy and ethical issues, as well as copyright.

Lorraine says she likes the idea of community/media/partners/social justice/librarians.... how do you all feel about being this focused? Do we focus on a specific group that needs to be heard? Or more about larger community issues? Not sure how many issues we can bring into one program while making sure it's compelling and our objective is clear. Laine and I will meet and come up with at least three good ideas/programs.

- **Scholarship update (Gisele)**

No update.

- **Notables (Gisele for Bryan M.)**

Please continue nominating worthy documentaries for Notables here:

<http://www.ala.org/rt/vrt/notablevideos>.

- **Membership (Gisele for Athina)**

No update.

- **Gala (Ben)**

No update.

- **Bylaws (Gisele for Michele?)**

We will need to make changes in our bylaws regarding the new Midwinter nominations process. Gisele and Michelle will revisit with Danielle whether or not we need to put the changes out for a vote. It doesn't make sense to have the membership vote on a vendor-required procedural change, but we'll see what Danielle says.

- **ALA Councilor Report (Brian B.)**

No update.

- **IFLA (Mo / Debbie)**

No report. They are waiting for the governing board to approve their call for papers.

- **Treasurer (Melanie)**

There will be budget info ready for Midwinter.

- **Update from Vendor Relations Working Group (Brian B. /Jen/Gisele)**

Jen says the group has been working out the guidelines for vendor participation, and they need to make a few updates to the original draft before they present it. They ended up pulling quite a bit from YALSA's points about what kind of relationships vendors have with the content that's being presented. Jenifer would love feedback on some of this if possible.

Jen, Brian B., and Gisele met virtually to discuss a timeline and next steps, one of which will be to discuss guidelines and best practices for streaming video providers.

### **3. Round Table Coordinating Assembly Discussion of SCOE Report (Steven / Gisele)**

Steven and Gisele were on the RTCA listserv—they and Brian B. have attended a fair number of events at Midwinters and Annuals about SCOE (Steering Committee on Organizational Effectiveness).

There are a few different lightning rod topics, so it may be worth looking at the report, but specifically for us as a round table the recommendation is that there will be three-year period where round tables will need to have an average of at least 1% of ALA members as dues-paying members in order to remain a round table.

We became a large round table because of our student members, but those members are not dues paying. Unless we make dramatic changes, at the end of the initial three-year period, if these objective additions are adopted, we would lose our status as a round table. Steven says we would cease to exist as a round table. It's a little vague would happen to us at that point; we could become an interest or advisory group. The ALA goal is to try to have fewer round tables.

Brian B.: It might be good to point out that SCOE has "rebranded" itself with the much more positive name Forward Together. When you hear about "Forward Together" soon, it is the same thing.

Gisele was personally disappointed in that she and Steven really advocated for the fact that a round table like ours is pretty much the only video and media expert arm of the institution. There is a serious question about representation, and it's not there for media librarians otherwise at ALA. And that's probably the case for most of the round tables.

Lowell: And this has implications for no real multimedia librarian representative at colleges and universities. If we're moving towards multimedia makerspaces in libraries ... is it the IT department that will take over that?

Gisele thinks the irony is that there is a lot of interest in all of this, but we can't 100% own makerspaces in libraries—we're not necessarily the experts there.

We want to brainstorm what some of our strategies may be. We will have three years where we will be trying to build up membership. We might also strategically look into blending with other round tables.

ALA membership still has to vote on the adoption of these proposals. Do we tell our entire membership to vote against it? Steven said the original vote was to take place in June 2020, but they had to push it back a little bit.

Right now you have a division membership included in your registration fee; they were talking about giving folks a round table membership with their registration fee instead. Steven doesn't remember seeing this, but he can't say that he's 100% sure.

FMRT has increased membership numbers but that's largely due to students. Gisele doesn't know if we want to have a special team looking at this question. Who would want to be involved in that? Probably Gisele, Steven, Brian B., and Athina would be involved.

Laine asked if small round tables have talked to each other about this?

Steven reports--

Round tables with over 1% of ALA membership as dues-paying members: EMIERT, FMRT, GAMERT, GNCRT, IFRT, IRRT, LIRT, LRRT, NMRT, RRT, SRRT, SUSTAINRT.

Under 1%: ERT, LearnRT, LHRT, LSSIRT, MAGIRT, RMRT, GODORT, and SORT.

Gisele says at the end of the day all this is basically about the ALA staff using their time well. What can we do to simplify Danielle's time? She's our staff liaison, and she's liaison for a lot of round tables. Is there way to simplify the bylaws for how we do things? Like the challenges were having with the election where they have to tell us that we don't have candidates for secretary, etc.? This is extra work for ALA staffers.

Lowell says that in talking with Danielle over the past couple years she praises FMRT for being a strong group and that we had it together. Andy Horbal also made the observation that we are primarily an academic library organization and that might be limiting. Plus people at small colleges don't have the funding to make it to Annual and Midwinter meetings. That's an issue. Maybe we should look at public librarian membership? We should have a multitiered strategy of how we would increase our membership, how we might blend with other round tables, etc., or how we do all of these at once so that we don't get kicked out.

Gisele likes the idea of a public library appeal. She also thinks trying to incorporate more "making" makes sense. But we need to get members with that specific expertise.

More info--

RTCA members recently discussed implications for round tables in the SCOE recommendations. This is of significant concern to FMRT as our current dues-paying membership is well below the threshold for representing 1%; without a significant increase in dues-paying membership we will likely lose our status as a round table at the end of the initial three-year period.

From the SCOE Recommendations:

Increase the minimum number of dues-paying members needed to create a round table to one percent of ALA's membership unless identified as a strategic priority by the Board of Directors. Membership numbers will be revisited and averaged over a period of three years. Current round tables will be able to remain intact for the first three years to provide them the opportunity to grow their membership. This will provide round tables with more fiscal stability and the resources to accomplish their mission-driven goals.

Q & A from email discussion:

So existing round tables would need to have 1% dues-paying membership (three-year average) and if not they would be shut down? Existing round tables who do not have the 1% average by the end of the three-year period would no longer exist as a round table but would likely be asked to determine if they could instead be a Community of Interest, Advisory Group, or, perhaps even a group or section within a division or combine with another round table if applicable and if values align. The process, steps, and timeline for this has not been established and would be taken on by the next member group!

Is this ALA dues or round table dues? Round table dues.

How would student membership work in the count? Free memberships of any type would not be included in the count. The paid member threshold is to ensure there is enough fiscal support for the round table and its programmatic and administrative needs.

When does the three-year count down start? We aren't sure! Implementation of specific recommendations has not been discussed yet and the vote on Constitution & Bylaws and Policy changes is on hold and will not take place in June 2020 as originally planned per the conversation that took place

at the October Executive Board meeting. SCOE is preparing information for a new member group that will be formed. Their exact charge is still TBD, but we imagine that new group will continue the iterative process with all of our members in determining implementation as well as continued changes to the recommendations. One of the things that was most important to SCOE was to create a series of checks and balances for this process and a continual review of what is and isn't working within the association as a whole, and we see this transition to a new member team as part of that process.

When would membership need to renew to be counted? Many members wait until they need to register for Annual before renewing. Currently we look at stats as of August 31 which is the end of ALA's fiscal year. We only look at personal membership for both the round tables and ALA.

#### **4. New Business**

None.

//End December 2 Meeting