

Date: Sat, 20 Dec 1997 09:27:09 -0500
Reply-To: srrtac-l@ala.org
Sender: owner-srrtac-l@ala.org
From: "Elaine Harger" <eharger@tao.agoron.com>
To: SRRT Action Council <srrtac-l@ala.org>
Subject: Minutes AC II
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-To: "SRRT Action Council" <srrtac-l@ala.org>
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Priority: 3
Status:

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; Nel Ward, Action Council; Ken Thompson, new member, interested in AIP; Jessamyn West, new member, interested in FTF; 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.

SCHEDULE 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 listserve 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. Al 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 listserve.

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

IRTF REPORT

Al 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

Al 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

AIP 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,

Wendy & Roland.

MEETING ADJOURNED

MEETING RE-CONVENED WITH NEW OFFICERS

Mark Martin, Toni Bessissar and Carolyn Garnes 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

Elaine Harger
49 Osborne Terrace
Newark NJ 07108
973/623-7642 home
212/569-0290 ext. 404 work
eharger@tao.agoron.com