

SRRT ACI
July 8, 2000

PRESENT: Fred Stoss, SRRT Coordinator; Elaine Harger, SRRT Secretary; Nel Ward, SRRT Treasurer; Linda Pierce; Carole McCollough, CSK Chair; Jon McConnel; Peter McDonald, Action Council; Lynn Andersen; Al Kagan, SRRT Councilor; Ann Sparanese, Action Council; Mark Rosenzweig, Action Council; Alison Lewis; Dena Marger; Karen Venturella; Damon Jagers, HHP Chair; Kim Edson; Maria Jankoska, TFOE Co-chair; Sandy Berman; Irwin Weintraub, TFOE Co-chair; Mark Hudson; Ceci Chapple, Action Council; Jane Ingold, SRRT Newsletter Editor; Charles Willett; Rory Litwin, AIP Chair; Virginia Moore, MLK Chair; Mary Biblo; Carol Barta, KS SRRT; Barbara Clark.

Introductions

Fred Stoss welcomed and introduced new newsletter editor Jane Ingold. Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes for ACI and ACII Midwinter 2000 approved as amended.

State SRRT Reports

Kim Edson reported that Chris Dodge is no longer editor of the *MSRRT Newsletter*, which has suspended publication and informed the meeting that MSRRT has also been suspended. Many expressed their sorrow at hearing the news.

Linda Pierce reported that the Washington SRRT too is taking an hiatus and looking for new leadership.

Fred Stoss reported that NYSRRT has not yet picked a representative to SRRT, but expects to at upcoming meeting. Fred appealed to all AC members to assist their respective state SRRTs in their activities.

Progressive Librarians Around the World

Al Kagan, distributed the call for a 2nd international meeting of progressive librarian organizations, which is to take place in November in Vienna. Al is attending, and wants to represent SRRT. He'll need short reports from all task forces to deliver at the meeting. He expressed the need for Action Council to empower him to represent SRRT on any issues that come up and requested official action to that effect.

Fred Stoss encouraged task forces to give reports to Al. Elaine Harger suggested that the reports should contain some information on the issues each task force is charged to deal with. Fred added that the reports also contain mention of any international issues the task forces are currently dealing with. TF reports will be due October 1st to Al with cc's to Fred.

MOTION: Mark Rosenzweig moved, that Al Kagan be SRRT's representative to the Vienna meeting. MOTION approved unanimously.

Resolutions

Al Kagan presented the International Relations Committee of ALA's new "International Relations Agenda," and the amendments to that Agenda drawn up by SRRT's IRTF. He distributed copies of the IRC's document and explained the amendments, noting that the ACRL Int'l Rel's Comm. supported many of the IRTF amendments.

Discussion opened with Fred noting that the International Council of Scientific Unions would be very interested in library/info work internationally. Sandy pointed out a grammatical correction. Maria noted that in some libraries information is charged for because the libraries need the money to survive and suggested that this be taken into consideration. Sandy replied that these are principles that libraries should strive for, not a description of what might actually exist. Discussion continued over whether or not language concerning "libraries provide free access to information" should be changed or qualified to include libraries that can't afford to provide free access. Rory reminded the meeting that SRRT has often noted that libraries' principles and practices in providing free access are often inconsistent.

MOTION: Ann Sparanese moved, Rory Litwin seconded resolution to send to IRC the "Response to the Draft of the ALA International Relations Agenda 2000-2005"
MOTION passed unanimously.

Al Kagan, introduced and spoke to "SRRT Resolution on Advertising on the ALA Website."

Carole Barta asked whether the website might be taking place of print materials and, therefore, wouldn't this then be fighting a losing battle? Fred added that this advertising seemed to smack of favoritism and stated that the pages of a professional association's website are not the place for ads. Rory said that most of the ads on the site in the American Libraries On-line are just electronic versions of the ads in the print version of American Libraries. He asked if maybe we should make allowances for the presence of ads in this electronic space. Kim Edson noted that ALA is advertising everywhere (she then held up a canvas bag that was given to people when they registered at this conference). She added that financial stress has motivated ALA to engage in widespread advertising and corporate sponsorships to help fund programming and other activities. Mark noted that SRRT has historically been opposed to advertising. Cici concurred and reminded the meeting of the Ameritech co-sponsorship of an ALA conference several years ago which shocked many, the Ameritech logo was everywhere at the conference. She suggested that SRRT might get involved in establishing an ALA policy with regard to advertising and corporate sponsorships. Charles Willett informed the meeting he'd asked American Libraries for free advertising for CounterPoise, but ALA Publishing said it would not because ALA needs revenue. He showed the group a copy of Booklist, which contains many ads, and asked if SRRT might want to advertise for alternative

press publications in the SRRT Newsletter. Mark Hudson said it is important for SRRT to state our principles concerning advertising and communicate them to ALA. Karen Venturella suggested that there could be an “advertising-free zone” on ALA’s website. Mark shared his worries that this might become a prelude to widespread advertising by libraries. Barbara asked if ALA has a policy on advertising.

Al, proposed to table resolution in favor of bringing issue back to AC in another form. Resolution tabled.

SRRT Website

Rory reported that the SRRT Website Committee made some minor changes to the site. The address is: Libr.org/SRRT.work. Task forces are all listed on the first page of website. Fred noted that the committee is small, but has made great strides in developing the website.

SRRT Stationary

Elaine will have supplies for distribution on Monday. Action Council members will be able to request stationary from the OLOS office.

SRRT Newsletter

Fred reported that the newsletter serves as the only interface between SRRT AC and the entire SRRT membership. He gave many thanks to Ken and Jessamyn for their work and welcomed Jane as the new editor. He added that AC will need to review our financial situation before we can know what the publication schedule should be.

Ad in American Libraries for SRRT programs

Fred reported that the June issue of AL carried a free ad for SRRT because OLOS has an agreement with AL for a limited amount of space. He noted that SRRT should use this opportunity regularly.

@your library

Fred described the public relations campaign ALA is organizing. We could use social responsibilities@your library or feminists@your library for SRRT activities. He suggested that this is an opportunity that could be used creatively. Elaine asked if perhaps we should take this opportunity to look into issues of socially responsible advertising or corporate sponsorships. Fred suggested that AC establish an ad hoc committee to look into this @your library public relations campaign. Mark said that this is a “branding campaign” intentionally to be used for advertisers. Lynn said that, as with many “brands,” people might just get used to it and after a while just won’t notice it. She asked what SRRT and ALA will be getting out of it. Rory asked if we can be opposed to how campaign is used by corporate sponsors, but use the campaign for SRRT’s benefit. This just might serve the purpose of making the public more aware of the library and its relevance. Fred noted that there will be a lot of hype at the conference about this campaign and said that if any SRRT AC members want to have input in the matter before midwinter, they should sign up for the ad hoc committee.

Counterpoise

Peter McDonald distributed his report on CP for discussion at ACII. Charles Willett distributed the CP Business Plan.

Budget

Nel Ward reported that SRRT had a \$7500 deficit at beginning of year, but that the GLBTF raised \$5000, which should put us at the end of the fiscal year in the black. She requested receipts from task forces so reimbursements can be made prior to Aug. 31st.

Fred expressed many thanks personally and on behalf of SRRT to Nel for being such a diligent friend of SRRT in resolving the budget crisis. As a result of the way SRRT has worked out budget issues, he noted, there is a new part of RTCC Handbook dealing with budgets. Nel replied that the task forces have been absolutely wonderful in helping with this matter.

Kim asked if there has been noticeable decline in SRRT membership as result of GLBTF separation from SRRT. Fred reported that there was slight dip in membership at beginning of year, but doesn't think this represents anything more than normal fluctuations.

Tape-recording of meetings

During the budget discussion, Ann Sparanese asked about AC meetings being tape-recorded. She noticed that Charles had a tape recorder running. Charles replied that the reason he was taping the meeting was that he doesn't hear very well and needs to know exactly what was said at the meeting. He was not using the tape for any other reason. Al noted that there is often a distinction between recording public meetings and business meetings. Satia Orange noted that, generally, within ALA permission is granted unanimously for recording. Satia volunteered to get a microphone so the meeting could resume. Charles turned off recorder.

MOTION: Mark Rosenzweig moved, Ann seconded, that SRRT establish a policy that there be no recording of AC meetings unless permission has been granted by a unanimous vote of AC members present at the beginning of said meeting. MOTION passed 14 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention

Task Force Reports

Hunger, Homelessness & Poverty Task Force: Karen reported that HHP has chosen a new chair, announced it's program, and noted that HHP's bylaws are finished and website improved. Fred added thanks to Sandy Berman for his steadfast commitment to the issues of library services to poor people.

Feminist Task Force: Cici reported that FTF's annual program has been cancelled. Their keynote speaker had an emergency, and is willing to appear at midwinter.

Coretta Scott King Award Task Force: Barbara introduced the new CSK chair, announced that a publisher is picking up cost of a video about the CSK award which will be distributed for free to libraries.

Alternatives in Print: Rory reported that AIP bylaws will be ready for distribution on Monday, and informed everyone of their program and free speech buffet.

Task Force on the Environment: Irwin reported on the TFOE program and encouraged anyone interested in environmental issues to participate.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Task Force: Ginny reported that task force members are working to spread the word about MLK activities, and are updating their publications.

International Responsibilities Task Force: Al invited everyone to the WTO program, and announced that IRTF's program next year will probably be on Cuba. He noted the upcoming (Nov. 10-14, 2000) international solidarity conference in Havana. Ann Spanese is organizing a librarians meeting for the conference. IRTF has new co-coordinators, Mark Rosenzweig & Elaine Harger with help from Ann.

Report from OLOS

Fred, introduced Satia Orange, OLOS staff liaison for SRRT. She distributed the bookmark/ticket for the 1st annual Jean Colman lecture. She also announced that anyone planning programs for San Francisco, must file a form for the new "tracking" schedule. The form must be submitted to Conference Services by 5:00 on Tuesday, July 11. Satia requested that a copy be left at the OLOS desk to assist in coordinating programming. She pointed out that there is no track for "diversity" because such a heading might only attract "the converted." She emphasized that everyone has to fill out the form, as all programs will be tracked. She also announced that OLOS is sponsoring a pre-conference program on "outreach" and wants to include representatives from all groups that are part of OLOS.

Mark noted that programs dealing with social responsibilities and diversity just might disappear from conference focus, perhaps getting subsumed under other topics and, thereby, getting lost. Satia replied that we have to be vigilant to see that that doesn't happen, but must also be aware of the possibility that we might end-up doing too much "preaching to the saved."

Al asked who was invited to help develop the tracking list. He noted that there is no category for internationally focussed programs. Satia replied that this issue has been discussed for the past two years, and said that if SRRT doesn't like the format, it needs to say what should be changed.

Al moved to extend meeting for 15 minutes. Approved.

Round Table Coordinating Committee Report

Fred reported that comments concerning the @your library public relations campaign need to go to Peggy Barber before end of August. He also reported that Larry Miller is serving on the ALA website advisory committee, and that Roland Hansen and ___?___ are on the 2002 ALA program committee. The RTCC Handbook available for review on ALA website. BARC might establish regular treasurer training workshops for round tables. Concerning the "Speaking with one voice" issue, ALA's lawyer prepared a memo outlining regulations dealing with non-profit organizations and political candidates. Also, she said that ALA Council has to deal with any changes in who/what units can establish ALA policy. No units are restricted from speaking within association, but cannot speak outside. He expressed concern that the unilateral manner in which provisions for roundtable expressions were removed from handbook was problematic.

Al reported that the progressive council caucus feels that units should just continue business as usual and see what happens if ALA decides to push the matter. Mark alerted people to the important distinction between the memo regarding political campaigns and "speaking with one voice." He noted that what motivates the "speaking with one voice" business remains to be seen, because it clearly is not a matter of endorsing political candidates. Fred expressed his personal opinion that ALA's pursuit of corporate sponsorships might have something to do with "speaking with one voice." Nel expressed confusion about the memo on political activities, noting that the memo expressly states that the restrictions are unfair, but doesn't really give any good guidelines.

Charles asked what this memo might mean about the program featuring Winona LaDuke. Satia replied that LaDuke was invited to speak as an author, and that the invitation was issued prior to her becoming a candidate. She noted that there will always be gray areas, and that we must use common sense in these issues. Al said he didn't think SRRT gets treated evenly by ALA and noted that the Major Owens reception is a case in point, where the event has been approved. Mark said that the whole "speaking with one voice" business seems to be an attack on SRRT's activities, and Satia replied that SRRT should continue to speak out.

Fred, forego old business.

Elaine moved, Barbara seconded moving ACII meeting time to 4:00 instead of 5:30.
PASSED unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 12:55 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Elaine Harger, 11/26/00