

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL II
January 15, 2001, 2-4 pm

DRAFT MINUTES – SUBJECT TO ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS AND APPROVAL AT ANNUAL

In attendance: Sec'y does NOT have attendance sheet, so if you were in attendance, let me know.

CALL TO ORDER

Coordinator Fred Stoss called the meeting to order, and passed out agendas and minutes from ACII, July 2000. Minutes were approved.

Those attending the meeting introduced themselves.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Fred introduced a suggestion for special recognition to be given by SRRT to Satia Orange of OLOS for the help and benefit she has provide to SRRT and other Round Tables. Her advocacy has been deeply appreciated and we will send a letter to her ALA supervisor to that effect.

OLD BUSINESS

ONE VOICE POLICY

Mark reported on the council meeting where the policy of speaking with one voice was discussed. He pointed out that the deliberations of the Executive Board are closed and no public disagreements with the policy were aired. Mark's point of view is that although the organization should have a coherent public voice, it doesn't follow that all dissenting views within the organization should be stifled.

"@ Your Library" is the brand name for this policy. It is an attempt to stifle groups like SRRT and prevent us from communicating with the outside world about our own positions. The policy has had no enforcement as of yet, but the way it is being talked about is chilling in itself. Nancy Kranich, the current president believes in this policy.

Some of the discussion:

Kristin A: Are we subject to party discipline when we join ALA?

Mark H.: The one-voice policy would be more palatable if it were democratically arrived at.

Fred S.: ALA has no provision for representing dissenting viewpoints. ALA needs to tell us how to make dissenting opinions heard. Perhaps Mark's paper on this policy can get space in the "On My Mind" column in AL. Mark read his piece to the group. Al K. made some suggestions for changes and Fred suggested he post it on the list with those changes.

It was generally felt that the objections to many voices on the basis of tax-exempt status was a being used as a club, although Carol says there is new IRS legislation pending regarding the kinds of lobbying certain tax-exempt organizations can do. Alan said that the tax-exempt status thing needed to be addressed at greater length in order to see how that can be addressed without silencing voices in ALA.

Jules: Suggested that we write a good resolution on this issue for Annual.

CUBA UPDATE

This was adequately addressed in ACL. A reminder to all that the IRC will be meeting on Tuesday to discuss the recommendation by the Subcommittee on Latin America and the Caribbean and that anyone who can attend, should.

CANDIDATES FOR ACTION COUNCIL

There are several vacancies. Candidates need to have their petitions in within the next 10 days.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CALL

Fred requests that one person from each task force form a SRRT membership committee to discuss how to increase our membership base.

NEWSLETTER

The SRRT Newsletter needs an editorial board. We will need to vote on the members of the newsletter editorial board, which is advisory. Carol suggested that we put a notice in the newsletter so that people who cannot come to conferences to become active in ways that they can.

Fred stated that we also need Task Force members of the Newsletter Editorial Board.

NEW BUSINESS

SRRT MEMBERS RUNNING FOR COUNCIL

On the list of the official nominating committee are many names of SRRT members and activists and other progressive candidates. Their names are:

Khafre Abif
Monika Antonelli
John D. Berry
Stanton Biddle
Toni Bissessar
John Buschman
Roma Harris
Tracey Hunter Hayes
Earl W. Lee
Veronda J. Pitchford
Frederick Stoss
Teresa A. Tobin
Elayne S. Walstedter
Thomas L. Wilding
Michael Miller
Michael Malinonico
John Berry

Nell moved that SRRT endorses the above named individuals for ALA Council.
Al seconded .
Passed unanimously.

SPECIAL THANKS

Fred S. recognized the great efforts that went into the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Program. The committee is looking for feedback, about the program itself and also about what your library does for MLK day. Forms were provided for that purpose at the program.

BUDGET

Nell had three items:

International Responsibilities Task Force requested up to \$1308, making a total of \$2000 available for the Task Force's Cuba program.

Carol so moved.
Mark seconded
Vote: 6-0 (only at-large Action Council members may vote on fiscal matters)

Fred suggested that Nell make a proposal for having a new process for determining budget.

NEW TASK FORCE ON AIDS-HIV

AC voted unanimously to grant provisional status to a new task force as per our procedure for doing so.
The new Task Force is AIDS-HIV Information Task Force.
Fred read the mission statement of the task force and the petition was circulated as per the bylaws.

The Task Force will be discussed again at Annual. Treasurer noted out that establishing a new task force has fiscal liabilities and our approach might be that we would give the Task Force seed money and then it might seek grants.

Mark moved to grant provisional status to the AIDS-HIV Information Task Force with an allocation of \$300 for 2001-2002 start-up costs.

AI seconded
Approved 6-0 (only AC at-large members may vote on budgetary items)

MEETING WITH OLOS & SRRT RIBBONS

Fred attended a meeting with OLOS to learn about the resources available from OLOS. OLOS has a community officer, Beatriz Calvin, which can arrange for ribbons etc. We can also do advertising in AL through OLOS.

AC unanimously approved the appropriation of up to \$500 for new SRRT ribbons that would have slogans such as "Many Voices @ Your Library" or "Social Responsibilities @ Your Library." Fred will take care of investigating the ribbons.

Moved by AI K.
Seconded by Ann S.

AC voted to co-sponsor Rhonda Neugebauer's ACRL program at Annual "Social Movements, Marginal Groups and the Internet."

Moved by AI K.
Seconded by Ann S.

AC voted unanimously to endorse an ALA Legislative Committee resolution before council related to LSTA.

Moved by AI Kagan
Seconded by Carol Barta

AI Kagan gave a report on the Jerusalem IFLA meeting, which will appear in the newsletter. He noted that Palestinians and Arabs boycotted the meeting and had a separate meeting in Cairo. He reported that the conference itself proved to be contentious and Zionist-oriented, even though there was an advance pledge otherwise. Some librarians from third world countries were denied visas.

The issue of Cuba also came up in FAIFE, where Marta Terry asked for rebuttal time especially since she was never consulted on the report. She made a long impassioned rebuttal and AI also spoke to this issue.

The new IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group developed 13 recommendations related to the gap between the information-rich and the information –poor. This was approved by the IFLA professional board and is posted on the IFLA web site.
<http://www.ifla.org/VII/dg/srdg/index.htm>

Fred made an announcement, also placed on the minutes, about the USAID Open House taking place during Midwinter. Mark raise that SRRT should not appear to endorse such an event; an announcement can be made, but it should not be in the minutes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Nell Moved.
Carol seconded
Unanimous
Meeting adjourned at 4:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Ann Sparanese,
Secretary