

Bill DeJohn, acting as chairman, read the summary of the events and topics discussed at the Sunday meeting, since there were over 200 librarians present, and many had not been at the previous meeting. He then asked for comments or topics to be added to the issues that had already been discussed and were to be presented to the membership meeting.

Intellectual Freedom

The first topic added was the report of the Intellectual Freedom Committee that was reported at the Monday meeting. Discussion centered on the omission of any machinery for a support fund in the report. A report from JMRT meeting on Sunday was given, in which it was said that Mohrhardt told them that ALA could support someone, but only by invitation. No procedures were given for the invitation, however. Gordon MacSheen reported that he had tried to invite support, with no success after a year. Another reported that when the item of an issue was seen to occur soon at a library in Missouri, and a letter was sent to ALA requesting advise on procedure in an Intellectual Freedom question, the response received was a form letter with a list of publications of the ALA on intellectual freedom and other matters.

Dues and Restructuring

The report of the Membership Sub-Committee on dues was raised, and Dave Laird suggested that this issue be tied to the need for restructuring ALA. Trish Raley, Bill Emerson spoke to the issue. Jim Michaels said that we must consider short range vs. long range change goals. Now we should design a program for change in the next year. Charles Weisenberg read a resolution he prepared for introduction at the Membership meeting concerned with short and long range goals; the resolution stated that an amount be added to present dues as a token of good faith (like a surtax) up to 20 per cent of present dues. In the meanwhile, work on restructuring should proceed, and be reviewed in Detroit. Ann Kalkoff suggested that the ALA could consider publishing the amount of salary reported by librarians. A suggestion was made that we pay our dues to the treasurer of our own group or withhold dues until restructuring is in progress. A parliamentary procedure rule was raised, that at the Membership meeting there would be no opportunity to amend the suggested dues structure on these lines of restructuring; the only option would be to pass or not pass on it. A voice vote was taken on the position of those present, and it was overwhelmingly to defeat the proposed dues structure. Eldred ---- suggested that the way to effect restructuring was to defeat the dues and then elect 12 counselors to call for restructuring. Another dues proposal suggested was ~~taxing the members~~ concerned the reiteration of dues to salary, and was introduced by Albert Carlson.

Opposition Slate

David Weil spoke to the importance of gaining power in the form of seats on Council. Discussion general on this issue followed intermittantly.

ALA Staff Positions

Four vacancies now exist in headquarters staff. Jim Nelson suggested that we ask that none of these positions be filled, and that no one take the positions until restructuring of ALA is begun. Some discussion followed.

Petition

Kathy Weidel read the petition noting three changes needed soon in restructuring, prepared by members of the Congress for Change and the New York Round Table. David Laird and others commented.

Procedure for Wednesday

Contacting individual councilors and concentrating on individual issues was discussed by Nina Ladoff and Pauline Atherton. Zola Horn added to discussion of strategy. The following four items of priority were, after some discussion, but no vote, generally agreed to be of prime importance. They are listed in order of priority: 1) Dues and restructuring 2) 90-day amendment, 3) Intellectual Freedom support in ALA 4) Restructuring issues based on the petition. An attempt was made to break up into smaller groups concerned with each of these issues. Father Jovian Lang agreed to act as floor manager, informing the Chairman of the meeting of his action to help. Speakers should give names and issues on which they will speak to Father Jovian Lang.

The meeting broke up into smaller groups, and no record of discussion ⁱⁿ these is given.

Jackie
Eubanks

23 June 1969

TO: Bill De John, Chairman, Social Responsibilities Roundtable
FROM: Charles M. Weisenberg, Member, SR Roundtable Organizing Committee

It has been made quite clear that AIA is facing a major financial crisis. Unfortunately, it has not become quite as clear to quite as many people that AIA is also facing an equally serious crisis in its programs and goals and operations. The open meeting on the proposed new dues structure has made it clear to me that one of these crisis areas cannot be dealt with independently of the other.

I have become convinced that the proposed new dues structure is unacceptable without changes in the program-goals-operations area. It may well be an irresponsible act to vote down the dues proposals and thus cripple AIA so that meaningful changes can never be made. It may not be practicable to vote down these objectionable dues proposals and then as for major reforms within AIA.

I, THEREFORE, RECOMMEND that the members of the Social Responsibilities Roundtable support a dues increase of a flat 10 or 20 percent of existing dues (or of the proposed new dues). This proposal should be made at the membership meeting with the following declarations:

1 - We recognize that AIA must have additional funds with which to operate, however, we are not prepared to accept drastic changes in financial matters without changes in other areas.

2 - The increase we are willing to support is intended to serve as a partial "stop gap" measure and a sign of our intentions to support AIA and keep it alive.

3 - We will consider additional dues alterations in 1970 providing that there has been some movement to establish new priorities for such vital programs as ~~the~~ Intellectual Freedom. We believe that one year is adequate time for enough action to be taken to indicate a new direction for this organization.

4 - We recognize that this dues adjustment may still require cutbacks that will hurt all of us in areas with which we are deeply concerned. However, this cutbacks should be made along the lines of a new series of priorities that will give us the hope that more money and more changes will come hand in hand.

5 - We do not hesitate going back to the membership for dues increases two or even three years in a row IF we can justify such requests.

6 - This proposal places a heavy burden on the AIA leadership and membership because it says that we all have one year in which to show signs of forward movement. Failure will be on all of our backs and we call upon the entire membership to be concerned and active in the next twelve months.