

ALA SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

SRRT

Business Meeting June 30, 1970

AGENDA

1. Introduction by Coordinator of Action Council
2. Report of the By-Laws Committee
3. Newly-elected Action Council
4. Clearinghouse Report
5. Task Forces
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Philadelphia resolutions, transmitted to the business meeting
8. Formation of new Task Forces
9. New Business
10. Announcements

# ALA SoCial Responsibilities Round Table

BUSINESS MEETING

June 30, 1970

Bill DeJohn opened the meeting at 4:40 PM with some general comments about SRRT activity and progress during the past year, noting that:

SRRT is now the largest round table in ALA with 1013 members, the success of 321.8's opposition slate (the second such in ALA history) was partly due to SRRT's activity, SRRT's policy of open meetings, begun at Mid-winter, was apparently being followed by others at this Conference, results of SRRT's contact with library school, suggesting they help send students to ALA Conference, were favorable; about 75 students have been given some kind of help as a direct response to SRRT's letter, East Coast Conference at Philadelphia was attended by over 100 people ( some new members,) task forces in existence during past year: Outreach, Intellectual Freedom, and Recruitment of Minorities.

By-laws Committee report by Jackie Eubanks. Non-SRRT members were requested not to vote during the meeting. It was pointed out that the legal name of SRRT ( Social Responsibilities of Libraries Round Table ) would have to be retained to make the by-laws legal until a formal application to drop ' of Libraries ' to the Committee on Organization could be made, which would be done by the new Action Council. The words ' of Libraries will be inserted in the by-laws wherever the terms 'Social Responsibilities Round Table' appear. Discussion of the by-laws:

Sec. 1,2,3 were accepted without discussion.

Sec. 4.a.1. Discussion centered around the number of other committees that Action Council and Clearinghouse members could serve on in ALA, with questions arising about the effect of ALA's new by-laws on SRRT; whether a SRRT Task Force counted as a committee within the limits of SRRT's by-laws; and whether elected positions should count. The general feeling was that ALA's by-laws took care of multiple appointments, that we would have to abide by them in any case, and that in the event of conflict, those members of Action Council and Clearinghouse affected

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would have to make their own priority decisions in the matter. It was hoped that SRRT activity would take priority. After a call for the opinion of Action Council members, who generally supported the section as written, it was then adopted.

- Sec. 4.a.2. Question about whether someone could be a member of Action Council and Clearinghouse at the same time was clarified by Jackie Eubanks, and the section was accepted.
- Sec. 4.a.3 Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 4.a.4. Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 4.a.5. Question of simultaneous membership on Action Council and Clearinghouse arose again and a motion was made by Robert Godinski of Washington University that the following be added after number (3) : "(4) no member of the Action Council shall simultaneously be a member of the Clearinghouse." This motion was accepted without discussion. The entire sub-section was then also accepted without further discussion.
- Sec. 4.a.6. The typographical error on line 3 was corrected to read: 4.a.5. . The words 'or resignation' were inserted after disqualification in line 2. Accepted.
- Sec. 4.a.7. Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 4.a.8. Jackie Eubanks noted the typographical error in line 5: the words Treasurer and Secretary were improperly exchanged and will be corrected in the final copy. Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 4.b. Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 4.c. Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 5. Some discussion on whether or not it was legal to deviate from Robert's Rules of Order. Bill DeJohn cleared up by quoting from Robert's, which does allow for this. A motion by Carolyn Forsman to change Sec.5.b. to read: ... Action Council and Clearinghouse shall, and other task forses and project groups may, meet ... , was defeated. Long discussion about the number of members needed to make a quorum ended with a motion to refer the question back to the by-laws committee. Motion defeated. The question was not resolved.
- Sec. 6. Accepted without discussion.
- Sec. 7. Accepted without discussion.

Motion to accept the by-laws as a whole, as amended, was unanimously passed.

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Bill DeJohn presented the SRRT election results, with the comment that only 250 ballots were returned to him out of the 750 mailed. New Action Council introduced (see attached list.) In order to meet the requirements of the new by-laws, the 5 members of the new Action Council with the highest votes were appointed by DeJohn to serve the two year terms; the five with the lowest votes would serve for one year. Clearinghouse would do likewise. No objections were heard. Jean Anne South resigned her position on the new Action Council in order to continue as Coordinator of SRRT's Intellectual Freedom Task Force. David Weill, who placed 10th in the election, was appointed to replace Jean Anne. Marilyn Gell, who placed eleventh in the election, was appointed the tenth member, according to the new by-laws.

Clearinghouse report by Joan Marshall. The Detroit Conference issues of the Newsletter will be sent to all SRRT membership. A new mailing list is to be made up based on cards sent out in May issue, thus everyone desiring to be on it should return the cards. More local news is needed for Newsletter. A volunteer is needed to fill the one vacancy not filled by the election.

Task Forces reports. Bill DeJohn summarized activities to save time, since the meeting was running late. The Recruitment of Minorities group is working with the ALA Office of Recruitment on a Pre-Conference for Dallas. ( James Wright's report is attached.) The Intellectual Freedom Task Force will continue, with Jean Anne South as Coordinator. Micki Vacarro gave a brief reading of recommendations of the Outreach Task Force and disbanded the group. The full report will be published. Mention of the fact that Task Forces were set up to be phased out each year, unless their function is really needed.

Treasurer's report given by Ruthanne Boyer. (see attached copy.)

(Bob Croneberger presiding) Philadelphia resolutions read by Croneberger, for acceptance by the SRRT membership to send them to the ALA Membership Meeting. It was noted that no amendments or changes could be made in them since they had already been printed and submitted for the agenda. Resolutions numbers I, III, IV, V, VI, VII were passed. Resolution number II was not read. (see attached copy.)

**ALA**  
**SoCial Responsibilities**  
**Round Table**

BUSINESS MEETING, p. 4

(Bill DeJohn presiding.) The formation of new Task Forces was put off due to lateness of the meeting, but it was suggested that members present their ideas to Action Council later in the week if they had anything in mind.

New business. Ellis Hodgins presented the following resolution:

Resolved that, the members of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, the Director and Assistant Director for the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom and the members of the Freedom to Read Foundation meet jointly at some period prior to the Mid-winter Conference, 1971, and construct a definition of Intellectual Freedom which shall be a common definition for all three groups and that contained in that definition shall be a statement, as recommended by the New Directions Intellectual Freedom Report and numerous other ALA members, that Intellectual Freedom encompasses all rights, human, civil, and legal, as guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States of America. Passed.

Jack Forman's resolution on 18 year-old vote was read with changed wording due to recent Congressional action in favor of the vote. The SRRT membership accepted the changes and passed the resolution.

Bill Hinchliff made a strong call for support of the ACONDA Report's manpower section, especially the second office of recruiter to be set up in ALA's Washington office.

A vote of confidence for Bill DeJohn was called for from the floor and enthusiastically given.

Meeting adjourned at about 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Akeroyd, Secretary

Ruthanne Boyer, Acting Secretary **RB**

~~OF LIBRARIANS~~  
**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE**  
**American Library Association**

ORGANIZATION AND ACTION:

How to Play Socially Responsible Round Table Games

1. The name of this organization shall be the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.
2. The purpose of this Social Responsibilities Round Table shall be:
  - (a) to provide a forum for the discussion of the responsibilities of libraries in relation to the important problems of social change which face institutions and librarians;
  - (b) to provide for exchange of information among all ALA units about library activities with the goal of increasing understanding of current social problems;
  - (c) to act as a stimulus to the Association and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs;
  - (d) to present programs, arrange exhibits and carry out other appropriate activities.
3. Membership will consist of personal members and of affiliate members who will be free to act using SRRT.
  - (a) Any personal member of ALA may elect to become a personal member of the Round Table upon payment of annual dues, with the right to vote and to volunteer to serve as a member. A personal member is free to act in three ways: 1) as an individual, through discussion and action at the annual meeting, through volunteering to committees which serve the Round Table, through correspondence, publication and other appropriate activities; 2) by working in a group on a national task force or project group, through studies and surveys with reports and recommendations and other appropriate activities; 3) by organizing and working with local Affiliate Member groups.
  - (b) Any group organized regionally or locally to work on problems of social responsibilities of librarians or libraries will be welcome to associate with the Round Table as an Affiliate Member. Affiliate membership shall entitle the group to receive publications of the Round Table and to participate by reporting on activities for dissemination to all the membership; it shall not entitle members of the group who are not Personal Members of the Round Table to vote or hold office in the Round Table. An Affiliate Member group is free to take advantage of SRRT communications via newsletters, and can ask for advice and support or other appropriate activities from the Round Table.
4. Working groups will be established in the areas of activity. Members are encouraged to volunteer to act on the issues with which they are concerned in any of these groups.
  - (a) Personal Members can volunteer to be elected to two committees serving all the Round Table members.
    - (1) An Action Council of ten members shall be

selected by mail following procedures outlined below, and shall take office immediately after the annual conference. At the annual conference, prior to the business or program meetings of the Round Table, the new Action Council will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Coordinator, and a Coordinator, a Treasurer, and a Recording Secretary will be selected by the new Council from volunteers in its membership. Action council shall have the responsibilities of (1) determining the program at the next annual conference, (2) submitting projects or endorsing projects of volunteer task forces of the Round Table, (3) soliciting volunteers and appointing members to ALA unit positions which accrue to the Coordinator ex-officio and to committees to help the Council to meet their organizational responsibilities, (4) coordinating the dissemination of information to the general membership in conjunction with the Clearinghouse. No member of Action Council will accept appointment from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA.

- (2) A Clearinghouse of six members shall be elected by mail following procedures outlined below, and shall take office immediately after the annual conference. At the Annual conference, prior to the business or program meeting of the Round Table, the new Clearinghouse will meet under the auspices of the outgoing Secretary and select a Secretary from its membership who will serve as editor of the newsletter and who will report to the Coordinator of the Action Council. The Clearinghouse shall have the responsibility of coordinating and disseminating information of the progress of national task forces and of Affiliate Member groups and other news of importance to the Round Table through newsletters and through correspondence; and of advising the Action Council of matters from members that may be included in the annual conference program or may be referred to appropriate national task forces. No member of Clearinghouse will accept appointment from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA.
- (3) The term of office for both committees shall be for two years, with five members being elected each year for the Action Council and three members being elected each year for the Clearinghouse.
- (4) Individual members who wish to volunteer to serve on either elected committee will submit their names, their committee preference, a statement about policy and action on social responsibilities of librarians, and a short biographical note to the Recording Secretary of the Action Council by November 1. No candidate will accept appointment or nomination from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA. The names of all the volunteers

*STUDENTS* →

will be submitted to the Personal Members for election.

(5) Elected members of either committee will be considered disqualified and their positions vacant if they (1) accept appointment from more than one other group (committee, Council, etc.) in ALA, (2) fail to respond to two consecutive communications from the Coordinator or Secretary, or (3) fail to attend meetings without approval of their committee. The Action Council Coordinator and Clearinghouse Secretary will inform committee members of status of the members in these aspects of eligibility from time to time.

(6) Positions on either committee left vacant because of incumbent's disqualification, as described in 4.a.5. above, shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the next runner-up in the most recent election. The Action Council Coordinator or Clearinghouse Secretary will welcome any new member and inform the member of progress of the committee.

(7) Outgoing members of either committee will not be eligible to volunteer for either committee for a period of one year.

(8) In the meetings of the new Action Council and Clearinghouse before the general membership meetings at the annual conference, if there is more than one volunteer for the office of Coordinator, Recording Treasurer, or Secretary, and no decision can be made by the respective committees, the membership present at the annual business meeting may be asked to select from the volunteers the one who shall serve in the office.

(b) Personal Members, at their own will or by volunteering to projects proposed by the Action Council, may choose to form into groups for specific projects.

A short statement of members, purpose, goals, and duration of operation shall be submitted by the group to the Coordinator of the Action Council to establish the group. Summary communications on progress of the group will be made in writing for the duration of the project; these summary communications will be sent to the Coordinator for consideration and/or endorsement of the Action Council and for dissemination to the general membership. These project groups may meet as frequently as necessary for their stated duration.

Project groups may decide, or may ask Action Council to decide, on some control of their membership, that is, the amount of action considered necessary to remain a member of the project group.

(c) Personal members and/or non-members may choose to form groups and to join the Round Table as a group Affiliate Member.

Groups who elect affiliate membership in the Round Table should submit a short statement of members, purpose, goals and duration of operation to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse. Summary communications on progress of the group and recommendations in brief written form will be made at intervals for the duration of affiliate membership; these summary communications will be sent to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse for the newsletter and/or referral to the Action Council.

5. There will be some meetings at all activity levels of the Round Table.

(a) Personal Members can act as individuals at the annual meeting of the Round Table which shall take place during the annual meeting of ALA. As individuals, they are also welcome to midwinter group meetings.

(b) Personal Members in groups, including Action Council, Clearinghouse, and task forces or project groups shall meet during the midwinter meeting of the ALA. Action Council and Clearinghouse shall also meet during the annual meeting of ALA to elect officers in accordance with the O-A.

(c) Members of Affiliate Member groups will be welcome to attend any Round Table meeting as guests.

6. Finance of the activities of the Round Table will come from dues of the general membership and from voluntary contributions to groups.

(a) Dues for the personal and for affiliate members shall be required.

(1) The dues for personal members shall be \$5 per year.

(2) The dues for affiliate members shall be \$1 per year.

(b) If money is needed by any project group or by any affiliate member, the group may ask that such a notice is printed in the newsletter. The group will include in its notice the amount of money needed and the purpose for which the money is needed, together with a petition for donations and a mailing address. The group will send this notice to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse to be printed in a newsletter.

(c) The Treasurer is the officer authorized to approve requests for reimbursement and payment of bills for funds in the custody of the ALA Executive Board. Any requests for more than \$50.00 from a single source in a year will require Action Council approval prior to Treasurer action.

7. This statement of Organization and Action may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Round Table in attendance and voting at any annual meeting, provided notice of the proposed revision has been sent to members or printed in the ALA Bulletin at least 30 days prior to the meeting. It may also be amended by a majority vote in a mail referendum to personal members provided notice of the proposed revision has been sent to members or printed in the ALA Bulletin at least 30 days prior to the referendum.

(a) Proposals for revision may be sent by any member to the Coordinator of the Action Council for its consideration and, upon approval, referral to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse for dissemination to the membership.

(b) Any personal member(s) may send a proposal for revision to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse for printing in a newsletter, with an accompanied form indicating support which can be returned by supporters to the Secretary of the Clearinghouse. Upon receipt of 25 (twenty-five) supporting signatures from personal members, the Secretary of the Clearinghouse will proceed with dissemination of the proposal to the membership and will notify the Coordinator of the Action Council for placement on the agenda.

Secretary,

Roberts Rules

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  - (6) Positions on either committee left vacant because of incumbent's disqualification, as described in 5.a.5. above, shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the next runner-up in the most recent election. The Action Council Coordinator or Clearinghouse Secretary will welcome any new member and inform the member of progress of the committee.
  - (7) Outgoing members of either committee will not be eligible to volunteer for either committee for a period of one year.
  - (8) In the meetings of the new Action Council and Clearinghouse before the general membership meetings at the annual conference, if there is more than one volunteer for the office of Coordinator, Recording Treasurer, or Secretary, and **Coordinator, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, or Secretary, and** no decision can be made by the respective committees, the membership present at the annual business meeting may be asked to select from the volunteers the one who shall serve in the office.
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- (c) Members of Affiliate Member groups will be welcome to attend any Round Table meeting as guests.

**(d) At any meeting Roberts Rules of Order, in the latest edition, will be followed unless a vote to suspend them is affirmed by a majority of those present at the meeting.**

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RESOLUTIONS TO BE PRESENTED AT ALA DETROIT CONFERENCE

ON WAR IN S. E. ASIA

I.

Whereas the American Library Association has a long term commitment to intellectual freedom, human welfare, faith and reliance on the open access to information and the democratic process, and the civilizing influence of libraries and

Whereas we witness now such tragic events as the murder of students on our campuses, blacks in our cities, and innocent citizens of other nations, and the growing repression of the traditional right to dissent and the subversion of our institutions for other than peaceful means and

Whereas the American Library Association can evercise its responsibilities by utilizing its prestige and resources in every way possible to bring about immediate change in the domestic and foreign policies of the United States.

Be it Resolved that the membership and Council Meeting in Detroit June 27 - July 3, 1970 adopt and act on the following:

1. That the American Library Association go on record condemning American involvement in Southeast Asia and call for the immediate withdrawal of all troops and all military aid from Indochina. To this end the Association will instruct its Washington office to use its energies and the resources to lobby for said objectives and inform the Federal Government that it refuses to pay the telephone Federal Excise tax which is committed to financing the war.

2. That the American Library Association commit itself to a vigorous program to assist in ending all forms of political repression in the United States and to publicly support those who work to end repression against such groups as the Black Panther Party. Further, the Association must seek out and expell those libraries and librarians who aid the Federal Government by making available circulation records and allowing their premises to be used for surveillance and wiretapping.

3. That the American Library Association go on record condemning military complicity in universities and other public institutions. Further, the Association must examine its own investments and relations to financial institution to insure that its funds are being used to promote the betterment of the human condition. (Resolution to be introduced by: Richard Akeroyd, Member ALA, Verteran of Vietnam University of Conn. Lib.)

Resolution on the Vietnam War and Presidential Power  
passed by SRRT members at the  
Philadelphia meeting

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II.

Whereas we are opposed to the Vietnam War and in particular the expansion of the war into Cambodia; and

Whereas We support the Cooper-Church amendment and other amendments designed to cut off funds for the war; and

Whereas we are opposed to the President's arbitrary use of his powers as Commander In Chief to expand this war;

Therefore, we, the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table, urge the United States Congress to assert its rightful authority to restrict the Presidential power to intervene militarily in other countries without the consent of the United States Congress except in response to a direct attack on the United States.

III. SRRT support of ACONDA recommendation on Council

SRRT supports the proposals of the New Directions Committee that there be 96 members of Council elected at large.

IV. Resolution on proposed changes in ALA Constitution  
and By-Laws

Be it resolved that SRRT is opposed to the proposed changes in Article 2, Sec. 2,5,6 and Article 3, Sec 3B of the by-laws and that this opposition be communicated to ACONDA and to the ALA Council.

V. Support for Intellectual Freedom

Be it resolved that ALA dedicate 1/5 of its total budget to implement the support of intellectual freedom in a program as described in Arthur Curley's "Subcommittee Report-- Intellectual Freedom" given to ACONDA.

VI. Position on the Freedom to Read Foundation

Be it resolved that SRRT advocates that it be ALA policy that no Association Funds be allocated at this time to the Freedom to Read Foundation.

VII. Librarians Bill of Rights

Based upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United States Bill of Rights, the librarian has the right and responsibility, without jeopardy to his employment, person or professional status:

1. to include in library collection any informational or recreational material from any source and to make it available to the public.
2. to protect the librarian-client relationship by withholding information which might be used to infringe upon the right to individual privacy.
3. to privately or publicly actively pursue his personal social, political and religious beliefs.
4. to exercise any of his human, civil, and constitutional or legal rights privately or publicly.