

MINUTES: 1st Action Council Meeting, ALA Midwinter Conference, Los Angeles, California, January 17, 1971.

The following members of SRRT Action Council were present: Gay Detlefsen, Jackie Eubanks, Pat Schuman, Tom Shaughnessy, Anne Sweat, and David Weill.

Meeting opened at 8:30 p.m.

1. TREASURER'S REPORT
  - Through January 11, 1971, the Treasurer, Tom Shaughnessy, paid debts of \$921.47. Balance as of January 11 was \$1,914.23 with an outstanding bill for the Alternative Books In Print (expected to be about \$230.00).
2. ACTION COUNCIL
  - Paul Wang, who was next in line to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Andy Armitage, resigned as a result of his supervisor's response to Paul's serving on Action Council. There is still a possibility that he will serve. If not, Jack Forman will take over.
  - It was announced that all people who attended the October Action Council meeting in New York split the cost, so the people traveling a great distance would not be over-burdened financially.
3. TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES
  - The ABIP is almost ready for publication.
  - Task Force on the Status of Women is publishing a newsletter and working on a program for Dallas. In addition they are planning a survey of the status of women to find out how many women are employed in libraries, what is their rank and salary, how does a woman's salary compare with a man's in a similar position, etc.
  - The Task Force on Minorities in the Profession is working on the Recruitment Pre-Conference for Dallas.
  - The Cataloging in Source Task Force reported satisfaction with the results of their selected mailing and considerable progress toward the goal of having government documents cataloged in source.
  - Task Force on Library School Students is working on curriculum improvement.
  - Intellectual Freedom
    - Jean-Anne South reported a mailing to Task Force members suggesting six "Programs of Action" which they might pursue. As of Midwinter she had received little response.
  - Gay Liberation
    - Gay Liberation Task Force prepared a Brief List of Materials on Homosexuality for distribution at Midwinter. The "list is intended to draw attention to some worthwhile materials on homosexuality that have received little publicity, as well as to emphasize items that tend to move away from standard negative views about homosexuality."
  - The Peace Task Force is still working on a bibliography.
  - Two new Task Forces have been formed. One is concerned with the American Indian; the other, with Free School and Media Centers.
4. Jackie Eubanks
  - Jackie Eubanks announced that the Conference of Concerned Law Librarians has affiliated with SRRT.
5. Clara Jones
  - Clara Jones, Director of the Detroit Public Library, read her letter

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expressing concern about the fair employment practices of book jobbers and other contractors dealing with libraries. (Letter was sent to all members of Action Council in the December 29 mailing from Pat Schuman.)

- Mrs. Jones stressed the importance of urging enforcement of fair employment practices. Minority groups should be represented at all employment levels not only in the lower echelons. She urged other libraries to join the Detroit Public Library in this cause.
- Libraries must examine their own employment practices before examining those of jobbers and contractors. Many local communities have established committees, such as a Human Relations Commission, which deal with fair employment practices as well as other problems.
- ALA must be made to face the problem. The motivation and impetus for ALA to pursue this should come from SRRT. A proposal will be drafted by SRRT and presented to ALA Council. Arthur Curley, Gay Detlefsen, and Clara Jones will meet after the Action Council meeting to draft a resolution. (Copy attached.)

#### 6. FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION

- Meetings of the Foundation were closed. Only representatives of the library press were invited to attend.
- Recommendations for nominees to the Freedom to Read Foundation must be sent to the Nominating Committee by March 22. The Foundation meets twice a year and sets policy. The Foundation can give money if ALA-OIF or the Intellectual Freedom Committee knows about the case.
- Contributions to the Merritt Fund are not tax-deductible.
- Some people at the meeting were astonished at Keith Doms' statement that "most librarians don't give a damn about intellectual freedom."
- There is a legal question of whether or not the Freedom to Read Foundation can have a Fund. It was suggested that SRRT use its own money to hire a lawyer to get a statement on the matter.
- Ellis Hodgkin's lawyer is working to get a court ruling on the question, Can an individual be fired at any time with or without a reason? The Freedom to Read Foundation voted to pay \$550.00 to get the case prepared for the court. The feeling of the Foundation seemed to be that it now is no longer a concern of FTRF; it now is a concern of ALA-LAD.
- Because it was getting late, Pat Schuman said that additional intellectual freedom matters should be kept for discussion at the Intellectual Freedom Task Force meeting on Monday afternoon.

#### 7. ACONDA

- Arthur Curley was very pessimistic in his ACONDA report. He feels that whatever ACONDA might be able to accomplish has already been accomplished. ACONDA has recommended that ALA hire a management consultant firm. Arthur Curley intends to write a minority report for Dallas.
- Bill Hinchliff said that ANACONDA has "cut the remaining guts out of ACONDA." He suggested that all SRRT members read the ACONDA Report, especially p. 12, and prepare a counter-thrust for the backlash that is coming.
- At this point the question was raised about forming an alternative organization. Jackie Eubacks voiced objection suggesting that we remain a part of ALA and use ALA's name, because sometimes it embarrasses ALA. Others said that SRRT should go on the offensive and fight. Bill Hinchliff said we have the power to take over ALA.

- It was decided that those people who wanted to discuss ACONDA further and to devise a possible course of action would meet with the three SRRT representatives on ACONDA at the SRRT suite on Monday night after the Affiliate Groups meeting.

#### 8. Carolyn Forsman

- Carolyn Forsman brought up the fact that, after the successful elimination of the 5% proposal at Detroit, she thought SRRT would have realized the necessity for gathering facts. We should have facts about ALA Councilors' attendance and voting records, etc.
- Pat Schuman said that SRRT will not do it. If some one thinks it should be done, he or she should set up a task force and do it. Set up a Task Force to Teach People to Organize, perhaps.
- Jackie Eubanks explained the structure and purpose of SRRT. It is based on the concept of participatory democracy. If members see a need and are interested, they should set up a task force to work on the problem. They should try to get other people involved in the task force, but they should not expect some one else to do the work.
- Dave Weill said the purpose of Action Council is to coordinate all activities and to keep the channels of communication (among all members) open. He said it is unfortunate that there has to be an Action Council because people, who do not understand the SRRT structure, think that, if they make a suggestion to Action Council, Action Council will do it.
- Some members present felt that SRRT-Action Council should take the initiative on some issues. A lengthy discussion followed. The opinion was expressed that SRRT was not an exercise in participatory democracy; SRRT was formed to make ALA a better organization.
  - Pat Schuman urged those who want changes in SRRT to run for Action Council in the present election.
- Jack Forman asked, "If some one has an idea and no one works on it does it die?"
- By this time many members had left the meeting; others were talking simultaneously. In an effort to conclude the business at hand, Action Council gathered in a circle.

#### 9. NEW BUSINESS

- Two new task forces have been established and are looking for volunteers. One is the Task Force on the Alternative Press Index. The other is a Task Force to Index the Bell and Howell Microfilm of the Underground Press.

#### 10. Jackie Eubanks

- The last item on the agenda was Jackie's resolution about political prisoners' lack of access to information and the proposal to have SRRT give \$200.00 to the Angela Davis Defense Fund. Much discussion followed, but Action Council was unanimously in favor of the idea. Several were hesitant about taking the action after the members had left and only Action Council was present. They felt that other SRRT members present at Midwinter should at least have an opportunity to express their opinions of the matter. It was decided to read the resolution at the Intellectual Freedom Task Force meeting on Monday afternoon and to ask members to make their feelings known to Action Council.
- The meeting adjourned very late.

Libraries have generally played a passive role in the application of fair employment practice laws. Many library suppliers are unaware of, or indifferent to the application of these Federal laws. Most libraries do not routinely seek compliance with fair employment practices from their suppliers. The lives of thousands of people would be benefitted by a concerted effort on the part of libraries across the nation to enforce fair employment practices in their business dealings. The profession would thus be a leader instead of a follower. However, before librarians attempt to seek such compliance from suppliers, they will naturally want to be certain that libraries themselves comply with these same statutes at all levels. Libraries will need assistance and guidance in the implementation of procedures to gain compliance with the fair employment practice laws.

We therefore petition Council to instruct the Library Administration Division

- (1) to guide libraries in the process of soliciting fair employment practice information from their suppliers,
- (2) to advise libraries on the enforcement of fair employment practice laws in their own employment policies and decisions,
- (3) to submit an annual report to Association membership on the status of such actions.

*William DeJohn*  
*Arthur Curdson*

Councillors-at-Large