

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE: ACTION COUNCIL

Minutes

July 13, 1982

Present: Barbara Pruett - Action Council
Doris Kirschbaum - Action Council
Barbara Gittings - Gay Liberation Task Force
Jim Nelson -
Effie Lee Morris - Coretta Scott King Award
Patricia J. Case - Alternatives in Print
David Ferguson -
John Cunningham -
Linda Pierce - Action Council
Sylva Manoogian - Ethnic Materials Information Exchange
Bonnie Jo Dopp - Feminist Task Force
Lee Regan - Task Force on International Human Rights
Julianne Beall -
Jonathan Betz-Zall -
Marjorie Joramo - SRRT Conference Arrangements & Programs
Jean E. Coleman - ALA (OLOS)
Jeanne Kocsis - Action Council
John Hostages -
David Vespa -
Billie Connor - Library Union Task Force

The meeting was called to order by Coordinator Barbara Pruett at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 13, 1982, in the Independence Room of the Philadelphia Centre Hotel. The agenda was reviewed.

1) Lee Regan presented a request to form a Task Force on International Human Rights. During the discussion it was pointed out that positions cannot be taken in the name of SRRT without first bringing the issues to Action Council for approval. Coordinator Barbara Pruett asked that related task forces be contacted in writing to set up dialogue and cooperation. Billie Connor moved that the request to form the Task Force on International Human Rights be approved. Jeanne Kocsis seconded. The motion passed. [Request is attached to these minutes.]

2) Doris Kirschbaum, SRRT Newsletter Editor, stated that the deadline for copy would be August 1. She asked permission to go to 12 pages. It would be used to insert newsletters of new affiliates and task forces inside. The SRRT Newsletter goes out to 1000 people. Membership costs \$5.00. Barbara Pruett spoke in support of the request and also suggested sending in more news items to American Libraries. All task forces should submit news to the Newsletter. All task force members should be urged to join SRRT. An effort will be made to determine our costs per member and if we can continue to support task forces without full SRRT membership. Billie Connor moved that Action Council authorize the Newsletter Editor to expand the Newsletter as required to accommodate the needs of task forces and to report costs to Action Council at Midwinter. Bonnie Jo Dopp seconded. The motion passed. Doris brought up the issue of the title citation. According to AACRII the present masthead of the Newsletter is correctly cited: SRRT Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA. It is usually cited as SRRT Newsletter. She asked if something should be done about the masthead. It was generally agreed that Doris should explore membership opinion.

3) Action Council member Nancy Gruber has resigned due to a family health problem. Action Council extended thanks and understanding. The Coordinator was to appoint a replacement to Action Council.

4) Annual reports of task forces are due in writing at Midwinter according to the SRRT Constitution. Action Council will now enforce. Such reports are needed for many reasons: ALA's needs, SRRT's historical archives, etc. During the discussion several were made:

1. We should urge all task forces to submit minutes, newsletters, records, etc., to the SRRT Archivist.

2. Action Council minutes should always be mailed to all members.
3. Each task force should receive a request in advance to turn in annual report and budget at Midwinter. A one-page introduction as to responsibilities and deadlines will be drafted by Bonnie Dopp by Midwinter.

A motion was made by Billie Connor that the Coordinator send a letter to all task forces alerting them to the deadline for annual reports and budgets at Midwinter. Linda Pierce seconded. The motion was passed.

5) Effie Lee Morris reported on the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force. The major project of this task force is a breakfast at Annual Conference at which awards are given. The award has been presented for 13 years and sponsored by SRRT for two years. The 1982 awards were presented to Mildred Taylor, author of Let the Circle Be Unbroken (Dial), and John Steptoe, illustrator of Mother Crocodile (Delacorte Press). Awards consist of a plaque, an honorarium of \$250, and a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica to the author, World Book to the illustrator. Honorable Mention citations were given to: Alice Childress, Rainbow Jordan (Coward); Kristin Hunter, Lou in the Limelight (Scribner); Mary Mebane, Mary (Viking); and illustrator Tom Feelings for Daydreams (Dial). This year's speeches were wonderful; Mildred Taylor's was given in her absence by her editor, and John Steptoe presented his own. They will be published for sale. According to Awards Committee and ALA Council it is now an official ALA Award. All members of the Task Force are members of SRRT. [ALA's press release and the award brochure are attached to these minutes.]

Jean Coleman, ALA/OLOS, brought up the possibility of increasing in the future the ALA 5% assessment to ALA General Funds (for staff liaison, accounting, and other services such as publicity) to 10% because of support costs or charging directly to the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force. It was decided that Action Council would deal with it when the time arises.

6) Gay Task Force Coordinator Barbara Gittings reported on the Task Force's successful Conference programs. The Gay Book Awards were presented on Monday, July 12, at a meeting attended by over 300. A slide show was presented on Tuesday. [Flyer attached.] A 50th birthday party for Barbara Gittings was the Sunday evening, July 11, feature. SRRT Action Council presented her a plaque done in calligraphy. Barbara received a round of congratulatory applause.

- 7) SRRT had a booth in the Conference exhibits. Doris Kirschbaum, Bill Galloway and those who helped staff it were thanked.
- 8) The Ethnic Materials Information Exchange was reported to be on the way to becoming a round table. David Cohen went to the Committee on Organization (COO) with the request and is now getting 100 more signatures. A transitional team will be in charge. Sylva Manoogian is the past coordinator and will continue as Action Council representative. David Cohen will be the new coordinator.
- 9) Barbara Pruett made her report as coordinator:
1. Barbara is a new member of the Committee on Organization (COO). COO has started a study of the organization of new round tables, of which there are many. COO is responsible for the initiation of new units or the dissolution thereof. A subcommittee has been charged with determination of why, a look at structure, etc. A more definite mechanism is needed and the subcommittee's study may result in it. Barbara has asked for appointment to this subcommittee.
 2. Committee on Planning (COP) is discussing the issue of program content vis a vis ALA's priorities. The Action Council incoming Board met with Barbara Pruett and Herb Messler of COP on the subject [see Barbara Pruett's letter, response, etc.]. This issue was directly linked to ALA's budgetary process so, initially, round tables were not involved; at some point they became involved. Copies of all documentation were requested as well as a statement on round tables and round table relationship to this requirement. Our opinion is that this should be a voluntary compliance. COP was told that, henceforth, SRRT expects to be involved. We will not respond to anything unless this is resolved. Action Council will schedule a meeting at Midwinter to discuss this with task force chairs. Ethnic Materials Information Exchange addressed this in their business meeting and produced appropriate documents which might be useful for other task forces to use in evaluating their programs.
- 10) Feminist Task Force representative Bonnie Dopp reminded everyone of the resolutions on Wednesday's Membership Meeting agenda concerning Midwinter meetings and abortion information.

- 11) A memo from Jean Coleman concerning the cost of back issues of the Newsletter was discussed [attached]. A motion was made by Jim Nelson to increase the price of back issues to \$2.00 each. It was seconded by John Hostage and the motion was passed by Action Council.
- 12) It was reported that the Ad hoc Ku Klux Klan Committee has proposed a name change to SRRT Klan Watch Task Force. David Ferguson made the motion that Action Council approve the concept of changing both the status and the name to SRRT Klan Watch Task Force. Barbara Gittings seconded. Coordinator Barbara Pruet pointed out that Action Council cannot approve a change without a written statement of purpose, goals, etc. A written budget request proposal is also required before budget can be approved. The motion and second were withdrawn.
- 13) David Vespa, Program Chair, reported that all program deadlines must be met by task forces.
- 14) Linda Pierce asked for a volunteer to work with the membership committee next year to produce a membership promotion brochure. Bonnie Dopp volunteered.
- 15) The need to work on sensible approach to the endorsement of candidates for ALA Council, etc., was discussed. In the past a list of members of SRRT who were running for office was published in the SRRT Newsletter. One suggestion was that we have a special mailing. Everyone was asked to think about it and be prepared to discuss it at Midwinter. It was also suggested that an article be published in the Newsletter on how to get elected.
- 16) Alternatives in Print Task Force budget request was discussed: \$100 was requested for a project that would survey in-house indexing of little magazines and \$500 was requested for program costs at the next annual Conference. A motion was made by Jim Nelson and seconded by Sylva Manoogian that \$100 be approved for the project, that funding for program be set aside at requested \$500 figure and that any other action on Alternatives in Print be deferred until Midwinter. The motion passed.
- 17) The Treasurer reported that SRRT's income is \$5299 and the budget amounts allocated exceed that. At the time of the meeting there was a hefty balance which was expected to accommodate that; however, it was pointed out that extreme care must be taken in the future to live within our income.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted with
apologies for the lateness,
Billie Connor
Billie Connor, Secretary