

Drafts of
the 86
minutes

ALA/SRRT/Action Council
Minutes - Midwinter 1986

January 18, 1986. The meeting was called to order by John Sheridan. Members introduced themselves. The Chair announced the vacancy by resignation of Nancy Gruber.

Susan Vaughn gave the Treasurer's report. She asked that Task Force coordinators check and revise their allotments.

The minutes of the meeting of July 6, 1985 were approved.

The Chair reminded everyone of SRRT's Presidential candidates' forum Monday night, January 20. Charlie Robinson is a third candidate.

The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, Library Service to Special Population Section, wants us to co-sponsor a program, "Patrons in Crisis", including Mitch Snyder of the Community for Creative Non-Violence, Washington. This program would take place at the New York conference in July 1986. The request was approved. The Chair also read a ^{similar} request from ASCLA-LSSPS Library Services to Prisoners Forum, ~~Supporting the Section's request.~~ *That request was also approved*

The Civil Rights Task Force of SRRT wanted a program at the summer conference but the deadline for listing programs has passed. Their concern is with the increasingly limited action of writers of color to publishers.

The Chair mentioned the World Book ALA goals grant - two \$5,000 awards to organizations that help advance the goals of ALA. Since SRRT stands for library services to all, including minorities, women, the handicapped, institutionalized, etc., this was listed as a possible grant source.

The Office for Library Personnel Resources has released a report on the distribution of ethnic minorities in library schools. The results are less than satisfactory. SRRT might send a representative to the Library Education Assembly.

There is a proposal to charge (according to the Chair) for listing all, including SRRT's, publications in the ALA's catalog of publications.

Nomination forms for Action Council were distributed. GODORT (Government Documents Round Table) is doing a series of information booklets on ALA groups and services, and wants to do one on us. ~~John Sheridan will provide information.~~

The proposal of Ernest Dane to put books on nuclear war in all libraries was endorsed earlier by SRRT and he now seeks re-endorsement. We endorse his proposal, but not the specific booklist

discussed

The Pro-Peace March scheduled for summer and autumn 1986, from Los Angeles to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, was ~~mooted~~ as a possible SRRT activity. The California Library Association's Librarians for Nuclear Arms Control was suggested providing the marchers with a traveling library, including free materials to distribute to surrounding communities.

Noel Peattie

January 19, 1986. Blackwell North America's treatment of sex in their subject profiles, that is, the use of sexist subject headings, has been acknowledged and corrected, according to the letter received and read by the Chair.

Noel Peattie, representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation, gave a report on its daylong meeting of January 17. The work of the FTRF consists in supporting, either as plaintiff or as amicus curiae, librarians and others under legal attempts at censorship. Particular attention was given to the Indianapolis anti-pornography ordinance, concerning which the Feminist Task Force has not been able to find unity; to the Morison case, in which a civilian Navy employee has been convicted of sending classified photograph of a Soviet naval vessel to the British publisher Jane's; and the case of Margaret Randall, former U.S. citizen strongly sympathetic to the Left, whose request to be admitted to the U.S. has been denied by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization officials. ~~She will be supported by a letter from the Chair.~~ Daniel Tsang raised questions concerning threats to the private possession of alleged pornography, citing the example of an FBI agent who at a recent meeting displayed such work and said it should be banned. Peattie replied that as far as the FTRF was concerned, where no prosecution has actually taken place, they cannot do anything; "no writ, no remedy." It is important to know that FTRF is a legal outgrowth of the American Library Association, not a consciousness-raising organization.

Linda Pierce reported that the Round Table Coordinating Committee is now in being and fully organized.

Peattie's resolution on racism was discussed. In a recent ALA questionnaire concerning proposed ALA activities, only 7% answered that they thought ALA should get more involved in social responsibilities, but the question was put in a negative fashion. Jackie Eubanks pointed out that the intent of the resolution actually uses the Fourteenth Amendment to strengthen the First, not weaken it. Peattie will chair a committee, consisting of Carol Greenholz (Huntington, NY) and Kate Schackford of the Council on Interracial Books for Children (New York).

Noel Peattie

January 21, 1986. Request from the Coalition on Aging to co-sponsor a program for the San Francisco Conference, the title is, "Library Services to the Aging - Partnership Approach". No money is being requested just support and perhaps someone to be involved in planning. Action Council approved the request.

The Feminist Task Force requested that they be allowed to have a meeting conflict with Action Council at New York. They want to meet Saturday morning to have a program on feminist/women's activities in ALA. Since it is a one-shot deal and not likely to inconvenience a lot of people the conflict was approved.

Betty Carol Sellen, representing the Feminist Task Force, requested that Action Council support the pre-conference that the Task Force is planning for San Francisco. The pre-conference will focus on improving communication between white and blacks. Action Council endorsed the pre-conference and agreed to discuss how much money should be given during the discussion of the budget.

The Chair reported that the Lacy report had been accepted (not fully endorsed) by ALA, with some revisions.

Dan Tsang reported on the minority employment and recruitment problem as discussed at an OLPR hearing. Because of fiscal constraints and some voiced hostility to affirmative action, minority recruitment remains an unresolved problem.

In order to tell library school students about SRRT copies of the pre-conference issue of the SRRT Newsletter will be sent to the various library schools in the New York area. If successful, the same procedure will be followed at the San Francisco conference with copies being sent to the New York schools.

John Hostage forwarded a request to see if there was anyone who would be willing to be the next editor of the SRRT Newsletter. He is ready for a break. It was decided that John would write a piece about the editorship in the next issue of the newsletter to encourage people to inquire about it. The status of the newsletter will be discussed at the Tuesday meeting of Action Council at the New York conference.

Dan Tsang reported that, at the annual meeting, the Gay Task Force will present a resolution to membership on non-discrimination in recruitment regarding gay/lesbian librarians. This was instigated by the fact that the CIA was recruiting at the midwinter meeting.

Action Council decided not to endorse any of the three candidates for President of ALA this year. It did, however, endorse Gail Warner and Mary Biblo for ALA Council.

Linda Pierce volunteered to write to the Black Caucus, Reforma, Asian Librarians and Jewish Caucus to ask for a list of their members who might wish SRRT endorsement.

The 1985/86 Budget was discussed. 26% (= \$800) was added for postage and printing, plus \$100 for the Civil Rights Task Force. New requests for 1986/87 totalled \$3,720.

The Feminist Task Force pre-conference will be assisted with \$1,000, if more money is needed a supplemental allocation may be requested at the next Midwinter meeting.

The Books for Nicaragua project gained approval of SRRT's name on the letterhead.

Noel Peattie and Linda Pierce