

## MINUTES

### Social Responsibilities Round Table Action Council

June 29, 1991

It should be noted that the minutes for the 1991 Action Council meetings have not been approved by Action Council membership. This will occur at Midwinter 1992.

The meeting began at 9:40 with a reminder from SRRT Coordinator Denise Botto that the primary purpose of this meeting was to examine any resolutions which came before Action Council.

Action Council voted to approve an ALA resolution requesting legislative action which would make public librarians serving low-income communities eligible for the same loan reduction programs as teachers and school librarians. Coordinator Botto was to inform the author.

Action Council members voted to shut off a tape recorder, fearing that it might impede discussion.

Sandy Berman reported on the recent Richard R. Kreimer vs. Morristown, NJ case, adding that the Freedom to Read Association would support the plaintiff/ACLU while Morristown Public Library will reportedly ask ALA for support. Action Council voted to send a memo to the ALA Executive Board which reads:

The Social Responsibilities Round Table opposes ALA support for the Morristown, New Jersey Public Library appeal of Judge Sarskin's decision concerning the right of access to public libraries.

Elizabeth Morrisett and Sandy Berman were asked to prepare and deliver the memo.

Elizabeth Morrisett brought a resolution on access to information and discrimination against marginal users to Action Council for endorsement. SRRT unanimously endorsed the resolution, which will be taken to membership by Morrisett.

David Williams brought to Action Council a draft IFC resolution on the free flow of information in Israeli-occupied territories.

After considerable discussion, Al Kagan moved to endorse the intent of the IFC draft, but not the language, which Kagan felt should be stronger. The motion passed unanimously.

David Williams suggested changes which he will present to IFC at their next meeting. A motion to that effect was made, with 6 voting "yes," 5 voting "no," and 2 abstaining.

Information was presented on a resolution concerning U.S. membership in UNESCO.

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL

June 29, 1991

| Name  | Role   | Address  |
|---|--|--|
| Gail Warner   | SRRT Action Council  | Oxnard Public Library<br>Oxnard, CA  |
| Linda Pierce<br>Elizabeth Morrissett  | SRRT Action Council<br>TF Refugees, Migration,<br>Homeless   |  |
| Jackie Eubanks<br>Sanford Berman<br>Al Kagan<br>Steve Murden<br>Theresa Tobin<br>Ginny Daley<br>Dotty Granger | SRRT Action Council<br>MSRRT Rep.<br>IHRTF<br>SRRT Action Council<br>SRRT Action Council<br>FTF<br>FTF/Interested Person | Brooklyn CUNY<br>HCL<br>Univ. of CT<br>Richmond, VA<br>MIT Cambridge, MA<br>Duke University<br>Pacific Oaks College<br>Pasadena, CA                |
| Sherre Dryden<br>Madeleine Tainton<br>David Williams<br>Mark Rosenzweig<br>Carolynne Myall                    | FTF Coordinator<br>FTF Coordinator-Elect<br>IHRTF<br>SRRT Action Council<br>Ref. from Wash. State<br>SRRT                | Nashville, TN<br>Rochester, NY<br>Chicago Public Library<br>Mid-Manhattan/NYPL   |
| Elaine Harger<br>Nancy Gruber<br>Terry Link<br>Sherry Kelley<br>Carol Barta                                   | Library Union Task Force<br>SRRT Member<br>TF on Environment<br>SRRT Liaison to CC:DA<br>KLA-SRRT Chair                  | Spokane, WA<br>Empire State, NY<br>DataCenter, Oakland, CA<br>Mich. State U.<br>Library of Congress<br>Saint Mary College<br>Leavenworth, KS 66048 |
| Cynthia Johanson<br>Carolyn Garnes<br>Daniel Tsang<br>John Sandstrom  | SRRT Action Council<br>SRRT Action Council<br>AC<br>GLTF   | Library of Congress<br>Atlanta-Fulton P.L.<br>UC Irvine<br>Houston Public  |

ALA RESOLUTION:  
Librarian Loan Reductions

Whereas:

1. Public librarians are not currently eligible for loan reduction programs for education professionals under the Higher Education Assistance Act of 1965; and
2. Public school librarians are eligible for loan reduction programs under said act; and
3. Public librarians provide similar services to those provided by school librarians, and in low-income areas, must often fill the gap left by underfunded and understaffed school libraries; and,
4. The costs of undergraduate studies, and graduate programs for degrees in Library Science add up to thousands of dollars in loans; and
5. Entry-level salaries for public librarians are lower than entry-level teachers' salaries; and,
6. A loan forgiveness program can be an incentive for attracting effective librarians into the public libraries, to serve the needs of diverse populations; and,
7. ALA is committed to endorsing ways of recruiting effective librarians for diverse communities.

Therefore be it resolved:

That ALA lobby Congress and the U.S. Department of Education for legislative action that would make public librarians serving low-income communities eligible for the same loan reduction programs as teachers and school librarians, under the Higher Education Assistance Act of 1965, as amended.

*SRTS Endorsed  
6/29/91*

RESOLUTION DRAFT

June 28, 1991

TO GO TO SRRT ACTION COUNCIL

WHEREAS: ~~a number of libraries~~ <sup>increasingly the</sup> ~~facing~~ <sup>challenge</sup> ~~problems of~~  
latchkey children's use and <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>no.</sup> ~~growing problem~~ of  
homeless people with no place to go, and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has taken  
strong stands on free access to information, and  
literacy programs, opposing government intimidation  
of free expression, and invasion of citizen privacy, and

WHEREAS: the marginal users of the library are sometimes  
subject to discrimination in other settings because of  
ethnic origin and other criteria, and the American  
Library Association has taken a strong stand against  
a wide variety of discriminatory practices, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the American Library Association supports  
access to information and deplors any discriminatory  
efforts to remove persons who have committed <sup>personal</sup> ~~no~~ <sup>encroachments,</sup> ~~legal~~  
misdemeanors or crimes from the premises, and urges all  
libraries ~~with this problem~~ to develop detailed policy  
statements <sup>and training program</sup> to support the right of access.

HIST: 1.1-1.3 50.1, 50.4, 50.5, 50.7, 58.1, 59.

Submitted by Elizabeth Morrisett, Personal Member.

Endorsed by  
6/29/91  
to MB  
SRRT

# Library ban on homeless ruled invalid

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWARK, N.J.

Homeless people cannot be barred from libraries for loitering or smelling bad because such a ban violates their First Amendment rights, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge H. Lee Sarokin ruled that regulations adopted by a New Jersey library were unconstitutional because they were overly broad and violated the First Amendment by curtailing access to books, newspapers and other library materials.

"If we wish to shield our eyes and noses from the homeless, we should revoke their condition, not their library cards," the judge wrote.

Lawyers in the case said it was the first case they knew about that dealt with the right of access to public places for homeless people.

The rules were imposed by the Joint Free Public Library of Morristown and Morris Township. Attorneys for the library in the upscale town 17 miles west of Newark had argued that its cleaner patrons were falling ill from the smells of the homeless and being bothered by their staring.

The judge said that while he agreed libraries should not be transformed into shelters, regulations governing use need to be specific and not left to "the whim or personal vagaries of the person in charge." The logical end to the right to speak and to publish, the judge said, is the right to be heard and to read.

The American Civil Liberties Union and attorneys for a homeless man, Richard Kreimer, challenged the library's rules, which prohibited loitering, staring at people and hygiene that is a nuisance to other patrons. People who stared, smelled or didn't have reading material in front of them could be thrown out, as Kreimer was several times.

"I thought Judge Sarokin's ruling was very fair, very honest, very compassionate, very legal and very socially correct," Kreimer said.

Linda Wallace, spokeswoman for the American Library Association, which has 50,000 members, said the association has approved policies calling for libraries to promote equal access to all people. "Some libraries have opened up special rooms for the homeless and have visited homeless shelters to provide reading material," she said.

St. Paul Pioneer Press, Thursday, May 23, 1991, page 2-A.