

American Library Association
Social Responsibilities Round Table
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Task Force

Minutes of the 1995 Midwinter Conference Meetings
Philadelphia, PA

All Committees Meeting
February 6, 1995

Attendees:

Kathy Anderson, Leon Bey, Gail Defendorf, John deSantis, Joseph Eagan, Roland Hansen, Mark Martin, Michael Miller, Michael Nitz, Wendy Thomas. Seventeen people were present.

The meeting was called to order by Female Co-chair, Wendy Thomas, at 9:40am. Members and guests present introduced themselves.

Wendy added Roland's report to the agenda and passed out extra copies of the GLBTF newsletter.

Secretary's Report

There was no secretary's report.

Book Awards Committee Report

Ellen Greenblatt was absent. John deSantis, the incoming chair, announced the finalist for the literature and non-fiction book awards. The finalist are: Literature: *Am I Blue*, M.D. Bauer, editor; *The Man Was Me*, R. Campo; *Chloe plus Olivia*, L. Faderman, editor; *The Dyke and the Dymbuk*, E. Galford; *Winter Numbers*, M. Winter. Non-fiction: *Skin*, D. Allison; *Gay New York*, G. Chauncey; *Images in the Dark*, Murray; *Sisters and Brothers*, J. Preston & J. Nestle; *Uncommon Heroes*, P. Sherman and S. Bernstein. Winners will be announced February 20th, 1995.

The Book Awards Committee requested \$1,000 to cover Book Award winners' expenses, and \$100 to cover Committee operating expenses.

The Committee is looking for volunteers to work on the Book Awards Committee.

Wendy inquired about the Committee's decisions regarding changing the time frame during which the Awards are finalized to coincide with the other ALA book awards like the Caldecott. John informed us that they are still working on problems associated with such a change. These will continue to be addressed over the next year. The goal is to have the GLBTF Book Awards winners announced during the Midwinter conference at the other ALA book awards.

Publicity Committee

Pre-Conference Report

Michael Miller announced that the keynote speaker for the Pre-Conference is Donna Minkowitz. There will be four breakout sessions: Human resource issues, Professional organization sharing, Gay & lesbian materials in cyberspace, and Collection development issues. Most of the panelist have been identified. The projected budget for the preconference is between \$8 and \$9,000. ACRL's Women's Studies Section, LAMA PAS, and IFRT have been/are being approached for co-sponsorship. ACRL's WSS will allow us to advertise the pre-conference in their publications. Jeff Triesiak volunteered to manage Pre-conference publicity.

Wayne Mellin asked how many participants were needed to make the pre-conference "fly". Miller identified that we are requesting space for 100 participants at an average fee of \$95. We might be able to squeeze in a few more people.

Miller also has talked to Cognotes. They have agreed to post preliminary information about the pre-conference in Tuesday's issue. The Tuesday issue is to be mailed out to the entire membership of ALA after the Midwinter conference.

Roland Hansen was successful in getting some advance publicity re: the 25th Anniversary of the GLBTF and the Gala at Annual in the Sunday issue of Cognotes. Miller read the entry aloud.

Publicity Report

Mark Martin has made contact with the representatives from the Advocate that were at ALA. They have shown interest in co-sponsoring the 25th Gala. It is possible that future relations between GLBTF and the Advocate could be developed in addition to major gay press publishers. Martin pressed for standardizing the Book Awards Name. He has also shown the Book Awards sticker to some publishers and has received very excited responses.

Cal Gough asked if there is money for GLBTF to publish the stickers and an anticipated brochure describing the history and winners of the Book Awards. Miller suggested using the sticker as part of the letterhead. John deSantis, incoming Chair of the Book Awards committee, requested \$380 to print 4-5,000 copies of a commemorative brochure of the GLBTF Book Awards. \$70 was requested to print 1,000 copies of GLBTF letterhead. Joe Eagan impressed upon the Steering Committee the importance of the Book Award Stickers, brochure, and letterhead being available also for fax use as being essential for developing a public identity for the GLBTF. The letterhead design will be voted upon at Tuesday's meeting of the Steering Committee.

Gala Report

Roland Hanson informed that Gala dinner ticket sales would begin March 1, 1995. He will draft a budget proposal. Ticket solicitations would be mailed to GLBTF newsletter subscribers. He will work with Mark Martin regarding publicity. Leon will confirm by letter that Quentin Crisp has agreed to be the keynote speaker at the Gala dinner. A contingency plan must be developed due to Mr. Crisp's advanced age and the possibility that he may not be available at the last moment. We have received a letter from David Esterbrook (of the Advocate) to assist with sponsorship of the Gala dinner. There is potential to have them (the Advocate) fund the Book Awards program as the Coretta Scott King Book Award is funded by the Whitney Chadwick Grant.

John deSantis went to a special ALA awards committee meetings and has obtained lots of information and ideas.

Roland then talked about problems with the GLBTF budget reports from OLOS. The report shows no changes in our budget lines over the last four years. M. Miller proposed that a new method of reporting Task Force on-going expenses be created. L. Bey reported that extra funding request that have been approved are not showing up on the budget. R. Hanson confirmed this. The Coretta Scott King Award is the only SRRT line that shows a positive balance. Wendy asked if we should present our budget information problems to Peggy Barber of OLOS for an explanation. Roland suggested that he would contact Greg Calloway (the accounts person) at ALA. Leon expressed concern that there will be funding for the Gala. M. Miller wondered about the prudence of establishing a separate identity apart from ALA, if SRRT is to be disbanded with the potential future restructuring of ALA. C. Gough expressed concern about generating new bills with last years bills haven't yet been paid.

Uta Fellechner informed us that Newt Gingrich is being considered as an ALA speaker.

Clearinghouse Report

Gail Defendorf will bring incoming sales information to the Tuesday Steering Committee meeting. March 15, 1995 is the deadline for updating Martha Stone's bibliography.

Co-Chairs Report

Both Co-Chairs declined to present their reports due to time constraints that new business could be presented.

New Business.

External Relations or ALA and the Boy Scouts

Michael Nitz attended the ALA Executive Board's ad hoc Committee on External Relationships. This committee has been created to resolve policy issues that are at the heart of problems ALA has with organizations that subscribe to different ethical standards. This committee is the outcome of the controversy between ALSC and the Boy Scouts. ALA and its subsidiaries do not condone discrimination against any group, and the Boy Scouts actively discriminate against groups that do not believe in a deity (e.g. atheists) and homosexuals. Wendy asked Michael to continue following this committee as an observer.

Fund-raising

Joe Eagan discussed the various plans possible for fund-raising for the Book Awards program. The Book Awards must be a self-sufficient program by the year 2000. Joe described the conference call with Patricia Martin of ALA concerning creating an endowment for the Book Awards. Her advice conflicted with that obtained by Leon at the Annual Conference, 1994. Some problems identified for developing an ALA managed endowment include the large amount of money required up front to provide the principal, the low (2%) rate of return per year and the fact that OLOS has no experience in managing endowments. Annual fundraising would have to be conducted every year, but would require smaller amounts to be raised. It is vital that for either program to succeed the GLBTF needs to develop a greater presence in the gay and lesbian community. Additional volunteers are also required.

Eagan informed us that the GLBTF can not develop an endowment outside of ALA without separating from ALA. He suggested that fundraising efforts be developed with a goal of an endowment being in place for the 30th Anniversary of the GLBTF. Martin stated that fund-raising should be part of the strategic development of the Task Force. We need to search for funding channels within ALA beyond OLOS.

Strategic Planning

Wendy distributed copies of ideas for strategic planning. More discussion to follow at the Tuesday Steering Committee meeting.

Gay Librarians' Bios

Wendy informed us that Norman Kessler is writing a book of biographies of gay, lesbian and bisexual librarians. She read a letter from Kessler requesting such biographies.

Elections

Leon announced that only three Steering Committee positions are elected: the two co-chairs and the secretary. There will be a vote at '95 Annual for a male co-chair. He asked if voting should be restricted to members present at the All Committees Meeting, if a ballot should go out with the rest of ALA/SRRT balloting, be posted on Gay-Libn listserv, or ballots be sent out to the subscriber base of the GLBTF Newsletter. If ballots are to go out with ALA ballots, then nominations for the male co-chair would have to be turned into ALA by March 1, 1995. It was decided to follow the GLBTF by-laws and hold elections at the Annual Conference, GLBTF All Committees Meeting. Nominees for Male Co-Chair will appear in the June newsletter.

Medical Library Association's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Special Interest Group

Tanner Wray representing the Medical Library Association Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Special Interest Group introduced himself. The MLAGLB was formed at the recent MLA conference. They have forty-four members and a listserv (email to MLALGB@Mayo.edu). They will provide a representative to share information between the two organizations. They publish a newsletter

available only via email. The MLAGLB will host a program concerning health care discrimination at the upcoming MLA conference in May being held in Washington, DC.

The Meeting was ended at 11:11am by Wendy Thomas.

Respectfully submitted

Michael L. Nitz
Secretary, GLBTF, 1995-1996