

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Task Force, SRRT, ALA
Minutes of the Membership Meeting
June 26, 1995
Swissotel, Chicago, IL

Steering Committee Members in attendance: Bey, Defendorf, Eagan, Fattig, Greenblatt, Hansen, Martin, Miller, Nitz, Thomas. There were 23 visitors.

Thomas called the meeting to order at 9:45am.

Thomas requested everyone introduce themselves.

Thomas announced that during the entire meeting elections for male co-chair would be taking place. Eagan volunteered to manage the voting, to ascertain that only SRRT members voted, collect and tally the ballots, and announce the male co-chair elect at the end of the Membership Meeting.

Secretary's Report

Nitz announced three amendments to the meeting's agenda.

Committee Reports

Clearinghouse

Defendorf informed that for fiscal year 1994-1995 the Clearinghouse had distributed 160 copies of various GLBTF publications and collected \$249.50 in fees. She also informed that volunteers had been located to revise the Religion and Spirituality, and the Lesbian Reading List bibliographies.

Newsletter

Fattig announced that the GLBTF newsletter is being produced by ALA, Hansen pointed out that ours is the only newsletter with which OLOS facilitates production. There is a new liason, Donovan Vicha. Fattig thanked David Streeter for his work as Book Review editor and introduced the new Book Review editor, Barbara Stevens, UW-Eau Claire (WI). He suggested that the Task Force create deadlines by which OLOS must send information on new subscribers to the newsletter. Fattig apologized for delays in the publication of the last issues of the newsletter.

Thomas will write a narrative covering GLBTF and OLOS relationship.

Book Awards

Greenblatt announced that the next Book Awards meeting (June 26, Hyatt, Columbus A from 2-4pm) is open to all SRRT/GLBTF members. They will be planning the 1995 conference Book Awards 25th anniversary presentation. She also announced that the nomination deadline for the Book Awards will be moved up from December 31 to November 30. This is to allow the Book Award committee to use the Midwinter Conference to select their winning entries. The intent is to announce the winning books along with the rest of the ALA book award winners.

Fundraising

Eagan informed that the t-shirt promotionals are at the conference and will be distributed at the Gala Dinner. The mug promotionals have not arrived yet.

Pre-Conference

Miller announced that 55 people attended the GLBTF Pre-Conference. There were a few minor glitches during the pre-conference, but they were resolved satisfactorily. He will send out an evaluation questionnaire to both attendees and speakers.

There is a program meeting on June 26 from 8-10pm.

Miller thanked Roland Hansen for all his assistance in facilitating the pre-conference.

Publicity

Martin announced that the Book Award stickers have arrived! 10,000 stickers were printed. 4,000 will go to be used on the jackets of Uncommon Heroes. We need to identify the real costs involved in production of the stickers in order to determine how best to use the stickers to generate funds. There is interest in selling the rights to reprint the stickers directly on book jackets to the publishers. Also, Martin informed the membership about the ongoing GLBTF relations with Stephanie Blackwood, Advocate/Liberation Publications.

Santa Vicca asked if the sticker design would be used on the GLBTF WWW home page, Martin responded that indeed it should be included there. D. MacNeil asked if the stickers would be sold through ALA Graphics, Martin responded that they should be available from them.

25th Gala Dinner

Hansen reported that the Gala Dinner has been sold out! He is not certain if we will break even, though. ALA Editions published the Gala program booklet. The booklet cost \$2,700 to publish and the ad income from the booklet totaled \$3,700. ALA Editions had to reprint the booklet as the first print run was printed incorrectly. He still has about 100 extra copies of the program for sale at \$7.00 each. Fattig announced that his library would catalog the Gala program booklet. The flowers and boutonniere were donated by Roland Hansen. Bey and Thomas extended major accolades to Roland and the Local Arrangements committee members for facilitating the local arrangements for the Gerber-Hart reception & the Anniversary Dinner!

Co-Chair Reports

Wendy's Report

ALA is considering having fewer meetings at the conferences. This would have an impact on the structure of the business meetings. The Self-Study report (Revised Draft Proposal) also recommends the elimination of roundtables. There would be a major reorganization of the Association around societies which would focus on library types, e.g. public, school, academic. As this document will have major lasting changes in the working of the Association; we all need to become very aware of the Self-Study Report. Without the roundtables, the GLBTF has no

home. [Secretary's note: Since these minutes were written, it must be noted that the Self-Study Report has been rejected.]

Leon's Report

T-shirt sales have netted \$750 to date. Goals for t-shirt sales are to raise \$1,000, which is still possible. The appearance of Israel Fishman's speech at the Gala Dinner was a surprise; a delight, but a surprise. Israel Fishman is the founder of the GLBTF.

Report on the Committee on External Relations

Nitz reported that this Committee of the Executive Board will have two committee meetings and two open hearings during this conference. This is the ad hoc committee created by the Executive Board of ALA in order to review the various external relations established by the various aspects within ALA. The issue of the Boy Scouts, their position towards gays, atheists and agnostics, and others, and ALA's position re the same is at heart with the creation of this ad hoc committee.

Strategic Planning

Thomas updated re: the necessity of conducting a strategic planning process for the GLBTF. She will solicit ideas via the newsletter, the SRRT newsletter, and by posting on Gay_Libn listserv. Bey will solicit ideas for a policy statement. The new mission statement is desired October 1995. New bylaws and committee structure and manuals should be ratified and in place by annual conference 1996.

Other Business

Mev Miller introduced the Women's Presses Project. 25 publishers with common promotions.

Greenblatt requested the creation of a Women's Caucus within the GLBTF in order to attract more women to the GLBTF. The concept of creating a discussion group was discussed. The Caucus would act as a sort of Welcome Wagon to help new women find places within committees. There was some concern that the Caucus could cause splintering of energies within the Task Force, but the Caucus was approved and will have meetings at the '96 Midwinter conference.

Ralph Ferragamo of Softline Information introduced their product Ethnic Newswatch and announced a complimentary product they are beginning to produce called American Lifestyles. He requested the assistance of Task Force members to help identify appropriate gay, lesbian & bisexual publications for potential inclusion in their full-text database.

Trudy Ring of Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers is looking for an editor for their publication on gay and lesbian studies. She can be contacted at 70 E. Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60611. 312/587-0131 (w) and 312/587-1049 (fax).

Gary Klein made mention of the work being done to force the H.W. Wilson indexes to be more inclusive of gay and lesbian publications.

Eagan announced that the voting was closed and that the new male co-chair is Mark Martin.

Thomas closed the meeting at 11.05am.