

Minutes -- GLBTF/ALA Annual Conference 1999 -- New Orleans

Steering Committee I
Hotel Le Meridien, St. Claude Rm.
Friday, June 25, 1999
8:00pm - 10:00pm

Attendees:

Steve Russo, Ron Kurpnern, Kenn Bicknell, Rob Ridinger, Nicholas Rosselli, David Van Hoy, Teresa Burgin, Ellen Bosman, Norman Eriksen, Kim Edson, John Sandstrom, Roland Hansen, Mark Martin, Tracey Stivers, Michell Hackwelder, Richard di Russo, Michelle Durocher, Carolyn Mahin, Chet Mulawka, Faye Chadwell, Ron Loomis, Cal Zunt, Jules Tate, *M. Miller, Cal Zunt, Shari Clifton.*

The meeting was called to order at 9:00pm.

Introductions were held.

Minutes were reviewed and corrections made. A motion was made by Rob Ridinger to accept the minutes with changes. Faye Chadwell seconded.

Co-Chair Reports:

Michael Miller commended the Book Award Committee that **Hours** by Michael Cunningham was chosen by the BAC before the Pulitzer award announcement. Chadwell commented that the GLBTF award has not been mentioned in the media. The BAC has been tracking it.

Michael announced that he had been contacted about a tour of the French Quarter by Robert Bateson, an historian and teller of legends. Cost is \$20, reservations required and departs from 909 Bourbon St. There is a special for Task Force members on Sunday.

Haworth Press will be publishing the **Journal of Lesbian Studies** as well as an additional journal of glbt interest. Haworth would like suggestions for the title. Michael then asked if commentary on new publications was a type of liaison activity the Task Force should pursue. The group consensus was "no."

We need to put together a new roster for OLOS listing all committee chairs and coordinator. The Secretary will compile the list and submit it to OLOS. Regarding OLOS, they cannot provide a complete list of SRRT membership at this time. (The reason was unclear.) They requested that we take people's word that they are members.

There was no report from Shari Clifton.

Committee Reports:

Ad Hoc Committee for Round Table Status. Norman Eriksen. The petition had to be redone because a line had been left out. It was believed that the exclusion of the line "I favor this petition to" would have invalidated the petition. Norman explained that packets were sent to selected ALA Council members. The packets included printouts from the GLBTF web site, book award list, organization chart, and bylaws. The ALA Committee on Organization will meet next Tuesday from 2-4pm in Conference Ctr. Rm 232. This group will be making a recommendation to ALA Council as to whether a new Round Table should be formed.

Regarding the petitions, a lack of ALA membership number will not negate a signature. Satia Orange, OLOS, will check names and add number when necessary. According to the ALA Handbook, 100 signatures are needed. At this conference Michael Miller will drop off newly signed petition sheets at the OLOS table. Cal Zunt asked if we

were keeping a copy of all sheets. Michael Miller responded that we are. Consequently, Michael asked that either the original petition sheets be given directly to him or a copy.

Book Award Committee. Faye Chadwell. Faye announced that Sarah Schulman will be attending the breakfast, and that David Games will be next year's BAC chair. The committee has made changes in how the position of chair is passed to the next person. Rather than chair to chair, there will be a vice chair/chair-elect as well as the chair. This should lead to smoother transitions from year to year. Also, the committee has been divided into "fiction" and "non-fiction" groups. Each group will be able to focus in-depth on their area, although all committee members will at least review each book. Faye requested that anyone interested in being on the committee contact David Games, Chair or Anne Moore, Vice Chair. Faye also commented that she had an excellent committee to work with.

Faye pointed out the tremendous growth in glbt publishing and noted that there is **much** to look at each year. She wondered why a yearly decision had to be made between poetry and novels in terms of which receives an award. She further suggested that perhaps occasionally an award be given to children's literature. Also, there are great publishers that we could recognize in some way. Michael Miller commented that new awards must be approved by ALA. That would be difficult to achieve at this time. Also, we are at the end of funding by ALA. The GLBTF will have to fund the awards on its own.

Faye ended by saying that committee business is going well and members are receiving review books. She then asked what to do with the book award stickers. Michael Miller suggested that volunteers put them in packets of 10 and sell them for \$1.00 apiece or \$10.00 for 10. Roland Hansen suggested 12 for \$10.00. The majority agreed with Roland.

Award Breakfast Committee. Ellen Bosman. Ellen stated that 131 advance tickets had been sold or reserved. There are 28 tickets remaining to be sold on-site. She commented that tickets are supposed to be sold at the ALA Registration Desk but we can't because the proper forms had not been filled out. After discussion, it was agreed to sell them at the SRRT booth. Maximum attendance will be capped at 159 if all tickets are sold.

Breakfast speakers will be Kyle Scafide, editor and publisher of New Orleans's gay newspaper **Impact News**, Sarah Schulman, two time book award winner, and Tony Fennelly, New Orleans mystery writer.

Ellen stated that Sarah Schulman's plane ticket cost more than it should have because it was not purchased/authorized by OLOS quickly enough. OLOS will pick up part of the cost.

Michael Miller asked why three plaques were ordered. Ellen stated that Sarah Schulman will be receiving two—one for her first book award.

Ellen requested volunteers to help with banquet room setup the night before breakfast. Book packets have to be assembled and placed on the tables. There may be a problem since the banquet room is booked until midnight the night before. The same room in which the Social will be held is available for assembling the packets. Faye Chadwell and John Sandstrom will be able to store the books in their rooms in the meantime.

Ellen ended by reminding the Steering Committee that she is going off the committee following this conference. Micheal Miller commended Ellen for an exceptional job done and she was applauded by the Steering Committee and guests. Michael then asked if anyone in the room would consider chairing the committee. This person would be working on the GALA and Award Breakfast next year. There were no volunteers.

Discussion of Year 2000 GALA. Roland Hansen. Roland Hansen, Bill, Norman Eriksen, and Victor Schill got together last year to begin planning. Roland has already booked the Chicago Cultural Center, Preston Bradley Hall for July 10, 2000. The keynote speaker will be Tammy Baldwin.

Regarding arrangements, we can bring in any caterer we want. One glitch may be the \$875.00 security deposit the Center requires. Satia Orange, OLOS, does not believe this would be a problem. The Committee on Human Relations may co-sponsor the event, cutting our cost in half. Also, any decorations must be free-standing. The open bar will serve beer, wine and soda. No liquor can be sold in the Cultural Center. Promotion for the event will be combined with the Book Award Breakfast. There will be gift bags for attendees. ALA has no problem with our

using this facility rather than a conference hotel. Roland stated that he will begin searching for volunteers at this conference. He would also welcome suggestions for a "Plan B."

In addition, Roland pointed out that it will not be Pride Week in Chicago during ALA 2000. There will also be a gay/lesbian city tour available for \$39 for 6 hours with lunch or \$25 for 3 hours without lunch. He declined to make any particular recommendation. He also suggested that we could make up our own walking tour brochure.

Rainbow Literacy Foundation Report. Rob Ridinger. Since Gary Klein was not present, complete information on the status of the Rainbow Literacy Foundation was not available. Rob would try to contact Larry Oberg at this conference for additional information. Rob stated that until a specific plan is submitted, we will not know what the exact nature of the relationship between the GLBTF and the RLF will be organizationally and structurally. Cal Zunt said she is trying to track down the history of REFORMA's fund, which is apparently the same type as the RLF.

Fundraising Report. No report given since the position of Fundraiser/Treasurer is open. Steve Russo stated that he has one candidate, other can be given to him. This is an elected position. Michael Miller reminded everyone to give him receipts for any expenditures for which reimbursement is expected.

Diversity Council. David Van Hoy. Since the Council has not yet met, a report will be given at SC II. David said that the big effort this year is the Scholarship Bash. Michael asked if anyone is going and, if so, to let Ann Symons know that GLBTF people are there. David stated that he will be vacating his position on the Council. This is an appointed position. Jules Tate, Nick Rosselli, and John Sandstrom indicated interest, and will speak to Shari Clifton about it.

Elections Committee. Steve Russo. He is working on 2 things: 1) candidates for male Co-Chair and Fundraiser/Treasurer and, 2) rewording of the bylaws pertaining to the Elections Committee. Proposed changes were reviewed, with further discussion and approval/rejection to take place at the Membership Meeting. Nick Rosselli and Cal Zunt were thanked for running for ALA Council. Michael Miller suggested as a voting strategy that if only one's favorites are voted for, the result is a stronger vote. Jules Tate thanked Steve for the slate of candidates.

External Relations Committee. Kenn Bicknell. Kenn highlighted four items the committee has worked on: 1) developed a hate crime webliography linked to the GLBTF web site; 2) contacted other organizations for reciprocal web links; 3) wrote correspondence in response to the Boy Scouts issue; and 4) wrote correspondence in response to the Hormel appointment issue.

Kenn asked the Steering Committee for comments on what type of links do we want to provide on our web site. Not-for-profit organizations? Reciprocal links only? National organizations only?

The committee would like to begin developing a standardized press kit for publicity and dissemination of information. Kenn asked for input regarding what should be the core content. He invited anyone interested to attend the committee meeting Saturday morning. Jules Tate suggested he should talk to Kyle Scafide at the Awards Breakfast.

Newsletter Report. Cal Zunt. There are 132 paid subscriptions to the newsletter currently being sent out. She keeps 15-20 copies for archival purposes. Due dates are as follows: Fall Issue - July 27 and Winter Issue - Nov. 4. Cal thanked David Ganes for **proofed** informative articles, and Ron Loomis for his help with the newsletter. She will get the HTML file for the last couple of issues to Keith Trimmer in the near future. She reminded the Steering Committee that she has been editor for 3 years and will continue for 1 more year. We need to begin planning for a replacement.

Program Planning Committee. Chet Mulawka. Chet pointed out that there are errors in the Conference Program regarding our program. Apparently, the original idea as well as the final program description are printed. Speakers are not listed correctly, and names have been left out. Michael suggested making a brief announcement at the beginning of the program. Chet announced that the Read Aloud, Social, and book sorting for the Breakfast will take place in the same location. This should facilitate getting volunteers. He also asked for help with the Read Aloud, since he has never done it before. Chet's appointment as Chair is ending, and Victor Schill will take over.

Secretary's Report. Michael Poma. There were various problems with the Book Award Committee listserv but these have been resolved.

Report on the Social. Jules Tate. PFLAG cannot provide refreshments because the event is in a hotel. Only refreshments provided by the hotel are allowed. The Social has been moved to Sunday so as not to conflict with the Scholarship Bash. Jules suggested booking a hotel site in advance for future conference in case a free site cannot be identified.

Agenda item 1 under New Business (new chair for Breakfast Planning Committee) was covered in earlier discussion. Discussion of a resolution regarding proposed changes to ALA Conference structure was moved to Steering Committee II.

Michael Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:00pm.