ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered Roundtable

General Membership Meeting

June 16, 2002


The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M. After introductions, Karla Hayden, president-elect of ALA, spoke to the group. She spoke to her campaign promises to honor diversity. She spoke of moving within the focus of ALA’s goals. She feels there can be many different focuses within the organization. She said she would continue Mitch Freedman’s themes but in addition she wanted to focus on more public outreach and equity in access. There is a need to make the profession more accessible to all. Confidentiality of records is also of paramount importance to her. She also asked for people to volunteer for committees.

Sheila Anderson from Y ALSA spoke next. She is on the Y ALSA Board, which is trying to increase diversity within the group. She spoke about the work of Y ALSA and invited members of GLBTRT to become involved with Y ALSA as well.

The next order of business was the revision of the bylaws, overseen by R. Hansen. He spoke about the changes as well as changed language within sections. Task Force terms had to be redone to roundtable terms, i.e. coordinator changed to chair. One of the major additions was the fundraising section, which provoked an extended discussion of its duties and functions. A motion was made to add the treasurer of the roundtable to the fundraising committee, ex officio. This was moved by McGrath, seconded by Zunt and passed. R. Hansen was thanked for all his hard work.

S. Parker next discussed fund-raising. $6,500 has been raised/pledged for the book awards. We need $40,000. More requests for gifts, grants and pledges will be forthcoming. We need to have promotional material to send out or hand out to increase our funding for the awards. It was moved by Zunt, seconded by Jaquay, that the fundraising committee pursue the grant process to include professional design of a brochure and a book award sticker. A discussion followed about production of the sticker. We need to confirm that ALA will cover the costs of the production; the expectation is that sales of the sticker will then cover these costs. Stickers can be marketed to both libraries and publishers. We need an article in American Libraries regarding the name change of the awards. R. Hansen and B. Jaquay will work on the design changes.

Next the archives of the Task Force/Roundtable were discussed. Currently they are at the U. of Illinois – Champagne/Urbana. We need to know what’s in them and what we need to put in them. S. Searing has volunteered to work with the archives. R. Ridinger has also worked with these and will help. R. Hansen has also worked with the archives. There is a need to set procedures for regularly adding materials to the archives. The issue of archiving electronic items was discussed. There is a great need to also preserve electronic items as print too.
The name of our awards was discussed next. The committee dealing with awards has told us that we should stay with Stonewall Book Awards as the routine short way to refer to them. The long form is: Stonewall Israel Fishman Award for Non-fiction and Stonewall Barbara Gittings Award for Literature.

The nominating committee is in need of a chairperson. People are needed to run for treasurer and male co-chair. Bob Dias volunteered to chair committee. B. Tarr will serve on the newsletter comm.. B. Tarr wants to include book reviews. A. Anderson wants to serve on membership comm.. F. Chadwell spoke of the need for people to stick to their committee positions for the full two-year term. The website/clearinghouse comm. also needs members as does external relations. A list of all committees with their members will appear in the next newsletter.

As a conclusion, S. Stratton announced that the membership of the roundtable stands at 506. We can offer a subscription to the newsletter with a membership. We will be responsible for maintaining a mailing list of these subscriptions.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 A.M.