

## ALA Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered Roundtable

Philadelphia, PA

Steering Committee II, Jan. 27, 2003

Persons present: A. Moore, S. Stratton, M. Pas, J. Reynolds, S. Parker, B. Stevens, R. Fark, E. Edwards, F. Chadwell, K. Wells, N. Eriksen, B. Jaquay, K. Roberto, S. Patrick, T. Hall, S. Orange, E. Bosman, D. Lambert. Andrew Johnson, secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 A.M. The agenda was approved, but due to the unavailability of the minutes of Steering Committee II from June 18, 2002, they could not be acted upon. When they are retrieved, they will be voted on.

The meeting began with Anne Moore, co-chair, introducing the two candidates for ALA president, who wished to make presentations to the meeting. The first was Carol Brey. She is currently director of the El Paso, Texas Public Library. She is a 22-year member of ALA, is a member of Council and the ALA Task Force on Better Salaries and Pay Equity, is an active member of REFORMA, the Texas Library Assn. and the Border Library Assn. The theme of her campaign will be Democracy @ your library. She also voiced concerns about patron security.

The second candidate was Herman Totten. He is currently a Regents Professor in the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of North Texas, where he has been since 1977. He is the immediate past president of the Texas Library Assn. He has a website devoted to his candidacy: <http://www.unt.edu/totten>. His theme: C.L.A.S.S. stands for Cultural Diversity, Learning, Access, Service and Salary. It was noted that this was the first time that both candidates had come to make a presentation to the Steering Committee.

Satia Orange spoke next. She introduced Tracie Hall, who is the new directory of the Office for Diversity and also is a Spectrum Scholar. Satia spoke about the wonderful growth of the round table since its founding. N. Eriksen replied that we'd had tremendous support and push from Satia and her staff. Tracie encouraged the round table to work closely with the ethnic caucus.

The Stonewall Book Awards were formally announced. Noel Lummit's *Letters to Montgomery Clift* (MacAdam/Cage Publishing) has won this year's award for fiction while Joanne Meyerowitz' book, *How Sex Changed: A History of Transsexuality in the United States* (Harvard University Press) has won the award for non-fiction. A press release has gone out, which also lists the honor books in both categories. J. Simonis, chair of the Fundraising Comm., noted that the amount needed for an adequate endowment for the award is now up to \$75,000. This committee will be looking for sources of funds, especially from foundations, publishers and friends. The committee will also look into how other awards work with publishers.

The Breakfast Planning Committee is looking for a female speaker for the awards breakfast in Toronto. Suggestions are welcome. Books to donate to attendees are sought also. It was suggested that there be a tribute or award to Satia and also Tanga Morris at the breakfast. The Membership committee thanked everyone for their help.

The Nominating Committee had no new updates. The Program Planning Committee reported that the social went very well. Program suggestions for the Orlando conference in June, 2004 are needed. Suggested have been programs on Excavating the Gay Past: gay archives and also a program with EMIERT. The committee is attempting to get LAMA to co-sponsor the program on the Glass Closet this summer in Toronto. It would be helpful if an openly gay/lesbian public library director could be found to be one of the speakers.

J. Reynolds reported on the Government Access Task Force, which is working to insure continued access to government information. The question of what ALA is going to do about this subject was discussed. It was clearly felt that ALA should be doing some sort of oversight in this area.

Under old business V. Pisano said that M. Miller had withdrawn the form that was to be used to collect sexual orientation data. There was more discussion of the diversity issue. V. Pisano wants this issue to go forward. There was general discussion of what kind of information we want, who will compile it, will it be anonymous, who will count the forms, etc. Finally a motion was made that on the demographics form there be an entry: Do you identify yourself as a member of the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community – yes or no? This would be a separate question. A. Johnson will take this proposal back to the Membership Comm.; B. Stevens will take it to the Committee On Diversity.

Under other business, it was noted that the website is non-functioning. T. Lukens volunteered to work on this along with K. Roberto. We will have to pay for the registration of our domain name again soon. There was discussion of the various priced offered. It was moved and seconded that we authorize E. Greenblatt and the officers to purchase a domain name for the round table. The motion was amended to authorize links off other parts of the ALA homepage. It was suggested by S. Stratton that we purchase both GLBTRT.org and Stonewallbookawards.com so that we have both under our control. Motion as amended was approved. The bibliographies that the round table has need to be worked on this year. These fall under E. Greenblatt's area of responsibility.

*On the website* We need to do one on periodicals as well as ones on books. B. Jaquay suggested that ALA be approached about publishing a list of past Stonewall Book Award winners. It was noted that we've tried this before and been turned down, but it was decided to try again. We may need to go to an outside publisher to get it done. This idea will be explored. The fact that the bibliographies that exist on our website are not the responsibility of the person in charge of the website was noted. We do not currently have a bibliography dealing with g/l/b/t issues in the workplace. We probably should, given the fact that we are doing a program on the subject in Toronto. It would in fact be a good idea to have a bibliography to back up every program we present.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.