



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA



March 1984

Number 71

ISSN 0065-9096

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL ENDORSES HERB BIBLO

Following the Candidates Forum at Mid-winter, SRRT Action Council voted to endorse Herb Biblo for Treasurer. An early supporter of SRRT, he has continued to retain his ties to the Round Table in his rise to Councilor, member of COPES, and Treasurer of ALA. He has brought to these offices, a point of view consistent with the goals of SRRT. He is truly a representative of the membership of ALA, keeping long-time members abreast of problems that concern them, and encouraging new members to become active within the organization.

When the Office of Library Outreach Services and the Office of Research were being threatened, he worked to ensure their continuation. Both offices have in the past year been awarded outside funding for special projects and have proven their value to ALA and its members many times over.

By learning to ask the right questions, he has labored to unravel the intricacies of the financial structure of ALA

and has reported his findings back to membership.

Round tables were informed by Herb when COPES proposed to change the method by which round tables were assessed for overhead, and they were thus able to coordinate efforts to fight the proposal.

His experience as Treasurer for the past four years will enable him to continue his quest to make ALA headquarters accountable to membership.

SRRT Action Council believes that Pat Schuman and Herb Biblo, both strong SRRT supporters, are qualified candidates, and so the decision to support Herb Biblo did not come easily. It was felt, however, that he should be given the opportunity to continue the excellent job he has been doing, for another term.

Elizabeth Morrissett
Dave Vespa
Doris Kirschbaum

(ELECTION NEWS CONTINUES ON p. 5)

VOTE ON SRRT DUES INCREASE

SRRT Action Council is recommending to the SRRT membership that dues be increased from \$5 to \$10 per year, to take effect in 1985. Read the rationale in the memo from Linda Pierce, SRRT Action Council Coordinator, on page 2 of this Newsletter and mail this ballot with your vote to: Linda Pierce, 3634 Edwards Rd. #32, Cincinnati, Ohio 45208.

I AGREE THAT SRRT SHOULD INCREASE DUES FROM \$5 TO \$10 EFFECTIVE JAN. '85

YES _____

NO _____

To: SRRT Members

From: Linda Pierce, SRRT Coordinator

Accompanied by heated debate on a number of issues, the Midwinter meeting accomplished a great deal and some important decisions regarding dues and the Newsletter were made.

One of my major objectives of the conference was to delay the proposed plan by the Committee on Program Evaluation and Support (COPEs) to increase the amount charged round tables for overhead. The proposal would have increased our cost from 5% of our dues to 13% of our expenditures. At the COPEs meeting, the proposal was discussed and without much opposition or resistance, dropped. The fact that a coalition of round table chairs had met earlier in the day to prepare strategy for the meeting was a key factor in the defeat of the proposal. As a result of the meeting of round table chairs, it was decided that the leadership of the round tables would meet during each conference to share information, news and mutual concerns.

As usual, the SRRT budget was under discussion at Action Council meetings. As it currently stands, after this fiscal year (1983/84), the SRRT budget will be at zero. We have budgeted approximately \$8000 for the 1984/85 fiscal year. This means that we will have to receive that

The SRRT NEWSLETTER is published 4 times per year. All correspondence should be sent to SRRT/ALA, 50 E. Huron St. Chicago, IL 60611. Manuscripts and letters pertaining to editorial content should be sent c/o editor at the above address.

Editor.....Doris Kirschbaum
Editorial Board....Elizabeth Morrissett
Linda Pierce
John Sheridan

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 25

Incoming Editor: John Hostage

As outgoing editor of the SRRT Newsletter, I want to thank the editorial board for their support, especially Linda Pierce, who was always there with aid and comfort when I needed help; Sandy Berman for his continued interest and concern for SRRT and the Newsletter; Dave Vespa, who pitched in at the last moment; John Hostage for taking over; and everyone who contributed to and read the Newsletter during the past two years. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to edit the SRRT Newsletter and I have learned a great deal from the experience - more in fact, than I had anticipated.

DK

much money in dues to cover our expenses. In order to get that much money and have an adequate operating budget, the decision was made by Action Council to ask members to support a dues increase from \$5 to \$10. This increase would take effect in 1985, but will be voted on this spring. On the front page of this issue of the Newsletter, there is a ballot for you to mail in so that you may vote on the dues increase. Action Council realizes that a dues increase is never welcome but we do feel it is a request that is reasonable and necessary. Please take the time to send in your vote.

As we have in the past, SRRT sponsored a candidates forum and invited the candidates for ALA President and Treasurer to address some of the social and political issues facing ALA. It was an informative meeting and one which made some decisions harder and some easier. The issue of who Action Council should endorse for ALA President and Treasurer generated much discussion and debate. It can only be hoped that the next time two strong SRRT supporters run for ALA office they won't run against each other.

Various task forces sponsored Council resolutions on topics ranging from the freeze to freedom of information and ALA dues. It was also interesting to note that during a Council meeting, a Councilor moved to not discuss any social issue resolutions but to consider them in the same manner as tributes. E.J. Josey and others then spoke out on the
(continued on p. 5)

TASK FORCE NEWS

► CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

The Civil Rights Task Force discussed at the Midwinter meeting some next steps with reference to issues of racism and sexism. It was suggested that we undertake the preparation of a handbook on the social responsibilities of librarians, in both children and adult areas of service. The proposed manual, "A Social Responsibility Handbook: Essays on Equity and People's Issues in the Practice of Librarianship," will concentrate upon the philosophical basis for social awareness and accountability in the library profession.

The following statements are from a brief prospectus:

The rationale behind this project has to do with a professional philosophy that gives weight to cultural understanding, context, and process...

A Social Responsibility handbook can make at least some important majority and minority group values (as articulated by group leaders) more perceptible; suggest ways to set up lines of communication; discuss bibliographic work in relation to group values and needs; encourage the culture study within library staffs and within communities which will dissolve the myth of cultural inferiority and superiority; and present a number of research findings, legal cases and well-argued theses which will enable librarians to work on a more solid multi-cultural/nonsexist foundation.

One of the many legal principles that underpins this project has to do with two immutable aspects of identity: race and sex. In David Kirp's and Mark Yudoff's *EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND THE LAW: CASES AND MATERIALS* (Berkeley: McCutchan Pub., 1974) this principle is stated as follows: "Since sex, like race and national origin, is an immutable characteristic determined solely by the accident of birth, the imposition of special disabilities upon the members of a particular sex because of their sex would seem

to violate 'the basic concept of our system that legal burdens should bear some relationship to individual responsibility...' (Weber v. Aetna Cas & Sur Co.)

Suggested chapters for the Children's Library section of the handbook include: 1) selection criteria in relation to cultural pluralism; 2) networks with community groups; 3) encouragement for culturally inclusive book publishing and book reviewing; 4) a critical approach to bibliographies; 5) public relations activity in relation to Third World book prizes. Suggested topics for the Adult Library section include: 1) networks with community groups; 2) multicultural bibliographic projects; 3) outreach programming; 4) continuing education; 5) literacy services.

Effie Lee Morris and Donnarae MacCann agreed to jointly oversee the project and they welcome suggestions. The Task Force meetings in Dallas will be devoted to reviewing the first tentative selection of research materials and philosophical arguments related to various chapters. (E.L. Morris, 66 Cleary Court, #1009, San Francisco, CA 94109; D. MacCann, 717 Normandy Dr., Iowa City, IA 52240).

Brad Chambers
Task Force Coordinator

► CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD TASK FORCE

Lucille Clifton, author of Everett Anderson's Goodbye (Holt) and Pat Cummings, illustrator of My Mama Needs Me (Lothrop) written by Mildred Pitts Walter, are the recipients of the 1984 Coretta Scott King Awards for their contribution to literature for children and youth published in 1983.

With deep sensitivity and moving poetic prose, Clifton has the reader share with Everett as he goes through the universal stages experienced after the death of a loved one - in this case - Everett's father. In My Mama Needs Me, Pat Cummings' illustrations complement and extend this gentle story of a Black family in a multi-ethnic neighborhood.

(continued on p. 4)

(CSK Award Task Force-cont. from p. 3)

Coretta Scott King will receive a special citation for her book, The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Newmarket), selected quotations from the life of her husband which illustrate his philosophy of non-violence and justice for all. This marks the first time a special citation has been given.

The awards will be given to Lucille Clifton, Pat Cummings and Coretta Scott King at the Annual Awards Breakfast on Tuesday, June 26th at 7:30 A.M. in Dallas, Texas during the 1984 ALA conference.

Cited for Honorable Mention are: Virginia Hamilton, The Magical Adventures of Pretty Pearl (Harper); James Haskins, Lena Horne (Coward); Mildred Pitts Walter, Because We Are (Lothrop); Joyce Carol Thomas, Bright Shadow (Avon).

Lucille Thomas

► LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE

The Task Force had two lightly attended sessions at Midwinter, but much was accomplished. Several new members helped fill the gap left by active members who were not able to attend.

Detailed planning is going forward for the two program sessions scheduled for the Dallas conference in June. Billie Connor has done some excellent planning for a session on "Libraries, Unions, and Political Action," to be held Saturday, June 23rd, 8-10 P.M. Further organization is being done by Mary Rosenthal, a new Task Force member from St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Speakers include the President of the Dallas Chapter of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, an official of the local AFL-CIO and a member of the politically active Los Angeles Public Library union. The Staff Organizations Round Table (SORT) will co-sponsor this program.

Mary is also working to schedule an informal social gathering (with food) from 6-8 P.M., preceding the Saturday meeting. Any help in planning would be welcomed,

particularly from anyone in the Dallas area.

Our second program will be held on Tues., June 26th, 9:30-11 A.M., on the topic, "Managing VDTs for Employee Well-being." Speakers will be: Louis Tijerina, who prepared a pamphlet, "Optimizing the VDT Work Station," for OCLC; Bruce Miller from the University of Texas, who was involved in a LITA study on the health effects of VDTs; and Jodie Fine of AFSCME's Research Department who will present the union perspective. Helen Lewis (University of Connecticut, Storrs) is organizing this program and will be moderator.

Kathleen Prendergast (Chicago Public Library) continues work on the directory of library unions, with assistance from Helen Lewis. The list of organizations now numbers 400 and will be the basis for a mailing this spring to collect and verify data on each local. AFSCME is paying for the mailing to its locals, about 70% of the total. Any new information on a union which includes library employees (name, address, and contact person) should be sent to Kathleen Prendergast, 425 N. Michigan Ave. Chicago 60611.

Don Panzera, a once active Task Force member, has been named Assistant to the Executive Officer in Processing Services at the Library of Congress. While people generally are not active in unions to gain professional advancement, it's worth noting that the announcement of his promotion mentioned his union activity as helping to qualify him for the position.

Back at the Task Force...Peter Kidder (Descriptive Cataloging, Library of Congress) has taken over as Chief-Coordinator from Miriam Crawford who is heavily involved in union bargaining. Please address communications to him (unless relating to the Directory or specific programs).

Peter Kidder
Chief Coordinator

(Task Force news continued on p.6)

FEMINISTS ENDORSE PAT SCHUMAN

The Feminist Task Force voted at its Mid-winter Meeting to endorse Patricia Glass Schuman for ALA Treasurer and Ginny Cooper for RASD President. No endorsement was made for ALA President.

The decision to endorse Pat Schuman was an agonizing one, since it was felt that both Pat and Herb Biblo are qualified candidates. The FTF endorsement of Pat Schuman is based on her thorough knowledge of ALA finances and organizational structure through her membership on COPES, Council, and other activities; her financial and management experience as president and co-founder of Neal-Schuman Publishers; and her broad knowledge of the library field through her work as an academic, young adult, and school librarian. Pat was a founding member of SRRT and the Feminist Task Force; she has served on Action Council and was coordinator of FTF's 1975 preconference, "Women in a Women's Profession." FTF applauds Pat's goals of demystifying ALA's financial systems and strengthening its financial base through implementation of an automated accounting system, establishment of an ALA Development Office, and a series of assessment and policy-development activities.

Ginny Cooper, Alameda County (CA) Librarian and an active member of FTF and SRRT, was endorsed by general acclaim. Ginny's strong leadership and problem-solving abilities are well-known to those who have worked with her. The final list of FTF Council endorsements will be published in the next issue of Women in Libraries.

Sarah B. Watstein
Donna L. Nerboso
Cinder Johanson

(Memo from L. Pierce- cont. from p. 2)

responsibility and obligation of ALA to debate and face social issues. It may be worth remembering that this issue has been raised and may come up again at a later conference.

Council also agreed to recommend to membership a graduated dues increase that will raise the amount of personal dues by

SRRT ENDORSEMENTS FOR COUNCIL

The following Council candidates have come to the attention of SRRT Action Council as being those who are members of and/or support the goals of SRRT. We apologize to those who may have been overlooked.

Marta Stiefel Ayala
Reynaldo Ayala
Patricia Berger
Jody Bush
Luis Chaparro
Ellen J. Cooke
Carmine Michael Diodati
Joan Higbee
Monteria Hightower
Clara O. Jackson
Doris Kirschbaum
Elizabeth Knauff
Susan Luevano
Nancy Marshall
Albert Milo
Effie Lee Morris
Anita Peterson
Linda Pierce
Ann K. Randall
Lotsee Smith
Albert Tovar
Elena Tscherny
Betty Turock

\$5 a year for the next five years. It was the opinion of Council that additional revenue was needed for ALA to remain a viable organization. Action Council did not take a position on the dues increase. Please read all the material you will receive and make an informed decision.

The budgetary problems of SRRT also affected the SRRT Newsletter. Because of the anticipated reduced budget the decision was made to cut the Newsletter from an alternating schedule of 8-12-8-12 pages to 8 pages each issue. Also brought up at Action Council was the question of editorial control. The consensus of Action Council was that the Newsletter editor should have the final decision over how much space is allocated to each task force and what should be included in the Newsletter. A subcommittee of Action Council will be working on an editorial policy for the Newsletter which will be presented to Action Council at the Dallas

Continued on p. 6)

(Task Force News-continued from p. 4)

► PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE

The Arms Race at Midwinter.

A resolution came before Council at its last meeting reaffirming the arms race policy adopted last summer in LA and calling for a special committee on implementation. One Council member, finding the motion "insulting," suggested setting up a new category for this resolution and others like it that would allow them to be dealt with in the same manner as tributes. Several Association leaders rose with impassioned objections to that maneuver, but a proposal to publish the full text of both arms race resolution in American Libraries proved "unconstitutional," the implementation idea died with it, and the upshot was simple reaffirmation with referral to appropriate units for their "consideration." The text of both resolutions can be obtained from Headquarters, as can the too-little-known nuclear freeze policy statement approved at Philadelphia in 1982.

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign recently announced the availability of a new resource - a comprehensive freeze organizing manual (\$4.00 from the National Clearinghouse, 4144 Lindell Blvd., Suite 404, St. Louis MO 63108). Citizens Against Nuclear War (CAN), a coalition of national organizations supporting the freeze, has put together an informative packet describing members' activities - professional organizations, labor unions, women's groups, religious bodies environmental groups - more than 50 national membership organization. 1201 16th St. N.W., Washington DC 20036.

Vincent Jennings

National Conference on Peacemaking

A second National Conference on Peacemaking: Issues of an Emerging Field, is scheduled for September 20-23, at St. Louis, Missouri. A call for participation has been issued, asking for proposals for papers, panels, or workshops. Invitations are extended to publishers, educational institutions, government and private agencies and volunteer groups

in research, mediation and peace action/ conflict management in the United States.

For additional information and poster, contact Margaret S. Herrman, Institute of Government, 321 Academic Building, University of Georgia, or James H. Laue, Center for Metropolitan Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO 63121 (314) 553-5273.

Persons wishing to present a paper of information under the Peace Information Exchange Task Force umbrella, contact Elizabeth Morrissett, Montana Tech Library, Butte, MT 59701 (406) 496-4283.

Elizabeth Morrissett

(PIE TF news continued on p. 7)

(Memo from L.Pierce-continued from p. 5)

meeting. If anyone has any comments or concerns about that document please send them to John Hostage (see masthead).

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Doris Kirschbaum for all the work that she has put into the Newsletter. Doris has decided to concentrate on other activities and this is the last issue of the Newsletter that she will be responsible for. Doris has done a wonderful job of dealing with people submitting material late, not submitting material, and all of the other problems that beset editors. SRRT owes a great deal of thanks to Doris for getting the Newsletter back on its feet and on schedule. John Hostage will be taking over as editor.

That's all for now. Please make every effort to vote both in the SRRT election and the upcoming ALA election. It is important that as many people as possible vote and make their voices heard. Practice for the November election by voting this spring.

DO YOU ENDORSE A SRRT DUES INCREASE?
SEND IN THE BALLOT ON PAGE 1.

(Peace Information Exchange Task Force
News-continued from p. 6)

Resources

Sane World, A Newsletter of Action on Disarmament and the Peace Race, from the nationally active peace organization SANE, in its January 1984 issue recommends highly the following items:

Defense Sense: The Search for a Rational Military Policy, by Congressman Ronald Dellums, R. H. Miller and H. Lee Halterman. Ballinger Publishing Co., 1983, 323 pages, \$8.95. From hearings organized by Dellums to focus on questions of arms and national security, never asked in the official Armed Services Committee hearings.

World Military and Social Expenditures 1983, by Ruth Leger Sivard, 46 pages, \$4, available from SANE, 711 G St. S.E. Washington D.C. 20003. Authoritative statistics by the former chief economist for the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, giving rankings of countries on life expectancy, nutrition, literacy, military bases, military spending, etc.

Military Expansion, Economic Decline, by Robert DeGrasse, Council on Economic Priorities, 84 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10011, 1983, 237 pages, \$11.95. Well-researched analysis of military spending's effect on jobs, research, development of new technology, and decline of American industry.

A Call for Peace: The Military Budget and You, a videotape of Ron Dellums speaking on the dangers of nuclear weapons buildup and current U.S. foreign policy, and urging citizen involvement in the political process, with added narration by Harry Belafonte. Rental \$31 and up, purchase \$65 and up, from Conference on the Fate of the Earth, 1045 Sansome St., San Francisco, CA 94111.

Miriam Crawford

(Task Force News continued on p. 8)

Men's Issues Task Force

The Chair of the Men's Issues Task Force submitted a "Letter to the Editor," with the request that should we choose to print it, it should be printed in full. Since it was two pages, single-spaced, we regret that limited space prevents us from doing that.

ON NEWSLETTERS

In response to discussions on editorial policy at Midwinter, we received letters and information from readers, particularly from members of various men's groups.

One item received was the newsletter,

Legal Beagle: A Monthly Newsletter on Divorce Reform, published by the Coalition Organized for Parental Equality. 68 Deering St. Portland, Maine 04101. Subscriptions, \$8 per year. Back issues beginning with May, '83 - 75¢ each.

From the December 1983 issue -

"Excerpts from a letter by George Doppler, one of the founding fathers of divorce reform, Broomall, PA 19008-0060...

'If there is anything more urgently needed for this movement /National Congress for Men/ it is a one national or international organ... a newsletter. This movement cannot, will not support two or more. No longer can Bob Hirschfeld do his own little thing, Ken Pangborn his own, Bob Karls his own. Just think of a one movement organ done by Bob Hirschfeld, Ken Pangborn, Bob Karls, Jerry Bjornson, Dave Morrow, Nat Denman, Mike Diehl, James Forbes, George Doppler and I could name at least 20 more. Think of the power this organ could have. The day of the one man organs are gone, no one man can do the work nor carry the expenses.'"

SRRT readers wishing to propose a name for such an organ, send suggestions to George Doppler, or the Legal Beagle. DK

(Task Force News - continued from p. 7)

► INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE

The IHR TF and the ALTERNATIVES-IN-PRINT TASK FORCE plan to co-sponsor a program at the Annual Meeting in Dallas on the New International Information Order (NIIO).

In light of the planned withdrawal of U.S. membership in UNESCO, wider discussion and knowledge of issues of the NIIO are critical. Interested librarians are requested to contribute citations of useful articles, documents and studies for a bibliography on the NIIO. Send to: Lee Regan, IHR TF Coordinator, 610 3rd St., S.E. #3, Washington DC 20003.

SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon - with payment - to:

SRRT Clearinghouse
American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Clearinghouse.

Name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$ 5 (ALA Personal Member) _____ \$ 5 (Affiliate, non-ALA Member)
_____ \$20 (Institutions) Back issues are available at \$2 each (#s _____)

Please request back issues from: SRRT/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
50 EAST HURON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Permit No. 3226