American Library Association

Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship

(COSWL)

1998 Midwinter Conference
New Orleans, LA

Summary

Saturday, January 10, 1998: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
New Orleans Convention Center, Room 54

Committee Present: Theresa Tobin, chair; Betty Glass, Narda Tafuri, and Lorelle Swader, OLPR Staff Liaison


Copies of the Feminist Task force publication "Women in Libraries" were distributed.

Advancing Women in Library Leadership Task Force

Theresa received a letter from Claire Beck, chair of the subcommittee, who was working with Maureen Sullivan and Claire Dice. The task force has "melted away" and Claire is no longer interested in continuing. Theresa stated that we are not prepared to offer this in 1998. The Feminist Task force has asked if we are interested in working with them on a preconference. Perhaps COSWL should not be expected to create a preconference. It was suggested by Diedre that COSWL desolve this task force for now and create a new one as needed.

Bibliography Task Force Report

Betty Glass indicated that all of the work is due the end of March. One of the journals has not been published yet. Over a year ago the people were in place to write the introductory article. The next edition of On Account of Sex on pay equity, gender issues and sex discrimination in the literature is due out. The Bibliography Task Force is open to anyone who would like to get involved. The Task Force will meet tomorrow (Sunday, Jan. 11) in the Hilton Riverside room from 2-4 p.m. They will need people to help with the bibliography. Women of Color in Librarianship : An Oral History will be published this year. Theresa indicated that the last time this was done was almost 10 years ago. A packet of material was found in the ALA archives and Theresa has written an introduction and ALA will be publishing it. It is hoped that it will be published before ALA Annual.

Introduction to women's groups: Feminist Task Force, Women in LAMA, Women's Studies Section - come together at Sat. 11:30 a.m. to put together a discussion. This year it is being organized by the Women's Studies Section. Theresa has talked to the FTF and WSS and they would like to do something a little different this year. They would like to put together a topic and have a member from each of the organizations talk on
the topic. Theresa asked if COSWL could have a literature box at the Annual Conference. Lorelle said that she would look into it.

Website Demonstration

Narda demonstrated the prototype of the COSWL website. Guests and members indicated that they liked what had been accomplished and it was suggested that she contact ALA headquarters to see if the site could be launched as soon as possible.

OLPR Staff Liaison Support

OLPR helps coordinate meetings, helps send out documents, acts as a resource to COSWL for anything that goes on in ALA. The staff liaison notifies COSWL of any changes in policy that may impact upon the committee. Mark came in as acting OLPR liaison for two months. Mark followed through on publications in order to maintain consistency. Any other administrative functions Lorelle is the coordinator for COSWL. She will help us with scheduling, etc. Lorelle may have someone to take notes on meetings that she cannot attend during ALA Annual in the summer. She said that we need to communicate throughout the year. Please let someone know if something is not done (by ALA). Theresa made a phone appointment to speak with Lorelle. Theresa said that Lorelle passed on that Pay Equity had something that they wanted to work on with COSWL. Tammy Echavarria is the chair of Pay Equity. They would like to work a joint project with COSWL. Tammy wanted to have some kind of open communication with COSWL. Theresa will be attending the Pay Equity committee this afternoon. Tammy has indicated that nothing has been published on Pay Equity in a long time. Said that something should be published in American libraries to get it back in the fact of people. Theresa indicated that there used to be an annual article in American Libraries but this hasn't been going on for a long time. Without COSWL and Pay Equity doing a little research and getting the information out we won't have a window on what is going on.

Theresa announced that there would be an informal committee meeting on Sunday, January 11, 1998: 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. Sun., Jan. 11, 8-10 p.m. Marriott Mardi Gras F room - if people can only come for a short amount of time that would ok. We have had a tough 2 years. Unless we bring forward some ideas and focus perhaps the Council will not keep COSWL alive. Theresa has written our mission up in large letters and we can take a look at it. Narda suggested putting a survey on the web and asked if ALA could help with the coordination of feedback.

Conclusion: Lorelle said that there was a document handed out recently with the ALA vision and working plan - "Beyond ALA Goal 2000" - look over that, see how the goals of that mesh with the committee's goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13, 1998: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

New Orleans Convention Center, Room 58

Committee Present: Theresa Tobin, chair; Loreine Roy, Narda Tafuri, and Lorelle Swader, OLPR Staff Liaison.

Guests Present: Tami Echavarria (chair, Pay Equity Committee), Elizabeth Watson.

The committee received copies of the document "New Visions: Beyond ALA Goal 2000". Theresa noted that there was no mention of women or women’s issues in the document. Loreine indicated that the Ethnic Library Association produced a pamphlet responding to Goal 2000 and helped to set up a three year plan. Theresa asked Lorelle if she could send out a packet to the members of COSWL containing the past minutes for 1996 & 1997, a copy of "Beyond ALA Goal 2000", and a copy of COSWL’s charge. Theresa said that she would like
the committee members to look at it and fill it out for ALA Annual in Washington, D.C.

Tami Echavarria and Elizabeth Watson, representing the Pay Equity Committee, asked if COSWL would be interested in working together on projects. They were especially interested in getting assistance on changing back the ALA rule that salary ranges for positions be published so that women can better negotiate salaries. Theresa indicated that Council had voted to make this change however it was done without a lot of notification. ALA said that it was losing advertising money by having to publish the salary ranges.

Theresa indicated that she was going to draft a letter to the Executive Board of American Libraries recommending that they go back to publishing the salary range and minimums. She will create a draft and e-mail it out to the committee. Tami will send out a copy of the draft to the Pay Equity committee members. Theresa will ask Lorelle to get the background of when this resolution took place.

Meetings of COSWL for ALA Annual will take place on:

Saturday, June 27: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Women's Groups, Washington Plaza, Franklin

Sunday, June 28: 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Washington Conference Center, Room 28 (with Pay Equity)

The meeting adjorned at 9:00 a.m.