

American Library Association
Social Responsibilities Round Table
Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Task Force

Minutes of the 1995 Midwinter Conference Meetings
Philadelphia, PA

Steering Committee Meeting I
February 3, 1995

Attendees:

Leon Bey, Gail Defendorf, Joseph Eagan, Karl Fattig, Ellen Greenblatt, Roland Hansen, Mark Martin, Michael Miller, Michael Nitz, Wendy Thomas.

The meeting was called to order by Female Co-chair, Wendy Thomas, at 8:05pm. Members and guests present introduced themselves.

The minutes of the 1994 Annual meetings were distributed to those who had not seen them, Roland Hansen made a motion to approve the minutes. Karl Fattig seconded the motion. The membership unanimously approved the motion to approve the minutes.

Clearinghouse Report

Gail Defendorf presented the Clearinghouse Report. The Steering Committee was informed the 104 items were mailed between January 1 and July 1, 1994 at a cost of \$166.50. Martha Stone volunteered to update the bibliography: "Short Reading List for Lesbians." It was renamed "A Selective Bibliography for Lesbian Readers" and submitted for approval for distribution at this conference. Gail requested that the Task Force decline to distribute Michael Jackson's biographical dictionary of notable gay men and lesbians. Her two reasons for this stemmed from a failure of Mr. Jackson to understand that the Task Force can not be a publisher, only a distributor; and that there is a concern that reimbursement through OLOS would be difficult. Mr. Jackson is not willing to donate his dictionary to the Task Force. There had been consideration that Mr. Jackson's dictionary replace the list of famous gay men and lesbians that had been compiled by Ellen Greenblatt and Cal Gough several years ago and is becoming dated. A verbal consent was given not to pursue distribution of Mr. Jackson's biographical dictionary.

Gail also proposed to drop publication G4, "Evaluating the Treatment of Gay Themes in Books for Children" as it is 20 years old. Both Ellen Greenblatt and Cal Gough felt that the paper was still of value and hadn't really dated. The publication will be retained.

Gail informed the committee that Dan Hodge will step down from his co-coordinator position on the Clearinghouse after midwinter. She gave an overview of the position to the members present. Joseph Eagan raised a question concerning copyright. Specifically, are all our publications copyrighted, including newsletter book reviews?

Secretary's Report

Michael Nitz presented the Secretary's report. There was no news.
GLBTF Newsletter

Karl Fattig distributed a new GLBTF newsletter subscription form. He still needs to apply for a new ISSN. He thanked Leon Bey for his work in getting out the December issues of the newsletter. Karl announced that David Streeter is retiring as book review editor. He has selected Barbara Stevens as the new book review editor. Karl thanked David for all of his time and dedication. Deadline for the spring issue is February 17, 1995, for the summer issue is the first week of June, 1995. About 310 copies of the newsletter are distributed to subscribers, trade publishers and library schools.

Book Awards Committee

Ellen Greenblatt announced that the book awards name change to The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Awards has been acknowledged by ALA as of December 31, 1994. By this spring 64 books were nominated for the Awards. This list has been pared down in the semi-final round to nineteen non-fiction and fourteen fiction titles.

Ellen has made contact with Marle Becker (a New York City gay radio station host) who is interested in assisting with fund raising for the 25th Annual Gala Conference. She will continue to pursue this with Mark Miller and Roland Hansen.

Ellen has also been contacted by Deb Shelby of Gomedia who has volunteered their WEB site to house ALA GLBTF documents and information. Ellen suggested moving GLBTF documents from the QRD to this new site as the WEB is more accessible to navigate and locate things in, and Gomedia is a for-profit company not managed by volunteers (as is the case of the QRD).

Adam Schiff suggested posting GLBTF forms and short documents on the ALA gopher. Wendy Thomas informed us that Charles Harmon, administrator of ALA's gopher has been contacted and we have his permission to post GLBTF Clearinghouse order forms and short documents on the ALA gopher. There was concern for indexing and accessibility, and copyright implications expressed. Karl Fattig proposed to grant non-exclusive authorization to post GLBTF documents on Out-Line (Gomedia's Web site). Joseph Eagan seconded the motion. A friendly addendum was added to the motion to add a disclaimer to each posted document limiting liability. Ellen will contact Deb Shelby to inform Gomedia of our decision and will work with Gail to post GLBTF documents. Jeff Trzeciak (Wright State University) volunteered to work with Ellen and Gail on this project.

Fundraising Report

Joseph Eagan identified the members of the Fundraising Committee as Ellen Greenblatt, Mark Martin, Michael Nitz (ex officio) and Joseph Eagan, chair. The Committee's function is to investigate, recommend and plan a long-range solution to funding the Book Award. Current methods of funding the award, via SRRT, are due to expire in 2000.

Joseph described telephone conferences held with Mattye Nelson, of ALA/OLOS, and Patricia Martin, ALA's endowment specialist, concerning the ALA endowments program and

investigating various funding options. They recommended two basic approaches to funding: build a perpetual endowment, and/or conduct annual fundraising through paid events or sales. Joseph delineated the pros and cons of each methodology. Highlights include the facts that ALA endowments enjoy only a two percent interest rate. This is considered very low. Having built a perpetual endowment, though, would eliminate the necessity for time consuming annual fundraising. Other gay/lesbian/bisexual groups have been successful in fundraising for perpetual endowments. Fundraising, though, requires a strong commitment from the organization and its members. It is a time consuming process. In an ALA managed endowment, to fund a \$1,000 grant, the committee would require raising a \$50,000 base. It will be difficult to solicit donors if we don't create greater visibility of the Book Awards. And, lastly, there is concern for OLOS's financial capabilities, given the long financial history between OLOS and the Task Force. It was suggested that greater visibility could be managed by announcing the names of the award books at the same time as all the other book award winners during the midwinter press conference. We could also have an awards breakfast at which tables could be sold to publishers, etc.

Planning Committee Report

Michael Miller addressed concerns with the '95 Pre-Conference. The program title is "Reaching Inside - Reaching OUT: Supporting Growth in Libraries and Society." There will be a keynote speaker (Donna Minkowitz) and four breakout sessions. The four sessions are entitled: Gay, Lesbians and Bisexuals in the Library Workplace; Joining Together: Sharing Lesbian and Gay Professional Subgroup Experiences; Cyberpaths to Lesbian and Gay Information Resources; and Lesbian and Gay Issues in Collection Development, Outreach, and Programming.

Michael Miller, Roland Hansen, and Mark Martin will take advantage of the publishers displaying at the conference to make contacts with potential revenue sponsors to support the pre-conference and the 25th Annual Gala. Wendy Thomas is managing co-sponsorship within the ALA divisions. She will be approaching Women's Studies Section, LAMA, and Intellectual Freedom Roundtable.

Michael gave a brief description of deadlines required for the pre-conference and requested that we are still in need of breakout session panelists. Adam Schiff suggested Jim Van Buskirk (San Francisco Public Library) as a panel leader for collection development issues.

The feeling from Mattye Nelson (ALA/OLOS) is that we should have no problem recouping the \$10,000 required for the pre-conference. There will be a 100 people limit for the pre-conference. Tickets are likely to be about \$95 per person for the day's sessions. We will be publicizing the pre-conference in the library press publications, e.g. *Library Journal*, etc. Final registration is June 1, 1995. If we don't have 100 registrants, the pre-conference will be canceled.

Still required are additional speakers, assistance with computerized set-up, mailing registration pamphlets, establishing travel arrangements with Donna Minkowitz.

25th Gala Planning Report

Roland Hansen informed the Committee that Mary Monks of the Gerber-Hart Library Board will provide a Friday night author's reception at the Gerber-Hart Library from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Joanne Goodman will coordinate the GLBTF entry in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade on Sunday. *[An update, Goodman will not be attending the annual conference.]* Ray Anne Lockard will coordinate the Read Aloud. Due the parade, it was recommended that the Read Aloud be moved to Monday afternoon (4:30-5:30 pm.).

The 25th Anniversary Gala will be held in the Ballroom of the Americas at the Hotel Inter-Continental. The keynote speaker is Quentin Crisp. Alan Amberg and Linda Bubon will be emcees. Each plate will cost \$48.00 per person including four courses and wine. There will be two entrees: a vegetarian and, most likely, chicken. The Hotel Inter-Continental requires no minimum for use of the Ballroom. The average Chicago hotel requires a minimum of \$20,000. There is hope of raising \$5,000 through sponsorship in order to lower the ticket price. Dinner sales will be in advance only. The book awards program following dinner will be open to the public, though there will be only an additional 150 seats made available. Adam Shiff suggested that there should be a decision made to prioritize extra funding to either reducing the ticket cost or increasing the Task Force's funding for the Book Awards.

The Gala Brochure will be published by ALA Editions at a cost of about \$1,000. Mark Martin will set up a structure and coordinate sales of ads in the Brochure. Timeline for contents for the brochure is the end of March. All advertisements, winners lists and author profiles must be received by the end of April.

Publicity Committee Report

Mark Martin has proposed a Book Award sticker design. There was some discussion about the design. Mark has taken the revised sticker design and had it transferred to T-shirts. This has made the image more concrete. There are twenty of these limited edition T-shirts. They are available for sale at cost. Adam Shiff requested that the format of the full spelling of the Task Force be standardized.

Mark delineated a set of preliminary deadlines required for the pre-conference and gala. He still is looking for volunteers to facilitate with letter writing, telephoning, etc.

Suggestions for a GLBTF letterhead have been distributed, but no decision made yet.

Local Arrangements

Kathy Anderson announced that Becky Birtha will be the main reader at the Read Aloud on Sunday, February 5 at 4:30-5:30 pm.

Rod MacNeil distributed copies of a special issue of Au Courant (a local gay newspaper), and invited everyone to take the time to see the Philadelphia AIDS library, one of the largest collections of materials on AIDS in the world.

Co-Chairs Reports

Leon Bey described the monthly Steering Committee report that he and Wendy instituted since Annual conference '94 and read some of the responses from Committee members.

Leon also introduced that the Co-Chairs want the Steering Committee and members to begin addressing a revised mission statement.

And all GLBTF functions for Chicago have been requested to be held at the Palmer House.

Wendy Thomas informed the Steering Committee members that their 1996 financial requests were due by Monday morning, February 6, 1995. Wendy discussed the conference call highlighting some of the outcomes of that meeting: The Bisexuality discussion group was dissolved as its goals have been accomplished. Problems with OLOS which will be addressed at SRRT Action Council. Endorsements of the film "Over the Rainbow," and October as Gay and Lesbian History Month; letters have been written to those involved. A blurb about the GLBTF was written for the New England g/l/b group, HQ76.3. A call for nominations for a special GLBTF citation was posted on Gay_Libn listserv. The citation is for a person who has improved access to g/l/b materials, helped with g/l/b library issues, etc. Names have been gathered and a ballot prepared. Thanks was extended to John Cunningham, Kathy Anderson, and Rod MacNeil for all their preparations with the local arrangements.

Wendy adjourned the meeting. Twenty-one GLBTF members were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Nitz
Secretary, GLBTF, 1995-1996