



SRRT

Social Responsibilities
Round Table

EST. 1969

SRRT Action Council I & II Agenda:

Saturday, June 28, 2025

5:00 PM Atlantic / 4:00 PM Eastern / 3:00 PM
Central / 2:00 PM Mountain / 1:00 PM Pacific

Sunday, June 29, 2025

3:30 PM Atlantic / 2:30 PM Eastern / 1:30 PM
Central / 12:30 PM Mountain / 11:30 AM Pacific

Day 1 - Saturday, June 28, 2025

Day 1 Attendance: Olivia Blake (coordinator), John Adebayo, Ian Bogus, Tara Brady, Sara Dallas, Reanna Esmail, Lisa Gieskes, Elaine Harger, Sherre Harrington, Mark Hudson, Ray James, Al Kagan, Charles Kratz, Don Michael, Hillary Pearson (ODLOS), Katharine Phenix, Karyn Pomerantz, LaJuan Pringle, Mark Rosenzweig, Ann Sparanese, Cory Stevenson (ALA), Derek Wilmott Montoya, Joseph Winberry, and April Sheppard (recording)

- I. **Call to order** - Olivia Blake called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm. The meeting was slightly delayed due to technical issues. She ran through the welcome and reminded attendees of our meeting guidelines.
- II. **Approve minutes** from June 11, 2025 - Tara Brady made a motion to approve the minutes, Derek Wilmott Montoya seconded. Mark Hudson asked for clarification on who is a voting member. April Sheppard replied that the current rules state that the Action Council is composed of at-large members voted on by the SRRT Membership and a representative from each task force. Olivia Blake added that the rules went into effect immediately after they were passed in the spring. The motion passed.
- III. **Business**
 - Updates from Sara Dallas:
 - ALA has a new Executive Director, Dan Montgomery.
 - ALA's Five-Year Pivot Plan has expired. The new strategic plan is ALA Forward. The plan will come up at Council on Monday. There, consultants will share their data and provide opportunities for questions. ALA Forward involves a Program Assessment (what we do), a Strategic Plan (why we do it), and an Organizational Assessment (how we do it). While the vision and mission statements are currently out, Sara expected the ALA Forward plan to come out on July 15th. (See Appendix I)
 - a) It was noted that there are over 400 programs within ALA, with many redundant or outdated due to newer technologies. The program assessment will flag these programs to be sunsetted.

- b) Tara Brady noted that part of implementing the ALA Forward plan is the formation of working groups. Sara confirmed and asked people to volunteer when the call comes out.
 - She noted that ALA is looking at a significant budget deficit for 2025-2026.
 - Sara stated that ALA staff are second to none, one of the most professional staff that she has had the pleasure to work with. She appreciates their time, talent, and dedication.
 - YASLA and ALSC are reuniting. Tara Brady stated that this was a sad, hard decision, but necessary. She added that teens would still have a place in the new division.
 - Earlier that day, Council voted to dissolve the ALA-APA. Tara Brady later said that ALA-APA needs more attention than ALA Council can give it and needs to be able to move faster.
 - Olivia Blake thanks Sara for her years of service to SRRT and Council.
- Coordinator's Report - Olivia Blake gave updated membership numbers, noting that membership numbers have continued to drop. Currently, SRRT membership is at 1,084 members—the lowest since 2017. She also noted that while ALA membership has also dropped, it has not been at the rate that SRRT has experienced.
 - Olivia added that members have stated that they want more coalition building and working together with other groups, more ways to be involved, and a more welcoming environment. Derek Wilmott Montoya added that members want to be more engaged.
 - Olivia gave a brief report on the Coordinator's Program on building radical collections and noted that several audience members asked if SRRT had a radical or independent publishers task force.
 - Treasurer's Report - Derek Wilmott Montoya stated that the Treasurer's report has not changed since the last meeting. He added that the future budget outlook is not healthy; that as membership drops, so does our budget. He noted that 1,084 members translates out to about \$16,000, which has to be spread out across everything that SRRT does. Derek and Olivia Blake encouraged people to ask for donations when possible, such as during programming.
 - ODLOS Updates - Hillary Pearson stated that she will be reaching out for insights on programming that SRRT does as part of the overall ALA program assessment.
 - Council Update - Tara Brady gave an update on things happening in Council:

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- ALA is putting together an AI and libraries working group. She said she would find out the point of contact for the group and encouraged interested parties to volunteer.
 - COL legislative agenda is mostly standard stuff. COL is also monitoring the new IMLS director, preserving the FDLP.
 - ALA Core Values Interpretation Working Groups update: Tara noted that Public Good and Equity would be asking for an extension; Sustainability should pass; but that there are concerns about Access and Intellectual Freedom.
 - The vote to approve the Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) Manual is coming up in Council. She expected the manual to pass with just plain-language edits.
 - Council voted to discontinue the Committee on Organization's (COO) Associated Committee. She noted that this committee was duplicative and added red tape.
 - The Committee on Committees had three items brought up from previous meetings:
 - a) Proposal to move Annual away from Pride - It was noted that there are lots of reasons why the end of June is the best choice for Annual and that ALA will explore ways to commemorate Pride at Annual instead.
 - b) Resolution to Achieve Carbon Neutrality for ALA Conferences - The deadline to make conferences carbon neutral was this conference (2025). While progress has been made, ALA is not there yet. A delay has been requested. Tara did add that having only one in-person conference a year will help with carbon neutrality.
 - c) COSWL Calls for Conference Site Reviews in Locations Limiting Women's Rights - This call was set aside with no action.
 - The ALA Policy Manual revision was approved 144/0/0.
- MLK Sunrise Celebration Update - LaJuan Pringle stated that the MLK Sunrise Celebration will be virtual starting in January 2026. The celebration will be available on YouTube and will be able to reach more people. It was noted that the last virtual celebration during COVID had over 1,000 views. Tara Brady asked if there had been any pushback on the move to virtual. LaJuan responded that there may be some pushback, but we have no choice with Midwinter and LLX going away. He added that the task force wanted to keep the celebration around Dr. King's birthday and moving the celebration to Annual doesn't fit that timeline. It was noted that Annual could still be a future option if the virtual format does not work out.
 - Resolutions:
 - Resolution reaffirming ALA's support of the right to protest as a necessity in a free society - Tara Brady stated that she was not moving forward with the resolution following recent discussions on Connect.

- a) After this statement, Al Kagan passed out suggested edits that a working group of five people from the International Responsibilities Task Force (IRTF) had worked on. This led to a discussion about whether the resolution and edits should be considered, given that the writer has withdrawn it. It was noted that this was not an official SRRT working group and that work had been done without the Coordinator's or Tara's knowledge. Sherre Harrington stated that the task force does not have the right to revise someone else's resolution, especially when they said it was not complete, and present it as something official from the Action Council.
 - (1) Elaine Harger stated that the spirit of the resolution belongs to her as it is based on a previous resolution she had written. Tara responded that the resolution was not based on Elaine's resolution, but was a fresh start.
 - b) During this discussion, ALA staff member Cory Stevenson stepped into the discussion and clarified that, according to Robert's Rules, the writer of the resolution, not a working group, is the owner. Elaine Harger asked why an ALA staffer is interfering with SRRT discussions. Cory responded that he stepped in when the conversation started to turn and become heated.
 - c) Olivia Blake closed the discussion and moved the agenda to the next resolution.
- Emergency Declaration Against War and Genocide - Mark Rosenzweig spoke on the importance of the resolution (Appendix II), then made a motion to approve the resolution. Al Kagan seconded.
- a) Tara Brady responded to Mark R.'s speech and stated that while some members may feel that ALA has not done enough, ALA has not been silent on Gaza, and in fact IRC's Gaza resolution went slightly further than SRRT's resolution on Ukraine
 - b) She then asked if the writing of the resolution included members of IFC, particularly Frieda Afary, who is from Iran. Mark Hudson stated that Frieda would have been welcomed to provide input and that she had knowledge of it, but that she wasn't individually invited. Olivia Blake asked if IRTF held a meeting of its members to discuss the resolution, and Mark H. responded that they had not.

It was noted that the meeting was nearing time. Al Kagan made a motion to extend the meeting by 20 minutes, and Mark Rosenzweig seconded. The resulting vote ended in a tie of 5 for and 5 against. The motion did not pass.

Derek Wilmott Montaya made a motion to end the meeting, and Tara Brady seconded. Meeting ended at 5:29 pm. Discussion of the resolution to be continued the following day.

Day 2 - Sunday, June 29, 2025

Day 2 Attendance: Olivia Blake (coordinator), Amal Ahmed, Libby Anderson, Ian Bogus, Tara Brady, Lisa Gieskes, Karen Gissony, Elaine Harger, Sherre Harrington, Mark Hudson, Charles Kratz, Don Michael, Joseph Morris, Hillary Pearson (ODLOS), Katharine Phenix, Karyn Pomerantz, Rachel Rosekind, Kristina Shiroma, Ann Sparanese, Chip Steward, Derek Wilmott Montoyta, Joseph Winsberry, Lena Zaghmouri, and April Sheppard (recording)

- Olivia Blake called the meeting to order at 1:46. She then addressed the Saturday meeting and the heated discussion that occurred during the resolutions. She stated that the behavior that occurred was unacceptable and that it would no longer be tolerated. Several members walked out in protest as Olivia spoke (Mark Rosenzweig, Mark Hudson, Ann Sparanese, and Karyn Pomerantz). She then gave an update on the business that occurred at the first meeting for those who did not attend the first meeting.
- Continued from Saturday: Emergency Declaration Against War and Genocide - Action Council was not able to continue discussion of the resolution as its authors and movers were no longer in attendance.
- Accessibility & inclusion in ALA letter/Future conferences - virtual option discussion - Rachel Roseking stated that she and Julie Ann Winkelstein have written a letter on Accessibility and Inclusion in ALA, particularly the conferences. After they work on the letter more, Rachel said that they will present it at an Action Council meeting. She asked to push further discussion to the next Action Council meeting since Julie wasn't in attendance.

IV. Regular Reports

- Web Archive Special Project - April Sheppard stated that she and Tova Harris had been trained in uploading documents to the ALA institutional repository (ALAIR) and that they had uploaded their first text documents.
- Volunteer Portal - Kristina Shiroma reported that the Elder Justice Task Force (EJTF) had talked with Hillary Pearson about the volunteer portal and that they will be working more on the project
- Elder Justice Task Force (EJTF) - Kristina Shiroma asked that the mini-grant conversation be kept on the agenda and be discussed at the next Action Council

meeting. Joseph Winberry then reminded Action Council that EJTF will be presenting in the morning on their first year and the process of starting a task force. Olivia Blake encouraged members to attend the meeting, especially if interested in starting a task force on their own. Joseph also stated he was happy to see more people interested in service to older adults.

- Programming Committee - Rachel Rosekind stated that the SRRT Afternoon of Social Justice is coming up. They have received 23-24 submissions to go with the already accepted program by Don Michael. She added that the final decision on speakers should be finalized in the next week. She ended by noting that many speakers are ALA members and will not require an honorarium.
- Committee on Diversity - Don Michael encouraged everyone to review the [Committee on Diversity report](#) that he shared in Connect. He stated that he will pull out data from the report and will share it with Action Council once he's done.
- IFC Report - Lisa Gieskes reported that the IFC Manual passed except for one minor revision. She ended by offering to bring any issues to IFC for SRRT.

V. Additional Day 2 business

- Additional ALA Councilor report/updates - Tara Brady gave an update on the Council II meeting and the updated Council III meeting. She asked people to give feedback on the strategic plan to her now. Joseph Winberry asked if there was more information on the plan than what has been shared now. Tara said no and stated that Council is voting on talking items now, but that more will come out later. Olivia Blake asked if she needed anything from SRRT besides feedback. Tara responded that she needed communication, otherwise she assumes that we trust her judgment.
- Voting for officers (coordinator-elect, treasurer, secretary) - April Sheppard stated that the only nomination received was Derek Wilmott Montoya for Treasurer. They stated that they believed that Coordinator-Elect may be able to wait until later in the year when people can see what their workload will look like. They also commented that if there is no secretary, one solution could be to rotate who takes minutes during minutes.
 - Lisa Gieskes offered to run for Secretary if she can participate virtually. Olivia Blake responded that she does not anticipate an issue. Tara Brady mentioned that officers must be from Action Council, as either an at-large member or the Task Force representative, but that Lisa could take minutes until a secretary is elected. April Sheppard added that if Julie Ann Winklestein and Lisa agreed to make her Action Council representative from HHPTF that this would resolve this issue.

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- April nominated Derek Wilmott Montoya for Treasurer, and Charles Kratz seconded. All in favor.
 - Olivia stated that the rest of the officers will be held off until she can get more clarity on who qualifies for officer positions.
 - Olivia Blake thanked outgoing Action Council members April Sheppard and Sherre Harrington for their work on the Action Council and thanked them for their dedication and stated that she hoped they would still be around.
 - Looking ahead - Olivia Blake stated that she is looking at getting a facilitator over the summer to help improve future Action Council meetings. She then asked if anyone had ideas for the upcoming year.
 - Don Michael asked if librarians understood the concepts of social justice and suggested that SRRT promote what we can do for the work and ALA. Olivia asked Don if he would be willing to take point on this. He asked to revisit this discussion at another time.
 - As the meeting was nearing the end of time, Tara Brady moved to extend the minutes by 15 minutes to 3:15 pm, and Charles Kratz seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting was extended to 3:15 pm.
 - Charles Kratz then discussed how alarming it is that membership and funding has dropped off. He also noted that the EJTF isn't listed on the SRRT donation page. Additionally, he suggested adding the Emerging Leader as a donation option. Olivia Blake agreed and said that people want to help, and this does include money, especially for those who don't have time to give.
 - Tara Brady stated she spent a lot of time reading about the history of SRRT throughout her time with the round table. One thing that she has noted is that we used to be very big on coalition building and stated that we need to get back to that. We need to build support by asking for feedback in addition to endorsements. Olivia Blake replied that one of the meetings she attended at Annual included leaders talking about how to support each other's work.
 - Joseph Winberry commented that a lot of the same people seem to do the same work. He suggested sharing instructions and other written documents for people to learn more, such as a "start-to-finish handbook." April Sheppard replied that they are working on a SRRT guidebook, and added that they learned that other round tables have onboarding presentations for their members that cover an overview of the history of the round table, introduction to officers, and committees. Don Michael

asked if a “best practices” document could be made from the guidebook and offered to help April with this. Olivia Blake added that we are also looking at clarifying procedures.

- Ian Bogus thanked Olivia Blake for her work this last year, noting that SRRT Action Council is a difficult group to lead. Olivia stated that she is looking forward to working with Rachel Rosekind in the next year as Co-Coordination and continuing the work started. Charles Kratz added that he knows what a challenge the last year has been and that she has done an incredible job.

VI. **Adjourn** - April Sheppard made a motion to adjourn, and Tara Brady seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:43

Appendix I: ALA Forward

As the American Library Association approaches its 150th anniversary in 2026, we stand at a crucial inflection point. ALA is embarking on several initiatives to position our organization for the future. Together they are called *ALA Forward*. *ALA Forward* is a comprehensive program designed to ensure ALA empowers and advocates for libraries and library workers to ensure equitable access to information for all. These new projects, in partnership with leading association consultants, are expected to conclude by summer 2025. The initiatives include:

- **Strategic Plan:** Clarifying what ALA does and why
- **Organizational Assessment:** Reviewing ALA’s internal structure for alignment with goals, and
- **Program Assessment:** Assessing the impact and value of ALA individual programs.

Strategic Planning: ALA leaders recognize the importance of developing a cohesive organizational strategy to stay ahead of emerging trends and proactively address the needs of libraries, library workers, and the public. With issues evolving rapidly, ALA leaders have decided it’s important to review their goals and objectives to enable success over the next several years. This draft plan will be on the ALA Council agenda for consideration and include a new mission and vision statement and will incorporate the recently updated ALA core values.

Organizational Assessment: ALA aims to optimize how staff work together to support strategic goals and foster a work environment where all staff can excel. It examines how work is organized and flows, how teams collaborate, and identifies areas of strength and opportunities for improvement. The assessment will conclude in **July 2025**, setting the stage for the next steps toward a stronger ALA.

Program Assessment: ALA aims to evaluate programs for effectiveness, alignment with ALA's mission, operational efficiency, and resource utilization. To that end, ALA has assessed all programs at ALA with the goal of amplifying the overall effectiveness and impact. The report was completed in **March 2025**, and the ALA Executive Board and staff are analyzing the findings.

What's Next: The ALA Forward initiative will optimize ALA resources in support of the newly adopted strategic goals and build alignment between the organizational structure and the goals. This will allow us to focus on increasing membership to enhance our efficiency, effectiveness, and mission impact. The timing reflects our commitment to addressing current challenges proactively and to having this playbook available for the new ALA Executive Director.

Appendix II: Mark Rosenzweig's Introduction to Resolution

Colleagues, comrades, fellow members of the SRRT and the ALA Action Council:

I speak today not simply as a member of this Action Council, but as a career librarian—one who believes in what that word still can mean.

At our best, we are caretakers of memory, stewards of knowledge, defenders of the public good. At our best, we do not remain silent when history is being erased in real time. And so I speak to you now in that spirit, because we are at a moment that demands more than statements, more than caution, more than delay.

We are watching, right now, the attempted destruction of an entire people in Gaza. Over 56,000 Palestinians have been killed. Schools, libraries, hospitals—bombed. Civilians—starved, displaced, disappeared. And at the same time, as this horror unfolds under U.S. protection and funding, we now stand at the edge of yet another war—this time with Iran.

Just days ago, the United States committed bunker-busting airstrikes on Iranian nuclear sites. This is not an isolated action. It is part of a wider escalation, a dangerous turn in a decades-long campaign of sanctions, demonization, and threats. And it is happening now, I believe, for a reason: because attention was finally being paid to Gaza. Because the global

public has been rising up. And so, once again, we are being told to look elsewhere. To fear a new enemy. To forget.

We must not forget.

We must not remain silent.

And we must not allow our professional organizations to be neutralized into irrelevance at the moment when moral clarity is most needed.

I am calling today on SRRT—and through us, the greater ALA—to issue an emergency declaration in the name of American librarianship:

No to war on Iran. No to unconstitutional military action against Iran. No to regime change covert actions.

No to continued U.S. support for the genocide in Gaza.

End all U.S. military, diplomatic, and financial complicity—now.

Librarianship is not separate from the world. We are not above politics—we are embedded in them. Our profession's values compel us to speak in defense of human rights, of dignity, of intellectual and physical freedom. What does "access to information" mean to a child buried beneath rubble? What does "freedom to read" mean in a city with no books, no water, no power, and no people left alive to read?

If we believe in peace, if we believe in justice, if we believe in human life, then we cannot remain on the sidelines while war crimes are funded with our tax dollars and waged in our name.

Other professional organizations are speaking out. Historians. Anthropologists. Medical workers. Educators. We, too, must take a stand.

I urge us to act without delay. To vote to adopt and circulate a declaration. To urge the full ALA to join us. To stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza and the people of Iran—and with all those who believe that another world is possible, and necessary.

We must say what so many already know: the time of polite silence is over.

Let the American Library Association say it clearly:

We oppose genocide.

We oppose imperial war and unconstitutional exercise of military force in violation of international law.

We oppose the use of our profession's silence to shield atrocity.

And we act because our values demand it.

Thank you.