

SRRT Action Council
Monday, May 20th, 2024
10:00 a.m. Central
Zoom

Present: Charles Kratz (co-coordinator), April Sheppard (co-coordinator), Sherre Harrington (treasurer), Tara Brady (councilor), Hillary Pearson (ODLOS), Aubrey Huff (ODLOS), Rebekah Black, Olivia Blake, Ian Bogus, Gary Colmenar, Nicole Campolucci, De'Ivyion Drew, Mark Hudson, Wanda Huffaker, Al Kagan, Katherine Kelly, Laura Koltutsky, Don Michael, Mark Rosenzweig, Holly Selwitschka, Ann Sparanese, Derek Wilmott, Julie Ann Winkelstein,

1. Introduction of the new Assistant Director of Literacy and Continuing Education at ODLOS, Aubrey Huff.
2. Approval of [April's minutes](#) – Don Michael moved to approve the minutes, Olivia Blake seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by those present.
3. [SRRT at ALA Annual](#) – Olivia Blake created a website at <https://www.ala.org/srrt/events/annual> featuring all the SRRT events at ALA Annual. April Sheppard encouraged people to attend the SRRT Coordinator Program, Combating Voter Suppression in Your Library, featuring Aaron Wilson, Frieda Afary, and Nancy Kranich as panelists.
4. June Action Council Meeting – April Sheppard asked whether Action Council should keep or cancel the June 17th virtual meeting since we will be meeting at Annual. It was agreed that SRRT may have last minute work to do before Annual and it was better to keep it scheduled.
5. SRRT Bylaws Task Force – April Sheppard announced that the RTCA rules template had been approved, so it was time to work on the SRRT bylaws. Please let her know if you would like to volunteer for the task force.
6. Membership Survey Update - April Sheppard gave a brief report on the initial results of the SRRT Membership Survey. She noted that they received 157 complete responses. Top stated social justice interests were Diversity and Racial Justice, Intellectual Freedom, and Hunger, Homelessness and Poverty. There was also strong interest in more virtual programming and toolkits and advocacy resources. Greatest barriers were time and budget constraints (decreasing employer support). Did receive some comments about the lack of diversity in SRRT, the positions we take on issues, and strong personalities in meetings and on Connect. Also received a lot of praise, including that SRRT being a refuge within ALA. One area of concern that jumped out is that 81% of respondents are aged 40 and older, 75% White, non-Hispanic.

Discussion of the initial results included:

- a. Cost barriers of attending conferences - can SRRT do something?
 - b. Sharing the survey with the New Members Round Table to garner younger response or creating a similar survey that isn't so aimed at SRRT members specifically.
 - c. Share results of the survey with the ALA Membership Office.
7. Afternoon of Social Justice Planning – April Sheppard suggested opening the call for proposals for the 2024 SRRT Afternoon of Social Justice. With approval of those in attendance, April stated that she would send out the call later that day.
 8. Resolution in Defense of Anti-War Protesters' Freedom of Expression and Assembly - Al Kagan noted that several other organizations have made statements on the arrests of students protesting on campuses and that no one in ALA has yet taken a stand. He also noted two current bills in Congress that could further hamper protesters' freedom of expression. He then introduced the resolution, stating that if approved by Action Council, it could be sent to the Committee on Legislation (COL) for feedback.

Discussion following the introduction of the resolution primarily focused on its intended purpose, what actions we hoped ALA would take, and the word "lobbying" in the second resolved clause. Tara Brady noted asking ALA to take any position on or make any ask of the US government at any level is going to make any resolution difficult to pass, because ALA Council tends to defer to COL and the Washington Office on these matters, and is reluctant to pass anything without their support.. After discussion, it was agreed that the main purpose is to get ALA to act, such as sign on to other statements of support. Sherre Harrington suggested adding a whereas statement that states that ALA has taken an active position in the past and needs to take action, give examples of what action could look like, and to use language that's already there. Al suggested replacing "lobbying" with "act in coalition with." It was agreed that Al would make the edits and resend the resolution to be voted on virtually. April recommended three days for voting to give enough time to send the resolution to COL if approved, make edits if needed, and submit to the Virtual Membership Meeting deadline.

9. Operating Agreement Rate Change – Charles Kratz gave a brief overview of SRRT's current overhead charges (\$1,300) and the three proposed scenarios. Hillary Pearson noted that the operating agreement had not been addressed in 20 years. Charles noted that all three options would be expensive for roundtables and that the Round Table Coordinating Assembling (RTCA) will be meeting to discuss the scenarios. Hillary added that more work is needed on defining what overhead is. During discussion, concern was expressed about how sustainable ALA is.
10. Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries in Gaza - Al Kagan introduced a resolution addressing the damage and destruction of libraries in Gaza. During

discussion, it was noted that the International Relations Committee (IRC) brought forward a very similar resolution at LLX in January that was passed. April Sheppard offered to reach out to IRC to learn if ALA had taken any action after the approval of their resolution. Sherre Harrington asked if there is a more effective mechanism to speak out? Laura Koltutsky reminded Action Council that we had discussed creating a toolkit or other training opportunities.

11. SRRT Programming Committee Update - Derek Wilmott gave a brief update on the SRRT Programming Committee. He noted that they had four new members and that Frieda Afary had stepped down to pursue other opportunities, but would still help where she could. He thanked her for her work with the committee. After Derek described the positive responses to SRRT programming that we've received, Sherre Harrington suggested doing a press release on our successful programming. Julie Ann Winkelstein recommended that the committee look at more performance-based programs that feature younger people. Mark Hudson then invited meeting participants to the International Responsibilities Task Force (IRTF)'s upcoming program, "The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: Challenging Disinformation and Efforts to Silence Debate/Discussion" will be addressing these issues:
<https://ala-events.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0kdeGgqDgoGNdPXtVRnnwwSh-ZqFEECWsq#/registration>

Mark Rosenweig made a motion to adjourn. Sherre Harrington seconded. .

Meeting adjourned at 11:19am