

SRRT Action Council
Monday, October 16, 2023
10:00 AM Central

Present: Mark Rosenzweig, Don Michael, April Sheppard, Katelyn Browne, Al Kagan, Olivia Blake, Tara Brady, Julie Ann Winkelstein, Kelly Klima, Rebekah Black, Ian Bogus, Gary Colmenar, Hale, Frieda Afary, Hillary Pearson (ODLOS staff liaison), Kevin Strowder (ODLOS)

Meeting began at 10:02. Those present introduced themselves to the group.

Approve Annual minutes and September minutes - Olivia Blake moved approval, Ian Bogus seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Web Committee Update – Olivia Blake and Hale Polebaum-Freeman are co-chairing this committee through the end of the association year. They are working to reconvene the committee and will meet this Friday, October 20th, at 11:30 Central. Those interested should e-mail Olivia at oblake@biblio.org to get the Zoom link. The committee also works on the portal listing SRRT's upcoming and past events at <https://www.ala.org/rt/srrt/events>; anyone with events to add should contact Olivia or Hale.

Programming Committee Update – Olivia read the report from the Programming Committee, which is currently running a bimonthly Current World Events discussion series for library staff and community members. 40 people registered for the first event on Ukraine on October 7th, but only 9 were able to attend due to technical issues. Lively discussion ensued and there were good suggestions for future sessions. The next session, which is on October 28th, will focus on abortion and reproductive justice. Information is on the events page linked above.

There will be a panel on information justice on Wednesday, November 15th with Robin D.G. Kelley, Nicole Cooke, Carolyn Foote, and Johannah Genett. Gary Colmenar mentioned that Robin D.G. Kelley had recently been a guest on his radio show; he will share a link with the group.

Membership Committee Update – Gary Colmenar gave the membership report. SRRT currently has over 1,700 members and continues to be the largest ALA round table. Gary mentioned that many librarians share values with SRRT, and he reminded us that there are other ALA round tables that began as SRRT task forces. Now, the membership committee wants to think of ways we can encourage more participation from our members given the state of the world right now and the need for more participatory action, including participation in Action Council. SRRT has been and can continue to be a place for action on the issues that ALA members care about.

The membership committee (Gary, April, and AI) would also like more members if anyone is interested in joining.

Julie Ann Winkelstein asked about the current membership dues. April clarified that SRRT's dues have been \$15 for a while now, and that SRRT membership is free for students who have our coupon code. Julie Ann is interested in helping people join ALA who are facing financial barriers. Gary added that the membership committee recently conducted a survey of LIS students (distributed by the deans of LIS programs at their discretion) and are still analyzing the results.

Tara asked about promotion of the coupon code and whether it can be added directly to the membership blurb that people see when joining. Kevin Strowder confirmed that the student code is currently on the SRRT membership page: <https://www.ala.org/rt/srrt/membership-srrt>. April and Hillary will confirm whether the code also appears on the registration form.

Olivia suggested that the membership committee and the web committee work together to encourage participation.

April described recently talking to multiple SRRT members about the value of SRRT and the ways in which they could get involved with the work of the round table. Other expressed support for the idea of a page of ways to get involved, as well as encouragement to bring project ideas directly to SRRT for consideration.

FTF Update - Katelyn Browne related some questions from the Rise: A Feminist Book List co-chairs. They are still interested in moving their Wordpress site to be hosted by ala.org, which has been an ongoing quest for over five years at this point. Hillary provided an update on the Drupal upgrade of the ala.org site, which may be launched by March of 2024.

Rise will be looking for new applicants in February and the co-chairs are interested in the same questions raised above about publicizing volunteer opportunities. Katelyn will put the co-chairs in touch with the web committee.

Katelyn also encouraged anyone who would like support for projects related to feminism and gender equity to get in touch.

HHPTF Update – Julie Ann Winkelstein described the work of the Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty Task Force and ways she would like to expand the reach of guest speakers she brings into her LIS classes. She has some technical questions about recording them; once those are resolved, she would like to be releasing a monthly (and then eventually biweekly) podcast series. The task force is also regularly sharing articles about libraries' work related to hunger, homelessness, and poverty.

IRTF Update – Mark Rosenzweig is the incoming co-chair of IRTF and noted that the task force is carefully monitoring the situation in Gaza and Israel (with particular interest in the situation for schools and libraries) and will be meeting for discussion this coming Thursday morning. Those interested can reach out to Mark Rosenzweig, Mark Hudson, or Al Kagan.

Al Kagan added that SRRT's/IRTF's previous resolutions about the destruction of Palestinian schools and librarians have been defeated in broader ALA bodies.

Community Commitment – April Sheppard reopened this discussion from last month's meeting. Olivia encouraged the group to be sure that we are not setting up a way to tone police people. Frieda suggested that SRRT needs a statement of values since our shared values are referenced. Katelyn noted the importance of how these commitments are implemented, and whether they are primarily used to regulate the behaviour of new people or to reimagine the ways regular attenders have related to each other. Don Michael suggested distinguishing between discourse about emotionally activating topics (and telling the truth about your own experience) and attacking through discourse. Olivia asked how we are actually going to hold ourselves and each other accountable to these commitments. April suggested reviewing the commitments at the beginning of each term. Katelyn also suggested that they could be linked in each meeting's agenda. Julie Ann mentioned belonging to a group that rereads their commitments at the beginning of each meeting.

April will make some changes based on today's discussion. Multiple people asked how people should respond when they feel that the commitments are not being upheld; April will add it to next month's agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05AM.