

## **Proposed Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table**

### **Title**

Elder Justice Task Force

“Elder justice” is a term used in law that funds the [US Department of Justice](#), organizations such as [Justice in Aging](#), and scholar-practitioners such as [Lisa Nerenberg](#). While defined in different ways, the spirit of the term is that older adults have social justice needs because of inequities they experience due to real or perceived circumstances around age. For more information on the justice imperative of their needs, [view remarks shared during Dr. Joseph Winberry’s July 1st presentation at the 2024 ALA Annual Conference](#).

We use this term to be in alignment with various other efforts to promote social justice for and with older adults while also recognizing that some older people may not care for the term for personal or cultural reasons. Evolving language is part of continued efforts to address ageism and we recognize that our own language may change over time to meet emerging standards.

### **Mission**

The Elder Justice Task Force (EJTF) seeks to partner with older adults, libraries, and communities to identify, understand, and address the needs of this growing and diverse population.

[We see our mission as being in alignment with the SRRT belief that libraries and librarians must recognize and help solve social problems and inequities in order to carry out their mandate to work for the common good and bolster democracy.](#)

### **Statement of Goals**

To meet its mission, the work of the EJTF is guided by the following goals:

1. To challenge ALA and the library profession to be more inclusive of older adults through increased, anti-ageist representation of this population in the programs, services, and education offered
2. To collect and curate resources including programming support for serving older adults in libraries
3. To create a network for those seeking to serve older adults and disrupt stereotypes about this population in the library profession
4. Facilitate training for library staff on best practices for serving older adults

### **Projected Activities**

To accomplish its goals, the EJTF projects the following activities:

1. Conduct a baseline audit of ALA and broader aging-related programs, services, staffing, and education for and around the needs of older adults which will inform the future work of the taskforce
2. Facilitate the education of library professionals on the needs of older adults through programming and other services in person at ALA conferences and throughout the year

digitally when possible (potential topics include intersectionality among older adults, grants for libraries around aging, successful programming ideas for serving older adults, etc.)

3. Create and maintain a webpage of resources (e.g., companies that offer services helpful for older adult programming, grant opportunities, aging services partnerships)
4. Maintain best practices for serving older adults through collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing academic research, library practice documentation, and aging services information
5. Award a small grant to a library student and/or early career (<3) library workers who win a short essay contest on how they will serve older adults and challenge systems where necessary on their behalf
6. Build community across the currently decentralized efforts to serve older adults in ALA and the broader libraryland
7. Collaborate with academic, government, and community partners to provide library staff training on topics important for serving older adults such as information literacy, digital literacy, AI literacy, scams/fraud prevention, culture, social interaction, etc.

### **Proposed Budget**

- \$300 for library student/early career library professionals (<3) scholarship (\$100 x3 winners)
- \$100 for maintaining website
- \$100 for \$20 honorariums to conference and/or digital presenters
- \$500 for other task force administrative costs such as creating a logo, creating marketing materials, creating certificates for scholarship awardees, etc.
- *\$1000 Total Annual Proposed Budget*

### **Bylaws**

1. The title, mission, and bylaws of the task force were adopted by its charter members on August 1, 2024. Pending SRRT Action Council approval, they can only be changed by a majority vote of the *active* task force members (i.e. those that are up-to-date dues paying members of ALA/SRRT who have been formally enrolled as EJTF members).
2. The EJTF must meet no less than quarterly.
3. There will be a standing business/election meeting that occurs annually in June. A survey should be sent to all active EJTF members by May 15 to determine a date and time for the annual meeting in June. Members must respond by May 30 to ensure their availability is considered. A date and time convenient to respondents will be selected in a transparent process led by the task force's co-chairs.
4. Two co-chairs will be elected to lead the task force for a period of one year (July 1 - June 30). Any active EJTF task members as of May 1st can be nominated by themselves or other active members for one of the two co-chair positions.
5. The annual meeting survey sent by May 15 will also serve as the first ballot of the election of the two co-chairs. If no two candidates receive a majority of the vote, subsequent run offs will be held at the annual business meeting until two candidates who

each receive a majority of those present at the business meeting are elected. There are no term limits on co-chairs.

6. The co-chairs will work in partnership with one another and be responsible for leading activities aligned with the mission and bylaws of the EJTF. They will create additional leadership positions or sub-committees as they deem necessary. The only required position they must fill is the EJTF's representative on the SRRT Action Council.
7. A petition signed by 25% of active members can force a vote on a topic related to the bylaws, mission, and activities of the task force at either the next annual business meeting or at a meeting that must be held within two months of the petition being delivered to the co-chairs. Which timeline applies is at the discretion of the petitioners.
8. The only exception will be if there is a petition to remove one or both of the co-chairs. A vote to remove one or both co-chairs must be held as soon as possible at a time as convenient to the active members as possible but no later than one month after the petition signed by 2% of members is delivered to the co-chairs.
9. A petition that is defeated by a majority vote at the annual or at a special business meeting may not be brought up again during the same July 1 - June 30 year.
10. All members must have an active role in the work of the task force, however small, to sustain the work of the task force. Members can be removed from the task force for violations of ALA, SRRT, and EJTF bylaws/policies by the co-chairs in consultation with the SRRT Action Council.

## Members

If you are interested in joining the EJTF, please fill out the following chart of necessary information. Please note that members should be or intend to be due paying members of ALA and SRRT. If you are still interested in being involved but may not be able to be due paying members, please get in touch to discuss options via [jwinber@unc.edu](mailto:jwinber@unc.edu).

\*Denotes charter members who participated in the formation meeting on or pledged their membership to this list by 8/1/24.

#	Name	Organization	Title	Business Address	Email Address
1	Joseph Winberry*	UNC Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science	Assistant Professor	200 Manning Hall  CB# 3360   Chapel Hill, NC 27599	jwinber@unc.edu
2	Julianne Novetsky*	Warren Public Library	Outreach Services Librarian	One City Square, Ste. 100 Warren, MI 48093	jnovetsky@cit yofwarren.org
3	Kristina Shiroma*	Louisiana State University	Assistant Professor	223G Peabody Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803	kshiroma@ls u.edu

#	Name	Organization	Title	Business Address	Email Address
4	Manon Merewether*	Arapahoe Libraries	Older Adult Services Librarian	5955 S Holly St Centennial, CO 80121	mmerewether@ald.lib.co.us
5	Maggie Cortes*	Maricopa Library District, Ed Robson Library	Branch Manager	9330 E Riggs Rd, Sun Lakes, AZ 85248	mariacortes@mclad.org
6	George Strawley*	Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 4	Engagement Specialist	Eccles Health Sciences Library, 10 N. 1900 East, Salt Lake City UT 84112	george.strawley@utah.edu
7	Rebecca Beadle*	Central Arkansas Library System	Community Resource Manager	100 S. Rock St, Little Rock, AR 72201	rbeadle@cals.org
8	Victoria Dale*	Arlington Public Library	Library Associate	1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington VA 22201	vdale@arlingtonva.us
9	Ember Haller*	Imperial Public Library	Library Administrator	200 W 9th St Imperial, CA 92251	ehaller@cityofimperial.org
10	Zoe Mann*	Arlington Public Library	Adult Services Librarian	816 S Walter Reed Dr, Arlington VA 22204	zmann@arlingtonva.us
11	Bennie Finch*	Network of the National Library of Medicine, Region 7	Education and Outreach Coordinator	Lamar Soutter Library UMASS Chan Medical School 55 Lake Ave N Worcester, MA 01655	bennie.finch@umassmed.edu
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### Document Approval

Document approved by charter members who attended formation meeting on 8/1/24.