

Minutes of the ALA Games and Gaming Round Table meeting, June 28, 2026

Location: Convention Center, Chicago

Board members present: Amber Sewell, Chris Baker, Danielle Costello, Rebecca Strang, Thomas Vose, Molly Porter, George Bergstrom, Carl DiNardo

Others present: 15

Meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by Mage Amber Sewell

No vote was taken on the minutes from the previous meeting.

Amber reported on the goals she had set for her term as Mage across the previous year. The first goal, sustainability via documentation, has seen a lot of progress made. To meet the second goal, engagement via orientation, new member orientation videos were developed, as the group could use fresh new perspectives.

Incoming mage Chris announced the recent election results:

- Sage Mage/Strategic Planning chair: Amber Sewell
- Apprentice Mage / Dustin Karls
- Treasurer: Thomas Vose
- Secretary: Mackenzie Johnson
- Councilor: Jennifer Stubbs

He then announced committee chairs/co-chairs for the upcoming year:

- Program Committee: George Bergstrom, Colin Post, Evan Fruehauf
- Awards Committee: Molly Porter, Elizabeth Hollendonner, Colin Post
- Grant Committee: LeeAnn McNabb
- Outreach: Jennifer Taylor
- Metadata: Mackenzie Johnson

Chris then announced the goal he was focusing on for his term as Mage was to create a stronger connection with scholarly work and with the iSchools, in order to make GameRT a center of scholarly knowledge in the field.

Thomas provided the Treasurer's Report. With minimal spending through the end of April (the most recent figures available) due to the bulk of spending taking place during ALA, there was little movement on expenses. GameRT is over its revenue goal for the year by \$3,448, however.

Rebecca reported on programming, particularly with regard to ALA Annual.

- GameRT's booth and the Gaming Grove were hidden away unpleasantly, but people were looking for it and by standing outside of it we were able to guide people in.

- The Game Jams event drew 50 people.
- ALA Play drew 230 despite being fairly far off site. The room was initially not set up correctly, with chairs arranged for nonexistent tables, but the hotel staff got it fixed up with Rebecca's guidance in time.
- Protospiel Chicago had 10 designers on hand, and plenty of participation. They said they were excited to work again with GameRT in the future. At NOLA next year, Unpub will be the playtesting group, however.
- Pokémon was there with a large booth and are excited to come back again next year. Wizards of the Coast was back as well with an elaborate booth, and Yu-Gi-Oh is back for the first time since 2015.
- Cards Against Humanity had a table for the first time on the exhibit hall floor, and continues to be a big supporter.

George reported on virtual programming. March Mini-Con will see a call for proposals put out soon. The Spectacular will take place in October with a theme of "Apocalypse," and we will be playing with representatives from other RTs.

George also gave an overview of International Games Month for the prospective new members in attendance, calling for more help with seeking sponsorships.

While nobody was present from the Outreach committee, George gave a brief overview of that as well.

George also gave an overview of the Awards Committee. Apocalypse World is interested in doing a live play for the Spectacular, which is a real honor.

Stephanie Vance gave an overview of the Metadata Committee. We have been in discussion with LibraryThing as a potential partner for pre-cataloging games, pulling data from BoardGameGeek and migrating it into MARC records.

Danielle reported from the Strategic Planning Committee. One of the big questions is what to do regarding AI - we have started a doc on it, which includes resources and best practices, as well as ethics guides. This is a living document, and open to new additions, but internal to GameRT.

- They are also developing a new policy guide for partnerships and virtual programs, which will be voted on at the next meeting.
- We have had an issue with Airtable voting with our recent Meeple at Large internal election.

Rebecca gave an overview of the Grants Committee's work, and reiterated that the winners this year were Jefferson High School in Rockford, IL and Denton Public Library in Texas. They will be submitting grant reports as well to let us know how their projects are going.

All business concluded, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.