

SRRT Action Council
Monday, February 19th, 2024

Meeting - 2/19/24

Charles Kratz (Co-Coordinator), April Sheppard (Co-Coordinator), Sherre Harrington (Treasurer), Mark Rosenzweig, Rebekah Black, Derek Wilmott, Don Michael, Tara Brady, Laura Koltutsky, Ian Bogus, Suzanne Maguire, Olivia Blake, Mark Hudson, Julie Winkelstein, Gary Colmenar, Frieda Afary, Al Kagan, Hillary Pearson (ODLOS Staff Liaison), Sara Dallas (Executive Board Liaison), Sam Helmick (ALA Presidential Candidate), Ray Pun (ALA Presidential Candidate)

April Sheppard introduced Ray Pun who provided a brief background about him, his past leadership and advocacy work, and past work with SRRT. He stated three goals for his presidency: 1) must support, recognize, and showcase library workers as we confront, 2) stronger worker relationship between ALA and constituents 3) stronger ALA international programming. One question was asked of ~~A~~ rOorLAK c

because what we do is powerful and holds impact in the world. If elected, I support three hirings: Director of Development, Director of Legislation, and for an ALA Executive Director to uplift and reflect the voices of membership. Focus on structure to strengthen work.

Ray: We are seeing an increase of dis- and misinformation, but there have been improvements since 2016. For example, more partnerships between libraries and journalists. Ray mentioned an open source toolkit (content authenticity initiative) that a journalist is part of and they will be presenting at the Louisiana Library Association conference. Noted that a lot of libraries lack training because they are understaffed. See opportunities to provide collaborative training.

It worries me that big ALA is more reactive than proactive. Concern that this does more harm to the association. ALA needs to be bolder.

Sam: Would structure help? Maybe have rubric at the executive level be made more transparent and public to help membership guide that work and to determine how, when, and what issues to address.

Ray: Staff are doing a great job there's definitely a lot of our profession and our staff. Also, fear, i.e. doxxing. Look for things we can do, i.e. work with Library Freedom Project on doxxing workshops for members. Need to be proactive when it comes to digital safety.

Would like to look at what other organizations are doing, i.e. many organizations have passed cease-fire resolutions. It's hard to explain why ALA can't do anything. Why was it

Sam: It's challenging. As a membership driven organization, we observe ALA council votes and how they are providing a voice that doesn't feel quite as commiserate to the professed values of SRRT.

Ray: ALA is a member driven institution with lots of viewpoints. We need to keep having conversations to make sure we are not resorting to settling at the status of

Due to time constraints, Charles Kratz asked Ray and Sam to email their response on the Core Value to either April or Charles. Both affirmed that they would.

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Al noted that several past ALA presidents were against the shorter core values. He then read a statement from Michael Gorman.

Sherre Harrington noted that Tara did bring the Core Values to Action Council at Annual. She then wondered if