

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table
of the American Library Association
2010 Midwinter Meeting, Boston Massachusetts

Steering Committee II
Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2010

I. Call to order

Nancy Silverrod called to order the regular meeting of the GLBTRT Steering Committee of ALA at 4:05 P.M. on 18 January, 2010 in room 225 of the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

II. Introductions

Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT Secretary recorded the names of those in attendance. The following were present: Ellen Bosman, Matt Ciszek, Franklin Escobedo, Peter Hepburn, Dale McNeill, Anne Moore, Tracy Nectoux, Jerry Reynolds, K.R. Roberto, John Sandstrom, Nancy Silverrod, James Simonis, Nel Ward.

Guest: Sara Kelly Johns

III. Guest Address

Sara Kelly Johns is running for ALA President, and addressed the Round Table.

IV. Old Issues

a) Rainbow Project

The Rainbow Project read 46 books, with 6 or 7 of them being picture books. The project has chosen the top four. The top ten will be in the booklist online. A member of the Rainbow Project published a book that they considered, but he was not part of the discussion. They need three replacements for the coming year. Matt Ciszek will forward the names of those who've expressed interest to John Andrews.

b) Tool Kits

Do we want someone to oversee the whole project? ALA has published on tool kits, and we plan to look for someone to work with OLOS.

c) National GLBT Book Month

The group decided on specific, inclusive phrasing for the language to be proposed in policy. We used “gender identity OR expression” rather than “gender identity AND expression” to make sure that each is covered separately rather than covering only if both gender identity AND expression occur together. Committee member Samantha further added this approach was ideal as it was, “. . . more inclusive to parts of the transgender community such as crossdressers who identify as their birth gender regardless of mode of dress and also encompasses gay and lesbian individuals whose gender presentation may lie outside the "norm" for their gender.”

Method for Changing Policy

Committee member Larry Romans suggested the group send its wish list to the ALA Policy Monitoring Committee. The contact with them was successful. Larry sent out the results to the GLBTRT list on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 4:42 PM.

7. ACTION ITEMS 7.1-7.4. Terminology regarding gender identity

organizations which must: be not for profit; have interests consistent with those of ALA; have sufficiently large membership and length of existence to ensure continued support under constitutions and bylaws not in conflict with ALA and its policies; and do not discriminate in membership on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disabilities, or national origin.

ACTION ITEM 7.2

PMC MOVES revision of 53.1.15 through deletion of “gender identity”, and insertion of “gender identity or expression” following “sexual orientation;” through including an amendment date of 2009, and correcting “Current Reference File” to read “Policy Reference File.,” so that the policy would now read:

53.1.15

The American Library Association stringently and unequivocally maintains that libraries and librarians have an obligation to resist efforts that systematically exclude materials dealing with any subject matter, including sex, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. The Association also encourages librarians to proactively support the First Amendment rights of all library users, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. Adopted 1993, amended 2000, 2004, 2008, 2009.

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How do we want to represent our community? With GLBTQ? More or less? Should it be “Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Rights” or something else? This requires some discussion before trying to come up with a consensus, so this will have to wait until we provide a resolution at Annual.

Goals for 2010 Annual Conference

This group awaits the approval of the draft charge noted in the first item of this report. The remaining tasks in this charge are:

- A recommendation to ALA on inclusive language for contracts with vendors, including stipulations about staff training that covers sensitivity/awareness of all LGBTQ people;
- A recommendation to ALA to develop a policy on how to address specific harassment incidents related to gender identity and gender expression; and
- A list for a resources page on the GLBTRT website for such training for vendors.

The group is prepared to see the above remaining tasks completed before the ALA 2010 Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted to the GLBTRT Steering Committee,
David S. Vess, Chair
LGBTQ Anti-Discrimination & Education Ad hoc Committee

g) Local Arrangements, Midwinter 2010 Social Ad hoc Committee Report

No Report Submitted.

VI. Reports from Councilor & Liaisons

h) ALA Councilor

John Sandstrom

Changing the language in the ALA Policy Manual passed. It is online and searchable. However, the wording on gay rights is outdated. We need to rewrite this and send the changes to them before Annual.

Currently, JobList does not require employers to include sexual orientation in their anti-discrimination policy. John will contact ALA about this.

The Jewish-American Library Association has applied for affiliate status, but they don't include anti-discrimination against LGBT people in their verbiage. We will not be recommending that their application be accepted.

i) **ASCLA Accessibility Assembly**

Jerry Reynolds

Everything we've wanted for access at conferences has been approved.

Re: Gender in restrooms. ASCLA doesn't feel that this is an access assembly issue. It is recommended that we all use the appropriate restroom for ourselves, and if there's a problem with staff, then the convention center needs to deal with that.

The GLBTRT needs to address where we hold our conferences. We need to take it upon ourselves to ask the conference centers to follow our policies.

j) **Diversity Council**

Anne Moore & Barbara Pickell

Diversity Council is applying for another grant to do recruitment for high school and college students. They've raised \$500,000 to broaden spectrum scholars, and they want to double this amount.

The Ethnic Caucus will now be under the Office of Diversity instead of OLOS. OLOS is more focused on literacy, and we wonder if the Office of Diversity wouldn't be a better fit for the GLBTRT.

We plan to put together a list of gay-friendly candidates for council. Is there anyone running for counselor-at-large who is in good standing in the RT? We also want to look into who is running for RT in Division Council. We will pull that list together by early February.

k) **Freedom to Read Foundation**

Peter Hepburn & Jerry Reynolds

Banned Book Week is approaching.

Current Litigation:

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l) Membership Promotion Task Force

Matthew Ciszek

Matt was in contact with John Chrastka. They have some ideas for the membership pavilion. They will contact the SC after they've talked. Ideas discussed:

- We should contact the gay press.
- Free giveaway?
- Food?
- John Chrastka has some money in the membership budget to help with this for our anniversary.

m) OLOS Advisory Committee

Anne Moore

OLOS currently has assembly tool kits, guides, handbooks, and a finalized piece for older adults. The Committee on Literacy is working on toolkits for the homeless.

The OLOS webpage is more streamlined. Larger effort is being made to standardize toolkits across the association. Family literacy focuses efforts to encourage families to read together. John Sandstrom will email and express our ideas about possibly being under Diversity Council, along with all other "diverse" groups.

The 2015 strategic plan draft is available. Anne will forward it to the list for comments and feedback.

n) Young Adult Library Services Association **Franklin L. Escobedo**

YALSA is focusing on ideas to retain and attract new members. They're discussing a New Readers Choice Award that will involve librarians picking top books. They're also reducing the amount of scholarships they're giving to emerging leaders, so that they can give more money to spectrum scholars.

We should think about contacting youth media presentations about our Children's Award. It's televised. We should be involved in this. We should get into the presentation line-up. Jim Simonis says that Miguel and Elliott are going to work on this.

VII. Access to Membership List

- Who has access?
- Under what circumstances?

- What is the privacy policy?
- Is there a privacy option?
- Do we want all committee chairs to have access to the mailing list?
- Can members choose to remain private?

ALA's policy is that lists can be used only for official ALA business. The list has all of our members on it, whether they get mail or not. We think that we should keep this an "as-needed" policy. The list is fluid and becomes out-of-date quickly, so none of us has direct linkage to the database anyway.

VIII. Merritt Fund Resolution

Does the GLBTRT endorse this? We agreed to endorse this.

IX. Anti-Discrimination Committee change from ad-hoc to standing

It was agreed that the committee would stay ad-hoc for now.

X. Additional name suggestions for the Children's Award:

- John Donovan
- Nancy Sandra
- Isabel Miller

XI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT Secretary, Secretary, 8 February, 2010

Minutes approved by GLBTRT Steering Committee: 26 June, 2010, ALA Annual Conference, Steering Committee I Meeting.