

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table
of the American Library Association
2009 Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois

Steering Committee II
Meeting Minutes

14 July, 2009

I. Call to order

David S. Vess called to order the regular meeting of the GLBTRT Steering Committee of ALA at 8:03 a.m. on 14 July, 2009 in the Indiana Room of the Palmer House Hotel

II. Introductions

Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT Secretary, recorded the names of those in attendance. The following were present: Ellen Bosman, Matt Ciszek, Jane Cothron, Franklin Escobedo, John Furlong, Roland C. Hansen, Peter Hepburn, Dale McNeill, Michael Nitz, Barbara Pickell, Jerry Reynolds, K.R. Roberto, Jim Simonis, David Vess.

III. Approval of Agenda

- **Motion Number 1**
- **Motion to approve the Steering Committee II Agenda**
- **Motion: ?**
- **Second: ?**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**
- **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

IV. Reports from GLBTRT Representatives and Liaisons

a) **YALSA**

YALSA Board Meeting II:

Older Teen Interest Group: YALSA Board approved action on the creation of a new interest group that focus on older teens 18-24. The interest group

Magazine Selection Task Force: The final report on the creation of a Magazine Selection committee was brought to discussion. Board passed a

- Linda Braun, President
- Nick Buron, Division Councilor
- Sarah Debraski, Immediate Past President
- Francisca Goldsmith, Secretary
- Mary Hastler, Fiscal Officer
- Kim patton, Incoming President-Elect

Board:

- Jerene Battisti, Director

Examining the costs for implementation of electronic participation for conference. some pilot projects started by divisions.

Projections- continued drop in membership renewals, monitor conference costs and registration levels. 2010 midwinter first conference with shortened schedule.

Rod Herschberger project to seek new income streams for ALA- see treasurer website for more details.

Work begun for next strategic plan

Submitted by,
Norman Eriksen

c) **Diversity Council**

- Diversity Council has a new staff representative: Miguel Figueroa.
- Diversity Council is struggling to better understand its mission. There were no hard conclusions, but it was agreed that an important part of its mission is to get people elected to council, so as to strengthen our presence within ALA.
- Putting out a list of candidates who represent diversity has worked

Government Documents are essential to what we, in the GLBT Round Table, do. Jerry urged us to be aware of, and promote, the government documents related to LGBTQ issues.

Submitted by,
Jerry Reynolds

V. Open Issues

f) Membership Meeting Update

All proposed Bylaws amendments were supported by the attendees of the Membership Meeting.

VI. New Business

g) Bylaws

The Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee is now resolved. Much appreciation to Roland Hansen and the committee for revising the bylaws.

- **Motion 2**
- **Move to form an Ad Hoc Bylaws and Procedures Manual Committee**
- **Motion: David Vess**
- **Second: Peter Hepburn**
- **Passed by unanimous voice vote**

Matt Ciszek nominates Peter Hepburn as Chair of the Ad Hoc Bylaws and Procedures Manual Committee. Tracy Nectoux seconds.

Duties of the Ad Hoc Bylaws and Procedures Manual Committee:

- Revise bylaws, but also work on the procedures manual
- Pull procedures out of bylaws and streamline the bylaws
- Have the bylaws guidelines on a spring ballot

h) Discrimination at ALA Conference Center

A thorough discussion took place, in which the following decisions were made:

- A document that outlines, in detail, what occurred will be drafted
- Further discussion with the Event Planners at McCormick Place West
- Further discussion with Diversity Council and ALA Executive Board

- Keep in contact with Larry Romans

Roland put forth a program idea: “Archiving the Future,” which would include subject-specific speakers.

j) Amazon Issue

The following discussion took place:

- Working through the machinations of ALA took a long time, but we built good relationships there. And it's important that ALA issued this statement.
- We did a good job discerning fact from rumour. It's a good thing to remember that just because something is stated, that doesn't mean it's true.
- Should we form an ad hoc group to quickly take on these issues and track them? Our liaisons to the FTR and IFRT performed very well in this instance.
- We don't want to reinvent the wheel, just communicate as effectively in the future as we did with this incident.

k) Volunteer Form

We need to know who's interested in us and why. We also want to know what they're interested in doing within the RT, so that we'll have good fits. This way, Chairs can see who is interested in what, and who would be a good match for their particular committees.

- We'd like the form to be time and date stamped.
- Send a yearly reminder to members, reminding them of volunteer opportunities.
- Make sure the form says, “You're volunteering for this year only.”

l) Liaisons

Discussion included:

- We have accountability issues and need different/better mechanisms.
- There is a problem with a lack of communication with our Liaisons.
- Chairs will send out email requesting, and giving a deadline, for reports.
- What we expect from liaisons is not attendance to all meetings (though that is the ideal), but reports.

- Matt will ask Elliott to send us a list of who registered at the conferences. We can contact them if they registered, but didn't attend meetings.
- We should also be more clear about when the All-Committee meeting begins.
- On the Web page, we should remove the committees that have vacancies, and add wording stating that we're interested in having liaisons for other groups.
- Jerry Reynolds and Peter Hepburn volunteered to be our new liaisons to Freedom to Read.

m) Goals for the GLBTRT For the Next Two Years

We'd like to appoint someone that people can approach if they need assistance or information about specific concerns. Perhaps an ad hoc committee: one person (in contact with OLOS), plus all the people working on tool kits. Dale will talk with Nancy about the possibilities.

- **Motion 4**
- **Create an Ad Hoc Resources Committee with charge to oversee the development of tool kits**
- **Motion: Dale McNeill**
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Meeting Minutes,

Minutes submitted by: Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT Secretary, August, 2009.

Minutes approved by the GLBTRT Steering Committee Meeting I, January 16, 2010,
ALA Midwinter Meeting.

If I can offer any additional details or information, please let me know.

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Anonymous Transman

Additional statement from Anonymous Transman, American Library Association Member

In private communication, Anonymous Transman and I held, he noted the following which I am compelled to share with his permission. The below brief, comment gives those of us who cannot possibly understand what Trans people must endure on a regular basis. David S. Vess

“I went to other floors, and/or isolated corners into the building. While this was inconvenient (and embarrassing), I’m not unaccustomed to navigating restrooms in this way. Maybe it was internalized transphobia, but I just wasn’t surprised. It’s not unusual to almost make myself sick, just so that I can find a restroom and feel safe. This is true for many, many transmen I know. (probably trans women too)”

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Anonymous Transman

Reporting Incidents

The below was written by Tracy Nectoux, GLBTRT, Secretary. All the others listed on the first page of this report vetted this text for accuracy and completeness.

The following is an account of what occurred on July 13, 2009, at McCormick Place West, located at 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60616, during the American Library Association’s (ALA) Annual Conference.

Tracy arrived at McCormick Place West at approximately 10:00AM to attend the GLBTRT, Stonewall Book Awards Brunch Celebration. She was soon approached by Ambrose and Samantha. Ambrose told Tracy what had been happening at McCormick Place West for the past three days: the cleaning staff had followed, harassed, intimidated, and mocked both he and Samantha as they used the bathroom facilities.

K.R. Roberto was standing close by, and Tracy invited him to join the conversation. While Ambrose explained the incidents to K.R., Tracy found a convention hall employee and asked where the ALA office was. Tracy then called David Vess, then GLBTRT Co-Chair, and left a voicemail explaining the situation.

Tracy proceeded to walk to the ALA office with K.R., Ambrose, and Samantha. The group first spoke with Deidre Ross, ALA's Director of Conference Services. Ambrose explained his and Samantha's experiences with the cleaning crew to Ms. Ross. K.R. addressed her next (I(15)(e)4M/TT0 /TT0 4(l)-2(m)-0(t)-2d hit seaortsel.xTracyhetded to Ms. R-13(os)-1(s) grou1(s)-d heeliede h ALAhalicytActrnicior

That evening K.R. received a phone call from Antonio Smith. Tracy returned his call. Mr. Smith asked if we'd heard from anyone about any further developments, and Tracy told him the GLBTRT group had not. She explained that they were sincere about meeting with us, they could attend our meeting scheduled for the next morning. Smith said that he or someone from the convention center would definitely be there. Tracy gave him the location and time, and he said he'd call her back with the details.

That night, around 8:30, when Tracy heard nothing, she called Mr. Smith back. He said he'd emailed Ms. Ross, but hadn't heard back from her, but would definitely call Tracy back.

The next morning, Mr. Smith called Tracy during the meeting (around 9:00AM). He said that neither he nor Ms. Ross could attend our meeting because the conference was still going on, but that "someone" would be there. Tracy asked who the person would be but Smith replied he did not know. Tracy asked him when the group could expect this person but he was uncertain.

No representative attended the GLBTRT Steering Committee II Meeting held at the Palmer House Hilton, Indiana Room on July 14th, 8am—12pm.

Letters From General Manager of Conference Center sent in c/o GLBTRT Co-Chairs to GLBTRT members who were targets of discrimination

Dear GLBTRT member,

I understand that you had some unfortunate incidents occur during your recent visit to McCormick Place during your Library Show. I wanted to take time to personally apologize for the treatment that you received from some of our employees who were monitoring the washrooms. I can only imagine the emotional stress and the humiliation that was caused by such treatment. We cannot change the past but we can only learn from it. I wanted you to know that we have taken steps within our department to assure that this type of behavior does not happen to you or any other group of individuals that visit our complex. We not only spoke individually to each and every member of our team that was assigned to cleaning washrooms during your show we are going a step further by having our training manager put together a sensitivity training program for the entire staff.

Again, I want to apologize for the inconvenience and embarrassment that our staff caused you during your event. I can only hope that in spite these incidents you had a good show and a good time during your visit to Chicago.

Sincerely,
Duane Pasko
General Manager, McCormick Place