SustainRT Steering Committee and Committee Chairs

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2023, 1:00 EST

In Attendance

- Chair, Tina Chan
- Committee Members and Chairs: Erika Jenns, Jen Ferriss, Jenn Washburn, Jen Ripka, Eric Tans, Sarah Tribelhorn, Lauren Bissonette, Heather Heckman, Angele DeNeve, Beth South, Sara Dallas
- RoundTable Members and Guests: Julia

ALA Executive Board Update

- Sara Dallas: No updates from the Executive Board. Thanks to all that attended and helped to facilitate ALA LLX. We are working on the "ALA Core Values of the Profession" and have sent a survey to selected groups within ALA. Please fill out the survey to help guide our profession by next week.

Committee Chair Reports

Awards (Kelsey Flynn and Jenn Washburn)
- Last meeting: January 27, 2023
- We decided to extend the deadline for both awards. [New Voices in Sustainability Conference Stipend](#) deadline: February 15, 2023 & [Citation for Wellness in the Workplace](#) deadline: March 1, 2023
- We are meeting tomorrow to discuss nominations and will accept late stipend applicants through today.

Education and Programming (Heather Heckman and Jenny Garmon)
- Date of most recent meeting: 2/9/23
- Our 2/2 webinar, "Creating space and advocating for sustainability at your library," was our most successful yet! 69 registered and 42 attended
- Kacper Jarecki reported that our LibLearnX panel went well
- Our next webinar will be April 7
- We are considering inviting the [Climate Stories Project](#) folks, or hosting a discussion around the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), for our non-juried program at ALA Annual in 2024

Membership (Katherine Witzig)
- Participants in the Mentorship Program were sent their February discussion starter on February 6.

- Katherine is participating in an ALA Membership Taskforce. The next meeting is March 1.

Public Advocacy and Awareness (Sarah Tribelhorn and Erika Jenns)
- Date of most recent meeting: 2/2/23
- No submissions of #SustainableSwag from LibLearnX. We will include it again in the SustainRT newsletter and on listservs, now that people have returned and settled back in. Please share with colleagues.
- Reached out to the Gaming Round table to see if they are planning any gamification for ALA Annual. We'd like to encourage folks to rethink swag by offering a badge or competition (i.e. selfies with vendors)
- Looking into organizing a Tote Bag Swap for Membership Meeting at ALA Annual. If not a swap, we would collect totes that people weed from their collections and then drop off a donation to local food pantries/shelters.
- Updated our spreadsheet for promoting the Sustainable Swag rubric to include state library organizations. Drafting an email to be sent to these organizations.

Publicity and Outreach (Lauren Bissonette and Beth South)
- Date of most recent meeting: 2/9/23
- Blog transition update: We have a list of approved tags that we'll be able to utilize in the new blog system. We are still waiting for the SustainRT account to be created on the ALA Drupal website. [IT] does not have sufficient access to the WordPress site to be able to export the posts from WordPress to Drupal. Once the account and the taxonomies are set up, the posts will need to be manually migrated.
- Beth met with the Public Advocacy and Awareness committee on Jan. 12th to discuss ways to promote and highlight vendors using sustainable swag at LiblearnX. Beth created a short survey form for folks to submit their finds. No responses, maybe due to time crunch but will try again before the ALA conference in June. Beth did share out the form again through her Connect communities (ACRL, Core, and IFRT) and encouraged other Outreach members to share the form on sustainable swag through any other Connect Communities they're a part of, if appropriate.
- We're also wanting to recognize that SustainRT turns 10 this year. We created a form for folks to share their memories of being a part of SustainRT. If interested, please fill it out.
- January monthly discussion question: What strategies are effective for communicating with library leadership about the importance of sustainability? -- Follow or contribute to the discussion on the Sustainability Round Table Open Forum in ALA Connect.
- As always, contact Lauren (lauren.bissonette@duke.edu), Beth (eabrockm@iue.edu), or the Outreach form if you have anything you want to share.

Sustainability Resources (Angele DeNeve and Jen Ripka)
- Date of most recent meeting: 2/8/23
- We reviewed our reading notes and began selecting titles for the "Top 10 Sustainability-Themed Books of 2022" book list.
- We plan to finalize our selections by 2/22/23 and have the list ready for publication sometime in March.

EDI Assembly (Eric Tans - filling in for Jen Embree)
- Date of most recent meeting: 1/23/23

- This EDI Assembly meeting focused primarily on accessibility issues. There was a three speaker panel on accessibility featuring the following presenters:
  - Hillary Pearson, Program Manager for Accessibility Services, Office for Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services (ODLOS)
    - Hillary has been working at ODLOS for a few months and is still getting to know relevant groups and individuals.
    - Also currently working on revitalizing standards for print disabled and reviewing the ALA strategic plan through the lens of accessibility
  - Carrie Banks, Accessibility Assembly, RUSA
    - Accessibility Assembly coordinates, informs, and disseminates information on accessibility issues at ALA. Will coordinate with Hillary Pearson in this work.
    - Updating accessibility toolkits from 2010 and working to make conference experience more accessible.
  - Adina Mulliken, ACRL University Accessibility Interest Group
    - Focus on academic libraries and hosted a recent presentation by Bookshare, who provides electronic formats of books to people with print disabilities.
- Moderated break out discussion on accessibility touched on collections, buildings and facilities, and support for staff and patrons.
- Affiliated Group Updates
  - [Updates provided in a shared document](#)
  - Shared info from the LibLearnX Talking Climate Session and the open calls for the awards.
- Future Meetings:
  - 3/14/23, 6-7:30pm ET: The Intersection of Intellectual Freedom and Social Justice (co-planning with the Intellectual Freedom Committee and Intellectual Freedom Round Table)
  - 6/6/23, 3-4:30pm ET: TBD

Round Table Updates

- Councilor report and Round Table Coordinating Assembly [update](#) (Jen F.)
  - I attended the Bylaws convention at LibLearnX. Bylaws were amended on floor to raise the proposed 18 councilors-at-large to 36, which passed. The original language in the bylaws draft for Article V regarding the Executive Board was retained.
    - I attended the 2/16/23 Round Table Coordinating Assembly. Discussion about ALA's general budget, as well as Round Table budgets was discussed, with the transition to the new dues structure. There is a three year safety net for keeping same revenue during the transition.
    - 10% of a Round Table's membership revenue goes back to ALA as administrative costs.

- - - Bylaws draft 4 passed - another big change is language that states the "Executive Board of ALA sets Dues - which supercedes divisions or round tables setting their own dues."
    - Motion regarding RT dues standardization on agenda for Council II, CD #44.3 (Sunday, January 29 12:30-3:45 PM)
      - - I had a conflict with a program at the same time, and couldn't attend Council II, but I believe the motion passed.
- - SustainRT bylaws update (Lisa)
    - ALA bylaws will be on the ballot for a vote during the upcoming election cycle. Once they pass, we can work again on our bylaws update, which will likely turn into "rules or procedures" for the round table, and not formal bylaws as we would fall under the ALA general bylaws.
    - Also, if bylaws pass, that will automatically trigger the new dues rates of 9/1/23 going into effect.
  - ALA Council Committee on Sustainability update (Tina)

Steering Committee Session

- - Quorum: No quorum, 4 in attendance.
  - Minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting will be approved at the next meeting.
  - Treasurer's update (Marcy): no updates.
  - 2023 elections/nominating committee update (Lisa)
    - Voting opens March 13 and ends April 5. Winners announced April 12, 2023
      - - Four candidates (one for Coordinator-Elect, three for Member-at-Large) have been asked to send a brief candidate statement and a photo to Beth, and the Outreach Committee will do a special newsletter at the beginning of March highlighting our candidates while the blog is still in transition.
  - New business
    - Nominations to serve on the ALA United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Committee (Tina)
      - - Three candidate applications were sent to committee members.
      - - Discussion of candidates reviewed those applications and discussed the candidates. One was selected and Tina will notify them soon to confirm the nomination.
    - Potential SustainRT sponsorship of ALA Emerging Leaders program (Tina)
      - - $1000 to sponsor an emerging leader for the program.
      - - If any SustainRT members are interested in applying we would need to think of a 5-month project for them to work with us as they work through the program. We will have more discussion once the announcement for the program is made in March.
    - "Tune in Tuesday" for ALA Council Orientation Committee (Tina)
      - - What is your Round Table built to do?
      - - What concerns do you want every councilor to know about?
      - - What do you want the Council to do for them?

- - - ■ How can you attract more members?
      ■ What do you expect your RT to look like in 5 years? 10 years?
    ○ SustainRT bicycle ride at ALA Annual (Tina)
      ■ Promote cycling and carbon neutral transportation to conferences.
      ■ Looking into bike rentals for a bike event at ALA. Tina suggests SustainRT fund the rentals and promote the roundtable.
      ■ Still planning but Saturday at 10am was the time suggested.
- Adjourned at 12:52 pm CST.