**RMRT Board Meeting**

**January 11, 2024 4 pm (Eastern)**

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm (Eastern) by Chair Shelley Lauer-Bader. A motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2023 was made by Pat Hogan and seconded by Naomi Angier. Motion passed.

**Attendees:** Shelley Lauer-Bader, Chair; Naomi Angier, Chair-Elect; Kay Cassell, Treasurer; Mimi Morris, Secretary; Rocco Staino, Past Chair; Lisa Kippur, Director and Membership Chair; Ann Marie Pipkin, Director; Pat Hogan, Director; Nann Hilyard, Freedom to Read Foundation Liaison & Book Discussion Coordinator; Steven Yates, Liaison to the Executive Board; Danielle Ponton, RMRT Staff Liaison; Jacque Sullins, member; Phyllis Bornstein, member; Jean Holmblad, member; David Nutty, member.

**Announcements:** Shelley has submitted times for our Saturday meeting and book discussion. ALA Presidential Candidate Ray Pun requested an opportunity to speak to RMRT. Since the election is in March, it won’t fit in our meeting schedule. It has been a rule of thumb to make such an offer to both candidates if one is requested. As an alternative, there will be a Zoom Candidate Forum on February 8. Shelley will post the link. Ann Marie reported that our Bylaws (now called Procedures) have been posted on ALA Connect. Ann Marie will add the effective date at the end.

**Committee Reports:** Steven encouraged members to attend Lib Learn X or to attend Annual Conference in San Diego. ALA will be asking for feedback about Lib Learn X. We pointed out that without roundtable meetings at Lib Learn X, there is little incentive to attend. Steven is hopeful for changes in the future. Nann suggested that it would be helpful to learn more about ALA finances with recent changes in memberships—and not just for ALA but other professional organizations. Steven has a good feeling for ALA’s future. We just had a clean audit, we’ve been understaffed and we are now looking at a more realistic picture. Naomi asked how, if we are following a resolution, we can track it through the conference. Steven will follow up.

As Membership Chair, Lisa has re-energized the website, using pictures. She will be spotlighting members and our Gadfly Award. Danielle is the main contact. Lisa would like feedback and ideas. Ann Marie suggested an Every Member Counts idea, that each RMRT member should recruit friends. We agreed that the expense of ALA membership could be a barrier for retirees, and the bonus of free membership with 25 years of continuous membership is not well known. Nann said that we need to reach out to those approaching retirement.

Lisa is working on a mail merge project to reach ALA members not in RMRT. She has written an article for United for Libraries and will be doing that monthly. It would be great if other RMRT members can take a month to write an article to incorporate differing perspectives. She is also working on an updated brochure to hand out at Annual. We discussed the options for swag to distribute at our programs: luggage tags, glasses cleaners, or both? We should have sufficient fund to do this. Ann Marie moved that we provide swag at all RMRT events. Naomi seconded and the motion was approved. Questions to consider: can we accept membership dues at our meetings or at our exhibit table? Rocco asked about a reception for potential members.

Our membership right now is at 400, up from 375 last year. One important membership message is that anticipating retirement is a good reason to join RMRT.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Kay and Danielle said that numbers have just come in and that they will send an update.

**Nominations:** We still need a Chair-Elect and discussed options. Today is the ballot deadline. Pat Hogan has agreed to continue as a Director and Dorcas Hand has accepted a nomination as Director. Mimi has agreed to continue as Secretary.

**Book Discussion:** Nann reminded everyone of the Book Discussion on Sunday, January 28. The prompt is “books in translation”. Nann also mentioned that the Freedom to Read Foundation will meet next week, and there is increasing interest around the country.

**Annual Conference:** Naomi announced that the President’s Program on Sunday will be San Diego Zoo speakers from the Alliance for Conservation and the Librarian from the Beckman Science Center. There will be an honorarium of $600. Naomi is working on plans for dinner. The cultural outing will be a Geisel Library tour on Saturday morning. Attendees can RSVP to Naomi and we can put a link on the ALA conference registration page.

Our next meeting will be in March or April, to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Morris

RMRT Secretary