

Game RT Board Meeting - November 13, 2020 | 11 AM-12 PM EST

In Attendance:

- Tina Coleman (Staff Liaison)
- Jennifer Bartlett (Pass President) x
- Jessica Parij (President)
- Thomas Vose (President Elect) x
- Erica Ruscio (Secretary) x
- George Bergstrom (Treasurer) x
- Tricia Boucher (Member at Large)
- Jessica Spears (Member at Large) x
- Dan Major (Member at Large) x
- Rebecca Strang (Member at Large) x

Also Made an Appearance:

- Gina Marie Kromhout (ALA Councilor) x

Also, several other members were present.

These notes are broken down into two sections: discussion recap, and action items for Board Members. To-Dos are also highlighted.

Part I: Discussion Recap

1. GameRT Presidential Nominees

- a. We have TWO presidential candidates for this upcoming ballot!
- b. Both candidates could not make today's meeting, so we hope to meet them next month!

2. Treasurer's Update

- a. We have not spent any money this year, so George has no finance changes to report.

3. IGW 2020

- a. IGW 2020 was entirely virtual this past year and was a huge change from previous years. Nice job to all who made it happen and yay for all the awesome libraries around the world who help programs and thanks to all the game makers who produced sponsored print and plays!
- b. The board chatted about data tracking and how the reports from previous years are a tad messy, making it difficult to easily compare this year with past years.
- c. This year, 326 libraries across the world participated (25% of last year's participation) and 54 libraries filled out the participation survey. We learned that (of the respondents) half were not GameRT or ALA members.
- d. Several libraries had posted their programs in the Facebook group, the League of Librarian Gamers. Many participants used our recommended print and plays. Huzzah! Others offered virtual game programs.

- e. Reflections for next year: we want to still have print and plays no matter what to expand the accessibility of the event. We also want more prizes, and participants mentioned wanting marketing materials!
- f. Reflections for IGW 2022: the year after next, will be an anniversary year. George suggested setting up IGW 2022 super early to enable participants to pick up games or prizes at ALA 2022 to save on shipping and as an early registration incentive / to get more hype!
- g. We also discussed the possibility of designing our own GameRT game, with member feedback. This would be time-consuming, as many games need at least six months in beta for playtesting. However, it is an idea on the table for the GW committee.
- h. Erica will connect with Alfred, this year's IGW Chair, and share her report from this year so that he can reach out to sponsors with a thank you!
- i. We also need to verify with Tina, our lovely ALA staff rep, that the game prize packages for this year were sent.

4. ALA Midwinter Presentation

- a. The session is scheduled for Monday 1/25/21 @ 10am CT
- b. Title: Virtual Gaming Programs: Resources for Fighting Social Isolation with Gaming
- c. Description: Libraries across the world are utilizing virtual gaming tools like never before. In 2020 we saw the dramatic rise of virtual escape rooms, Animal Crossing events, virtual role playing, and board game programs. GameRT members will discuss some ideas and tools that make hosting virtual gaming events a breeze. We will also be joined by an industry professional to discuss some of the changes in gaming and share the gaming industry's outlook for the future.
- d. We are partnering with the New Member Round Table to help with hosting their game night and telling people to join that instead of hosting our own separate game night for Midwinter. Thomas is going to help them out with moderating a game on the game night (Jan 24).
- e. Erica, Rebecca, and Dan will meet on Wednesday to discuss the mostly done presentation so far.

5. ALA Annual

- a. This is super far away, but we still had some ideas to discuss.
 - i. At least one program and one play event.
 - ii. Maybe three webinars?
 - iii. We should gather up member wants to determine what to discuss.

6. Quarterly Newsletter

- a. Erica asked for game reviews to be sent by December 21 – at which point the newsletter will be sent to Tina to go out to GameRT members.
- b. We will also have a midwinter blurb, an IGW report, game lists, and other little tidbits from the Membership & Promotion committee.
- c. We will also mention the Game On grants coming up!

7. Game On Grants

- a. The application period for these approaches: January 1-March 31.
- b. Once it goes live, Tina will send out a press release.
- c. For now, we can promote it using the same copy on the website from last year.

8. Game Nights

- a. They have been awesome (yay, Rebecca!) and Jess S has offered to help with more of these...
- b. These fall under the Program Committee, of which George is chair.
- c. We discussed how we might get more engagement by promoting game nights as networking opportunities, since so many members want more networking opportunities from this RT.
- d. Jess S will work on a February Game Night

9. New Member RT

- a. Thomas & Rebecca mentioned a networking event in development, to be held on January 24 from 6-8 CT.

10. GameRT Calendar

- a. We discussed the need for a more formal/central calendar. After discussion, we decided to use the calendar feature on Connect more often.
- b. There is the Board Calendar and the General Calendar. Board Calendar can have deadlines, meetings, etc. The General Calendar can also have Board Meetings, webinars, game nights, etc.
- c. Thomas agreed to make a new Zoom link and put it on Connect for Erica to put on the calendar.

11. ALA Council Update

- a. Gina had no updates for us today.

Part II: To Dos

- Erica - Connect with Alfred & finish the IGW report, put out the December 2021 newsletter, figure out the Connect Calendar
- Thomas - make a new link for the January Meeting and will help the ALA New Member RT host a virtual game night for ALA Midwinter.
- Jess S - organize a game night for MW (?) and organize a game night for February on Discord
- Dan & Rebecca - work on Program Committee stuff
- Rebecca/Dan/Erica - Meet to discuss ALA MW!