

# General Membership Meeting (minutes)

Sunday, June 25, 2017, 3-4 pm at McCormick Place, W474b

<https://www.eventscribe.com/2017/ALA-Annual/fsPopup.asp?Mode=presInfo&PresentationID=266239>

## Attendees

René Tanner (board coordinator), Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich (board member-at-large), Jeremy Johanneson (member), Jonah Nagar (member), Mandi Goodsett (member), Kim Kane (member), Nicole Gaulier (guest), Jeane Pfander (member), Kate Hutchens (board secretary), Lindsay Marlow (board treasurer), Madeleine Charney (board outgoing coordinator), Lessa Pelayo-Lozada (guest), Heather Christenson (member), Andrea Jukabas (guest), Meredith Powers (member), Patricia Hartman (member), Susan Conlon (member), Carolyn Ziering (member), Jodi Shaw (Coordinator-Elect)

## Introductions

### Highlights of SustainRT's activities this year (René Tanner, coordinator)

- The ALA Executive Board has charged a task force, the Special ALA Task Force on Sustainability, "to develop a white paper that describes areas of focus and recommendations for the ALA Executive Board to increase the adoption and implementation of sustainable practices by the Association, the profession, libraries and the communities they serve." René Tanner and Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich will serve as co-chairs (further members yet-to-be-named)
- The Outreach Committee, with efforts spearheaded by Jodi Shaw, worked with *American Libraries* to arrange a recurring series in *American Libraries (online edition)* called "Sustainability in Libraries."
- The Outreach Committee also sponsored a contest for members of SustainRT to win a \$500 travel grant to attend the ALA Annual Conference, awarded to Raymund Pun for this video submission: <https://youtu.be/QlUl9y1mClg>
- The Online Education Committee hosted four seasonal/quarterly successful webinars that drew participants from across the US and globally.

### Executive Council liaison report (Peter Hepburn)

- SustainRT is appreciated as a roundtable that gets things done!

- The (above-mentioned) Task Force carries weight, as it has been commissioned by the Executive Board, but SustainRT is still among the youngest and most rapidly growing roundtable.
- ALA Executive Director search: members of SustainRT are encouraged to share the profile/[job posting](#) for the executive director position widely with anyone they think would be interested and qualified - note that the position does require an ALA-accredited degree.
- Regarding the reconfiguring of the Annual Conference, SustainRT is advised that there will be more competition, especially for programming that requires higher seat-counts.
- ALA membership is down, but roundtable membership overall is up.
- ALA conference attendance is up, but revenue is down.

## Activities: pair & discuss (all attendees)

1. What programs or initiative are you working on to promote sustainability in libraries? What examples of community building around sustainability have you seen in your community or beyond? (Madeleine Charney will discuss the Environmental Scan as a place to track these projects.)
2. What other library committees of practice have a sustainability connection? Are there people you could connect to help bridge these communities of practice?
3. In what ways are mindfulness and sustainability related? In what ways do you practice mindfulness?

Emergent idea: a gathering/session for folks to work together to harvest resources that could be added to the Sustainable Libraries database / “environmental scan” resources:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-J\\_MDRYidSX8qjMoYX5kXkvQwCrOiUaJUWyxqL9XGduLTHQ/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-J_MDRYidSX8qjMoYX5kXkvQwCrOiUaJUWyxqL9XGduLTHQ/viewform?c=0&w=1), like an input-a-thon or similar idea.

## Closing Remarks (Jodi Shaw, incoming coordinator)

- Thanks to René Tanner and Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich for their facilitation of the efforts that led to the creation of the task force, and their upcoming service as its co-chairs.
- Sustainability cuts across all disciplines, and is a personal and professional concern.
- Goals:
  - Growth! Aiming for 400 members for SustainRT by ALA Annual Conference 2018
  - More diverse membership for SustainRT, especially public and other kinds of librarians!
  - Better understanding and leveraging of the structures and effective mechanisms within ALA