LHRT Midwinter Meeting- via Zoom- March 20, 2023

Library History Round Table, Executive Board members present: Michele Fenton (Member-at-Large), Tom Glynn (Secretary Treasurer), Steven Knowlton (Chair Elect), Carol Leibiger (Past Chair), Ana Ramirez Luhrs (Member-at-Large), Danielle Ponton (Staff Liaison), Ellen Pozzi (Round Table Councilor), Christopher Proctor (Treasurer-Secretary Elect), Emily Spunaugle (Chair)

Via Zoom. There was a total of fifteen attendees.

1. Introductions  
LHRT Chair Emily Spunaugle introduced the Executive Board members present at the meeting.

2. Timely Information- Brief Reports  
2a. [Financial Report](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11aa75EBae6Ofpipb-tjHITFjUExdIsI6/edit)- Tom Glynn  
Tom Glynn provided a brief report on the LHRT’s 2021-2022 fiscal year. We budgeted $6,640 for total expenses and spent $12,651. We anticipated $8,700 in total revenues and took in $10,126. A number of expenses and revenues were missing in the original budget. The fiscal year ended with a negative balance of $2,525.

2b. Round Table Dues Standardization- Steve Knowlton  
We charge $20 per year in regular dues and $5 for students. Some round tables charge more. Others charge less. In 2021, ALA required uniform dues because of the burden that different dues structures for different round tables places on administrative staff. The Round Table Coordinating Assembly appointed a [Standardization Task Force](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16yCkJpt5YojvJOau07QVQz62ij3Dy_Kl/view), and Steve Knowlton represented LHRT on it. The task force compromised on the following: $30/year for corporate members, $15/year for personal members, $5/year for students. Steve argued against the change and, using a standard formula regarding changes in membership and dues levels, estimated that our membership could increase by four percent, but our revenue from dues would decline by twenty-two percent. ALA Council has agreed to subsidize any loss in dues revenue of more than two percent for at least three years. Steve pointed out that we have a substantial amount of money in our account and even a decrease in dues of twenty-two percent is not a serious problem.

3. Discussion/Vote  
3a. Discussion of 2023-24 Budget- Tom Glynn  
Tom Glynn presented an initial draft budget, with estimates of expected revenue and expenses. See [LHRT FY 2024 Budget Preparation](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1x1hd4jTRXydboxENphDTlAa2B1sfLqIX/edit#gid=1327501303). The draft projected total expenses of $7,200 and net revenue of $1,200. Some of the line items that require some translation: Royalties is money our journal, *Libraries: Culture, History, And Society* (*LCHS*), received from JSTOR and Printing-Outside is the cost of producing the journal. We discussed additions and revisions to this initial draft. We added, for example, under Professional Memberships, membership in ALA for the co-editors of the journal and increased the money allocated for the Holley lecture under Speaker/Guest Expense. The [new draft](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18JBYCu8nVfO-8QeM8HJy_LhVHk7jJtF0) that the Executive approved unanimously has total expenses at $9,790 and a negative net revenue of $1,390.  
  
3b. Library History Seminar- Emily Spunaugle  
There were two questions regarding the LHS. Since we skipped a year during the pandemic, we are no longer on an even, five-year schedule: 2005, 2010, 2015, etc. Do we want to hold the next seminar in 2025 or 2026? And the 2021 LHS was entirely online. There were approximately 500 attendees, over 77% percent of whom rated it as good or excellent. Should the next seminar be in person, online, or hybrid?

There was support for holding the seminar in 2026. It was pointed out, for example, that there are a number of anniversaries in that year that work well with a history conference, including the 150th anniversary of ALA. The Executive Committee voted that the next LHS will be 2026.

There was support for on online conference. Two attendees noted that they pay their own way to conferences. Others pointed out that the response to the conference hosting RFP is historically very low and that meeting virtually would mean greater participation and the opportunity to attend more panels. There was some support for a hybrid event, although that would require more labor, preparation. The Executive Committee voted unanimously that the 2026 LHS will be online, and we will explore the hybrid option. Emily will put out a call for an organizing committee.

4. Discussion of Future Projects  
4a. High Priority  
4a.i. DEI Statement and Action Plan  
Bernadette Lear and others have already created a [document for *LCHS*](https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/psup/libraries/article/6/1/v/299076/LCHS-DEI-Statement-and-Action-Plan). The editorial board ratified it in 2021. The Round Table should have DEI Statement and Action Plan and a committee will be appointed by the chair. But we need to be certain that LHRT members have an opportunity to contribute. Bernadette advised against using ALA Connect; many of us don’t read it. *LCHS* used a freely accessible Google Topic that allowed for both public and private comments. Ellen Pozzi noted that our blog, LHRT News & Notes, will reach beyond the Round Table and beyond ALA. Nicole Cooke suggested a survey, an online town hall, then a draft sent out for comment. Ana Ramirez Luhrs suggested a Google Groups email list. Bernadette stressed the importance of recruiting a good chair, a good listener, a good writer, and someone who can synthesize a range of comments and suggestions from Round Table members.

4a.ii. Website Review  
Ellen is our previous webmaster. She thinks the new webmaster is Katie Mackendrick. They will be on maternity leave from May through September. There was a recent ALA redesign and Ellen noted that there are some things that we cannot change. There are problems with the site, including broken links and outdated award information. When we make changes, we have to make sure that we don’t lose content, the bibliographies in particular. Eric Novotny noted that there is still an on-going project to create a database from the bibliographies. Emily will put out a call for volunteers to join a website committee. We might also be able to recruit a student volunteer. Andrew Wertheimer was encouraged to supply photographs, and he replied that he is happy to do so.

4b. Possibilities  
4b.i. LHRT oral history project  
Bernadette explained that this was suggested back in October 2022, as part of the 75th anniversary of the Round Table. Emily said that we should start a project now, before it is too late to interview some of our long-time LHRT colleagues. Bernadette has developed a [list of questions](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LLiIEpUkvvUoJv9ZY1ji5TSpuPbw4k_b/edit) that we can use. She also put out a call to our members in December for “brief essays, photos, videos, and other documentation of their experiences with LHRT.” The current issue of the journal will includes material from five contributors, and LHRT: News & Notes will publish her interview with Ed Goedeken, a long-time and valued Round Table member. Tom Glynn suggested this would be a great project for LIS students. Christopher Proctor said that the Membership and Outreach Committee could reach out to library history instructors to help us recruit them. Bernadette agreed, but added that her idea was to focus on the history of LHRT, not library history more generally. However, the scope could be defined by the person who leads the project. Andrew suggested the interviewer should do some research on the interviewee and become familiar with their scholarship in preparation, in addition to the common list of questions from Bernadette. We felt this will probably not require IRB certification. It would be possible to do the interviews via Zoom. Nicole suggested the project could also be used to expand the scope of the Black Librarians Project started in the [special issue of *LCHS*](https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/psup/libraries/issue/6/1) that she edited*.* We discussed whether this should be assigned to the Membership and Outreach Committee. Instead, the Executive Committee voted to appoint a separate group and called for volunteers. Andrew will chair the group, and the members are Tom, Ellen, Bernadette, Christopher, and Kelly Hangauer. Andrew teaches oral history.

4bii. [Atlanta University theses project](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11aa75EBae6Ofpipb-tjHITFjUExdIsI6/edit)- Steve Knowlton  
Clark Atlanta University, an HBCU, has digitized its masters theses and dissertations from 1932 to 2018. Steve wants to explore publishing library school theses that are important in library history, particularly those that address segregation in the South and related issues. Steve is still working on details, but the publications would include additional material, such as a brief biography of the student author. He hopes to begin discussions with Clark Atlanta University soon. Bernadette pointed out that the American Library History Bibliography has entries from Atlanta University. Michele Fenton suggested that members of the Black Caucus of ALA may be interested in supporting this. Some of them are alumni.

Nicole noted the Black Librarians Project in the [special issue of *LCHS*](https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/psup/libraries/issue/6/1) was expanded in [LHRT: News and Notes](https://lhrt.news/honoring-black-women-librarians/), with twenty-one short articles/biographies of prominent Black women librarians. We could share the link to the blog widely and invite additional submissions on a to be determined basis. Also, the project could expand from Black to BIPOC librarians. The ALA ethnic caucuses might be interested and contribute to the project.

5. Updates  
5a. [ALA Council](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LgBgg87DI7PRfH8mI8uhbXK5E60r2q-C/edit)- Ellen Pozzi  
Ellen is LHRT’s Council Representative. The most important issue in the Council has been the ALA constitution and bylaws. Last June the Council voted to rescind the constitution and charged a Constitution and Bylaws Committee with creating new ALA bylaws that integrate content from the constitution into a single document. The Council approved the proposed bylaws in January. The ALA membership will vote on them as part of the spring 2023 election. You can find more information and a link to the document [here](https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/alaelection).

Ellen reminded us that, as our representative, she can propose resolutions to the ALA Council.

5b. *LCHS* updates  
5bi. Outgoing *LCHS* editors- Eric Novotny  
The last two issues of the journal have been published online on the Scholarly Publishing Collective platform. Readership has increased significantly, due in part to the decision to make the journal open access on the new site in February and March 2022. The downside is that not every institutional subscriber to the journal when it was hosted on JSTOR has subscribed to the journal on the new platform. The editors are discussing with Pennsylvania State Press whether to reach out to those institutions.

The current issue of the journal is available here: <https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/psup/libraries/issue/7/1> and is free to LHRT members. We also receive free print copies as part of our membership.

5bii. [Incoming *LCHS* editors](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ey7uwPtIGCXOWOhEpEkyvmz31WZyTfP83klfUrop-pg/edit)- Nicole Cook and Carol Leibiger  
We congratulated Nicole and Carol on their new roles. At this point we had almost reached the time allotted for the meeting. Please see the linked report. And the links to additional reports below.

5c. [News and Notes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18yU-ETl1tGFACA04mc-HSxgTAGlmERbh/edit) update- Brett Spencer

5d. [New Service Awards](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xKdnv2W8foQhcr6qwaOTrvPrQxqkhIm5k9KGzKwYP-U/edit)  
5d1. Distinguished Service Award update  
5dii. Innovation and Advocacy Award update

5e. Justin Winsor Library History Essay Award update- Steve Knowlton  
No nominations for the award have been submitted yet. Steve believes this may be related to the closure of many archives in 2020-21.

5f. [Phyllis Dain Library History Dissertation Award update](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_bD4At5kQx0R_g4KL-s-90ITA36nn2gD/edit)- Alea Henle

5g. [Research Forum update](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J0-UlfYybNiO3VXiHXD9C10-VX2lJpJI/edit)- Steve Knowlton

5h. The Holley Lecture will be given by [Rebecca Romney](https://www.rebeccaromney.com/), rare book dealer, appraiser, and author. She is the co-founder of Type Punch Matrix rare book firm, a frequent expert on the HISTORY Channel’s television show *Pawn Stars*, and author of *Printer’s Error: Irreverent Stories from Book History* (Harper, 2017). The Holley Lecture will be held on Sunday, June 25, from 10:30-11:30 AM.