Library History Round Table

Midwinter meeting

January 31, 2019 1 – 2:30 pm

Online via Zoom.

**Attendees**; Anthony Bernier (Member-at-large), Jenny Bossaller (Chair), Eric Novotny (Secretary-Treasurer), Susazanne Stauffer (Past-Chair), Cindy Welch (Vice-Chair)  
Sandra Alon, Mara Inge, Steve Knowlton, Bernadette Lear, Ellen Pozzi, Brett Spencer.

**Introductions and Past business** (1:00 – 1:05)

Attendees introduced themselves and described their role on the Executive Committee (if applicable).

**Approval of Annual 2018 meeting minutes** (1:25)  
Before the meeting, minutes from the 2018 Midwinter Meeting were distributed and corrected. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Guest speakers – ALA candidates** (1:05 – 1:15).  
Time was given for the ALA Presidential Candidates to address LHRT. None attended.

**Officer and Committee reports** (1:15 – 1:25)

* Spencer, Chair of the Davis award committee reported that Jennifer Burek Pierce received the 2018 award for her 2016 article [The Reign of Children: The Role of Games and Toys in American Public Libraries, 1877-1925,](http://www.infoculturejournal.org/abstracts/51.3)” published in *Information & Culture*
* Spencer, reported on *LHRT News and Notes* which has seen an increase in readership. Three individuals have volunteers to help with the blog; Natalie Romano, Dr. Mary Carroll, and Dana L. Hettich. A discussion of funding a commercial version of the WordPress platform was tabled until later in the agenda.
* Novotny reported on *Libraries, Culture, History and Society.*  LHRT’s Journal is reaching an ever-larger audience with increased in LHRT membership and higher JSTOR downloads. The Penn State Press believes the journal is doing well and performing better than expected for a new journal. It was noted that Novotny’s term as co-editor will conclude in April 2019. Need Executive Committee approval for re-appointment.  
  Action Items: Novotny will send suggested re-appointment language to Executive Committee. Bossaller will set up a poll for a vote of the Executive Committee. Stauffer will review for inclusion in LHRT’s by-laws revision.   
  Bernier noted that the journal can exchange ads with other publications – did this for a publication he was involved with and pleased with the results. Bossaller suggests reaching out to JALISE about an exchange of ads.

**Discussion and Approval of 2019 Budget** (1:25 – 1:30)

Novotny, discussed the LHRT budget which remains strong. The latest financial report (Oct. 2018) showed a budget allocation of $5,867 with expenditures of $1,224. Expected additional expenditures include the Holley honorarium (allocated $1,500), any 2019 LHRT awards (allocated $1,500) and $1,000 for conference equipment rental. LHRT’s current “Net Balance” is $58,748 (last Midwinter it was $59,206)   
Action item: Bossaller will check on any equipment expenses for LHRT’s programs at Annual. It is unclear what is automatically included (e.g. microphones) and what we might have to pay for. (requested a computer, projector, table microphones).

Action item: Novotny will follow-up with our ALA Liaison on budget issues, including getting a more recent financial report and when the journal expenditures will appear on LHRT’s budget. STILL not seeing expenditures for the journal. Given current membership numbers this should cost around $3,000/year to ship the print journals.

Novotny and Bossaller briefly discussed **Membership** – LHRT has seen a 5% increase in personal memberships in Dec. 2018 compared to Dec. 2017. (from 381 to 401 personal members). A slight decrease in organizational members.

Welch noted that 2 submissions have been received for **LHRT’s Research Forum**. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15. A second call is issued, and LHRTers are urged to help share the call widely.

**Midwinter report** (1:30 – 1:40  
Pozzi unable to attend this Midwinter. Has heard that Midwinter will be focused on tracks like YA, leadership. Hope to hold in smaller, more affordable cities. Also looking at overall ALA organization, including role of roundtables, and annual conferences. Worth keeping an eye out for.

Bossaller asked for feedback on an email she received from Andrew Wertheimer regarding the possible inclusion of a library history museum when ALA moves to new headquarters.

**Action Items** (1:40 – 2:10)

**ALA Annual 2019**

Bossaller announced that Dawn Logsdon and Lucie Faulknor from Seredipity Films have accepted our invitation to present the Holley Lecture. The two filmmakers will discuss their recently completed documentary “Free for All, Inside the Public Library”.

Bossaller looking options for an LHRT event at Annual including the African-American history Museum or a tour of the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Stauffer is working on significant edits to the **LHRT by-laws**. Revised text was shared with LHRT Executive Committee members. The revised by-laws will be submitted to the LHRT membership for a vote when ready.

Action item; Review the by-law revisions and send suggestions/changes to Stauffer.

In addition to the changes made by Stauffer, the Executive Committee discussed and approved the following motions:

MOTION to reduce Corporate membership cost to align with other Round Tables

(see Current by-laws: Article I — Membership and Dues)

**Motion** by Bossaller to reduce the corporate membership fees currently $100 to $25. Seconded by Stauffer and approved. The reduced fees will be added to the other by-law changes Suzanne is compiling. Hopefully LHRT can vote on all the changes at once.

MOTION to change the Publications Committee to “Communications Committee”  
After some discussion of the role and composition of the Committee, Stauffer made the MOTION to approve, which was seconded and approved.

**Discussion items** (2:10 – 2:30)

* **Communications**: should we be using Google Drive to coordinate efforts?

No arguments were made against using Google Drive for communications. Novotny noted that final versions of official documents (e.g. meeting minutes) should be uploaded to ALA Connect.

* Revisited earlier discussion of LHRT paying for a **software upgrade for *News and Notes***. Different “business” versions are available that would offer additional functionality such as automatic sharing with social media platforms and additional storage. Motion made and approved to fund the $8/month upgrade ($96/year). Spencer will pursue this and will update group.
* Should we create a new **Twitter** feed? The password is lost and we can’t retrieve it.  
  Natalie Romano who is working with the blog has offered to work on a new LHRT twitter account. The group agreed that an LHRT Twitter account would be a good thing. Spencer will work with Pozzi to link the new twitter feed with the LHRT webpage.
* **Helen Haines and other 100 Notable Librarians**: Revisited an LHRT listserv discussion about recognizing female librarians (and specifically a suggestion to nominate Helen Haines for the recent NY Times effort to include more women in their historical obituaries.). Lear went through ALA’s 100 notable librarians list and noted that most don’t have NY Times obituaries. While we each have our own “favorite” to nominate, ideally this work would be undertaken systematically, perhaps by those in LHRT with access to graduate and undergraduate students. Stauffer indicated she might have students to research individuals on the list. This research could be posted to *LHRT News and Notes* and/or Wikipedia, in addition to petitioning NY Times for inclusion  
  https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/obituaries/formacist-overlooked.html

**Candidates for 2019 LHRT elections**

Stauffer reported that a slate of candidates for LHRT officer positions has been compiled, but experiencing some issues with the ALA Elections site. Stauffer working with our ALA Staff Liaison to resolve.

Pozzi provided an update on **LHRT’s website.**  She is finally able to change the top menu and rotating images. Could use some new pictures to replace the one currently on the carousel and invited submissions. Now that we have more control, will look into things like automatically adding Blog updates to the feeds on LHRT website.

**LHRT Handbook**Stauffer has undertaken a thorough review and updated the handbook according to actual practice. A copy of the revised document was shared with Executive Committee members.  
Action Item ALL – send handbook edits/suggestions to Stauffer.   
Pozzil will share updated language for the webmaster position

Novotny will send language on process for appointing/re-appointing LCHS editor(s).

**Library History Seminar**

Stauffer provided an update. The call for papers will go out soon. Developing promotional materials to distribute at Annual. Will create a conference website, but nothing up yet. The Seminar will be in August 2020.

Action Item: Novotny and Lear will discuss with the Seminar organizers possibilities for publishing Seminar papers.

**Adjournment**With no further new business the meeting adjourned.