

LIRT Executive Fall 2019

Thursday, Sept. 26, 12:00 p.m. Eastern/11:00 a.m. Central

Agenda

<https://ala-events.zoom.us/j/426326450>

Attended by: Mark Robison, Victor Baeza, Jen Hunter, Mardi Mahaffy, Rachel Mulvihill, Sherri Brown, Kristen Edson, Beth Fuchs

1. Welcome (Mark)
2. Approval of Executive Annual 2019 minutes (Beth)
 - a. Previous minutes approved by Kristen Edson, seconded by Mardi Mahaffy.
3. Treasurer's Report (Mardi)
 - a. The ALA budget is struggling, but many Round Tables are doing well, including LIRT. As of the end of July, we have a balance of about \$202,000. This is a retreat year, and there is \$12,500 saved for the retreat over the past several years. We have also set aside \$1,000 for a Spectrum Scholar, but there is no reference to money for an Emerging Leader in our budget. Our estimated revenues are \$25,500 based on membership numbers. Our budget will see a slight dip this year because it is a retreat year.
 - b. Discussion: We are getting better at estimating our projected revenues. We don't tend to spend as much as we budget for.
4. Updates from Organization and Planning Committee (Kristen)
 - a. Retreat Planning
 - i. The retreat is held every 5 years and is attended by members of the Executive Council and Steering Committee. The intention is to focus on where LIRT has been and what LIRT wants to do in the future. The last retreat was very productive and resulted in the creation of an updated mission statement and suggestions for new initiatives for LIRT. So far, sixteen people from Executive and Steering have completed the poll for topics to guide the retreat. Currently, leadership development, communication and public relations, and strategic planning are the top choices. Kristen is investigating options for consultants to work with us on these topics as well as options for a retreat venue that are not conference

hotels. The retreat will be held on Friday afternoon of the Annual Conference.

b. LIRT Manual and Archivist Position

- i. The LIRT archivist position was created in 2011 with the intention of being involved in both digital and hard copy preservation of LIRT documents. Now, the ALAIR website is used by ALA for digital preservation. While editing and updating the LIRT Manual over this past year, it was discovered that the description of the LIRT archivist position was missing from it. That omission has been corrected and is now included in the manual in Appendix B, which is focused on continuity of operations.

5. Discussion about 7-Year Plan for Rotating LIRT Events (Mark)

- a. For a long time, the only event that rotated responsibility was the Midwinter Discussion Forum. We've now added the pre-conferences in 2017 and 2019 that have gone well and have decided that we want to do these on a rotating basis. Should the webinars which have historically been put on by the Teaching, Learning, and Technology (TLT) Committee be a rotating responsibility? Should the responsibility for putting on socials be rotated among committees? These questions led Mark to develop the [7-Year Plan for Rotating LIRT Events](#). The first version includes TLT as one of the five committees with responsibilities that rotate, the second version removes webinars as one of the roles that rotates, and the third version has no webinars in it and also removes TLT from the rotating responsibilities, working under the assumption that TLT would do one webinar per year. In each version, no committee has two responsibilities in the same year.
- b. Discussion: Does TLT want the responsibility to do webinars? Doing webinars has just become one of their main projects by tradition. Is it their main activity? There is nothing in their charge that mentions doing webinars, but it does mention other activities, which shows that this is a good opportunity for committees to review and update their charges. Several years ago, it was hoped that TLT could be the source for other LIRT committees wanting to do webinars, and there is a document created recently by Cinthya Ippoliti that records best practices for doing webinars. Some committees have expressed interest in experimenting with other roles, including putting on events. Will discuss all of this with Steering and get their perspectives.

6. Spectrum Scholarship: Weigh pros and cons of committing \$22,500 to fund a scholar (Mark)
 - a. Would need to commit no later than April 2020 for the 2020-21 cycle
 - b. We would be named as donors on this [lovely list](#)
 - i. Mark met Danielle Ponton, the head of the Spectrum Scholars program, and the head of the Emerging Leaders program. LIRT sponsored a Spectrum Scholar in 2011. At that time, a one-year commitment was sufficient; now, a three-year commitment is required. If a three-year commitment is not possible, other possibilities are that we can offer free LIRT membership to Spectrum Scholars, or we can make a donation to the Spectrum Scholars endowment.
 - ii. Discussion: Several people expressed interest to making a three-year commitment. The list of donors currently does not include any Round Tables. A large budget like this one will be harder to sustain over the long term, and we would need to reconsider how we budget if we make this a long-term commitment. At our current budgeting rate, we'd only be able to sponsor a Spectrum Scholar about every 20 years. Maybe our long-term budget commitment would be to Emerging Leaders, which requires \$1,000 per year. This is what a lot of Round Tables do. Could we pool funds with other Round Tables and co-sponsor a Spectrum Scholar? Perhaps this can be an issue brought for discussion to the Round Table Coordinating Assembly. Mark will raise these questions with the head of the Spectrum Scholar program: If we commit to the \$22,500, will ALA take it out of our budget all at once or over three years? Will the money go to the same person every year? Would it be possible to pool funds with other Round Tables to sponsor a Spectrum Scholar?
7. Emerging Leaders Program: Beth, Cinthya, and Mark are reviewing applications (Mark)
 - a. Is this in our budget? Was \$1,000 transferred out in 2018-19?
 - i. Questions remain. Mardi will check with HuiFen, last year's Treasurer.
 - b. Summary of application review process: 10 people applied specifically for LIRT funding. We chose our top candidate and were also asked to select two alternates. All three focused a lot on teaching and learners in their applications.

8. Should LIRT Purchase a Zoom Subscription?
 - a. Does ALA's meet our needs?
 - i. The ALA Zoom account serves 19 Round Tables, so there is the potential for scheduling conflicts. It would be about \$20 per month for LIRT to have our own subscription.
 - b. Ease of reserving?
 - i. Danielle books the ALA Zoom account, so reserving it requires contacting her and a little advance planning to allow for scheduling. Any Steering Committee member can use it, and several LIRT committees have already used it. Beth will write up the procedure for reserving the account to share with the Steering Committee.
 - c. Other platforms?
 - i. None were discussed.
 - d. Discussion:
 - i. We decided not to spend money right now on it. If it turns out later that we need it, we can revisit this.
9. Other Updates or Announcements
 - a. Kristen is seeking nominations for Executive Board members. She will be posting the call on LIRT-mem listserv, Facebook, and ALA Connect. Biographies of candidates are due on December 4.