

RBMS Membership and Professional Development Committee
Saturday, June 24, 2006, 8:00-10:00 am
Embassy Suites New Orleans, Lafitte Ballroom IV

Members Attending: Kathleen Burns, Yale; Steve Cox, Univ. of Tennessee-Chattanooga; John Cullars, Univ. of Illinois-Chicago; Ellen Ellickson, Yale (chair); Susan Fagan; James Fox, Univ. of Oregon; Hjordis Halvorson, Newberry Library; Mary Lacy, Library of Congress; Laila Miletic-Vejvociv, Washington State; Fernando Peña, Grolier Club; Susan Walker, Lewis Walpole Library

Members excused: Anne Marie Lane, Veronica Reyes

Visitors: James Ascher, Univ. of South Florida; Stephanie Joseph, Univ. of Iowa; Anne Posega, Washington University; (briefly) Katherine Reagan, Cornell University.

1. Ellickson welcomed attendees, who introduced themselves. Mary Lacy volunteered to record minutes. The agenda was finalized, and minutes from the Midwinter 2006 meeting approved.
2. Ellickson reviewed the committee membership and roster; the ACRL version of the roster is correct. She welcomed incoming member Diane Warner. The new ACRL liaison will be Adam Burling. She expressed her extreme gratitude for the wonderful work done by James Fox and Fernando Peña over the last two terms; they will be going off the committee after Annual. Ellickson will serve as chair for the next two years. Stephanie Joseph is slated to be the new intern.
3. The new format of the New Members Orientation held at the Austin Preconference was successful by all reports; this will serve as the new model for future preconferences. Handouts included the names of chairs and their committees, a listing of RBMS meetings and programs at ALA, and tips for how to get involved in RBMS.
4. Peña reported on the scholarship program. Because of the IMLS grant of 30 scholarships and 3 ACRL-funded scholarships, this was a record year in terms of applications as well as scholarship recipients. A record 352 applications were received and reviewed by the four-person committee: Peña (M&PD), Katrina Jackson (Diversity), Elaine Smyth (Budget and Development), and Rachel Howard (Exec). The applications, devised by Tori Ondrla (ACRL) and Katherine Reagan, RBMS chair, included a 300 word essay. Since the applications were submitted electronically, the large volume of submissions could more easily be distributed and reviewed. The scholarship publicity was disseminated to the same places as before, but the extra publicity seems to have led to the much higher turnout.

The scholarship winners were of very high quality. Of the applicants, 127 (36%) were associated with archives, 171 (49%) with libraries, and 53 (15%) with the

museum world (1 did not answer the question). Scholarships awarded went to 11 archivists (37%), 12 librarians (40%) and 7 museum people (23%). 62% of applicants were students, 38% were professionals. 53% of scholarships were awarded to students. There were 59 minority applicants (17%); 13 scholarships (43%) were awarded to minority applicants (Latino, Native American, and other), plus one minority winner of an ACRL scholarship. Scholarship recipients were fairly evenly distributed among the regions of the United States; one recipient was Canadian. Evaluation forms have already been sent to the scholarship winners.

5. Lacy reported on the Buddy Program which she coordinated this year; 34 experienced members volunteered to serve as buddies; 26 buddies were matched for the Preconference, and 2 matched for the ALA conference. In addition to Listserv postings, ACRL sent targeted emails directly to new attendees and to repeat attendees to reach those who might not subscribe to RBMS or ExLibris.

6. Kathleen Burns reported on new members activities. Since the Local Arrangements committee had provided many social activities for new and old members alike, the committee piggybacked on this arrangement by issuing virtual invitations for first-night tours to new members and scholarship recipients. Ondrla provided lists of 100+ first-time attendees and scholarship winners, and Burns created an Evite after consulting with a Local Arrangements liaison. The invitation was viewed over 100 times and 44 people responded. Burns reported that some invitees had used the Evite bulletin board for informal communications among themselves. There were no special activities planned for new members at ALA. Concern was expressed over what could be done to welcome career changers, who would not necessarily be eligible for scholarships. Burns stated that future new members' events would be actively vetted to appeal across perceived generational gaps.

7. Burns and Fox reported on the Diversity Committee and Diversity Toolkit. Diversity Committee members made two visits to universities serving under-represented groups in San Antonio preceding the 2005 Midwinter meeting; the toolkit would help RBMS members make such presentations to under represented students in the area of their own institution. This would promote outreach as a professional development activity as well as diversity for the profession. Burns brought this to Diversity, which will bring to Exec as an action item. The toolkit should be usable for high school as well as college students, which have been the focus so far. Diversity Committee members have been in contact with staff at the University of Washington in anticipation of Midwinter 2007 site visit in Seattle. They hope to invite students at other institutions, including local tribal colleges.

8. RBMS will be represented at the ALA New Members' Round Table meeting, and at the ACRL booth. Peña will attend a NMRT student reception on Sunday, which is a new event, and will bring brochures.

9. Ellickson continues as liaison to the ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee and the ACRL Membership Advisory Committee. The former meets at the same time as RBMS Membership, the latter at the time of Info Exchange.

10. Ellickson reported on the RBMS Mentoring Program. Since Midwinter, she has matched seven pairs of mentors and mentees (stats supplied by Ellickson after the meeting). Members discussed how to evaluate how the program was going. There have been a steady stream of requests, and some early successes in pairing. Evaluation forms for both mentors and mentees will be created. Ellickson will work on those along with Halvorson and also Peña who, though he is going off the committee, offered to help.

11. Since Midwinter Ellickson sent 97 email letters to new RBMS members. Normally they would have been mailed with enclosed brochures and diversity inserts, but since ACRL sent the list of new members in May and brochures and inserts would be needed in June for RBMS and ALA, it was decided to send the letters electronically.

12. Requests to library schools for updated information for the Educational Opportunities directory is still getting responses from only about one-third of the schools contacted. The ABAA would like to start an internship program where library school students work for a bookseller; they would like to coordinate with library schools which have internship programs in place for short projects. Ellickson will provide them with a list of such schools and Miletic-Vejvovic (and Fox, even though he is going off the committee) volunteered to talk with them.

13. Task Force on Core Competencies. Halvorson is Membership liaison to the task force, and chairs one of the working groups. The questionnaire distributed by the task force looked at documents drafted by other organizations, as well as current job postings for special collections librarians. At the Preconference, a great range of people, new and experienced, attended a meeting to discuss the preliminary findings; a hearing will be held at ALA this afternoon. Another draft will go to other professional associations for review, and should be sent to library schools as well. Concern has been expressed with the lack of a rare book component in many library schools.

14. Virtual committee membership project: the Executive Committee has discontinued this project, as ACRL will not support it. Equipment expenses rendered such membership non-feasible.

15. At the Seminars Committee meeting Midwinter 2006, the topic of creative alternatives for professional development was explored as a possible Membership-sponsored seminar.

16. New business:

The group discussed ways to facilitate room sharing of hotel rooms and dorms to ease the financial burden of attending the Preconference.

Interest was expressed in setting up an email group or wiki that could be used by new members, possibly even set up for the Midwinter meeting in Seattle. Reagan hoped that these options could be pursued after the ALA web site has been improved. For 2008, it may be possible that ACRL could divert some scholarship money for attendance at ALA rather than the Preconference; additional funding for scholarships will be sought.

Recorded by Mary Lacy, July 13, 2006