

Membership and Development Committee Meeting

ALA Midwinter Conference

San Diego Hilton Bayfront Hotel, Cobalt 500

Saturday, January 8, 2011, 10:30 am – 12 pm

Members Present: Katie Carr (Independent Librarian, M & PD Chair); Diane Warner (Texas Tech University, Chair, RBMS Scholarships Committee); Katie Henningsen (University of Kentucky); Deborah Whiteman (Santa Clara University).

Members Excused: Heather Cole (Harvard University); Eva Rose Guggemos (Yale University); Kevin Butterfield (University of Richmond); Catherine Coker (Texas A&M University); Kasia Leousis (Washington University in St. Louis); Renna Tuten (University of Georgia Libraries).

Guests: Tory Ondrla (ACRL), Athena Jackson (Louisiana State University, Chair, RBMS Diversity Committee); Nina Schneider (UCLA, RBMS Member-at-Large); Beth Whittaker (University of Kansas); Mike Kelly (Amherst College); Ruth Hughes (Library Company of Philadelphia); Melanie Myers (NYU-Poly)

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Chair Katie Carr welcomed members to the Midwinter meeting; attendees introduced themselves.

2. Selection of recorder and finalization of Agenda items

Deborah Whiteman was designated recorder; Diane Warner, Chair of the Scholarships Committee, was added to the Agenda.

3. Housekeeping: Committee membership

Katie noted that M & PD now has 10 members. Attendance at this San Diego Midwinter meeting was low, in part due to the reality of limited funding; we did not have a quorum. Katie suggested that we have one virtual meeting (Midwinter) and one in-person meeting (Annual) a year. Others noted that a virtual meeting means that guests can't 'drop in' on M & PD meetings; it would also change the nature of Information Exchange. The virtual meeting concept will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

4. New Members' Event

Katie summarized for the group some of the problems that she and Deborah ran into in planning this event for the 2010 Pre-Conference in Philadelphia. Because of the growing size of the event (now averaging 65-70 attendees), a deposit for the host restaurant has

become a necessity. Katie and Deborah proposed to the RBMS Executive Committee that the New Members' Social be made a more official event. There was considerable discussion of this on ALA Connect in November 2010, some of which can be viewed at: <http://connect.ala.org/node/116147>. Following this exchange, the Executive Committee voted to support the proposal and make the event part of ACRL Registration for the RBMS Pre-Conference. In future, Tory Ondrla, Conference Supervisor for ACRL, will work with local venues in arranging menu choices and pricing. A deposit and a contract will be part of the planning; the deposit will be recouped by the proceeds from fees for the event.

Tory Ondrla is already working on the New Members' event for the 2011 Pre-Conference in Baton Rouge. She has approached Avoyelles, a restaurant/bar near the Pre-Conference hotel and is hopeful that this may be a suitable venue. As Avoyelles will be undergoing some renovations in the next few months, other venues may also be considered. Avoyelles would be a good option, as we could probably do a nice event there for a relatively low cost. Members agreed that it would be desirable to keep the price at \$15-20 per person. Katie asked for volunteers to assist Tory in planning this event.

There was some discussion of the current name of the event - a topic which also came up on the ALA Connect exchange. Most of the group disliked "New Members' Social." The group unanimously agreed that the new name would be "New Members' Mixer."

There was additional discussion about who should attend the event. The group agreed that, while the event is intended primarily as a welcome for those new to RBMS, all those who are interested should be able to attend. This past year, an evite was sent to first time attendees, scholarship winners and "VIPs." New members enjoy meeting experienced RBMS members and the committee agreed that the event gains added value from a 'mixed' crowd.

The committee would like to come up with creative ideas for marketing this year's event. Athena suggested posting pictures of the selected venue on the RBMS Facebook page, for example. Other suggestions would be welcomed.

5. Buddy Programs Report – K. Leousis

Kasia Leousis was ill and unable to send her report from Annual. Katie noted that there was one request for a Buddy for the 2011 Midwinter Conference in San Diego.

6. Careers in Rare Books and Manuscripts: Frequently Asked Questions – E. Guggemos

Eva was also unable to attend. There was nothing to report on the FAQs at this point.

7. Committee Website - E. Guggemos

No report at this time.

8. Educational Opportunities Directory – H. Cole

Heather was unable to attend. Katie reported that Heather would like members to look at the Directory and give her comments on it at a future virtual meeting.

9. Membership Survey – A. Jackson

Athena Jackson, Chair of the Diversity Committee, has assigned M & PD the task of doing a membership survey; she will require volunteers to help her with this. She noted that the Diversity Committee is in need of statistics on diversity. Additionally, RBMS has not surveyed its membership for well over five years, so it is time. She would like this new survey to capture ‘the diversity angle’ in a number of ways. How much mobility exists within the profession, for example?

10. Membership Survey – A. Jackson

Athena would also like to promote mindfulness of diversity in all RBMS committees, perhaps through some kind of informal liaison activity.

11. Diversity Committee Liaison – K. Carr

M & PD needs to appoint someone as our liaison to the Diversity Committee. Katie indicated that she will be looking for an interested member to volunteer for this position

12. Book Fair Liaison – K. Carr

The Committee also needs a Book Fair “Czar” to manage the distribution of RBMS material at the ABAA Book Fairs.

13. Letters to New Members – K. Carr

Katie reported that she recently sent out 64 letters to new members and 48 letters to existing members. Since these letters welcome new members to RBMS, mention the Pre-Conference and talk about ways for members to get involved in the organization, Tory suggested that they might be a good place to mention/advertise the New Members’ Mixer.

Katie also noted that RBMS now has 1,808 members.

14. Mentoring Program Report

For the past several years, we have had too many mentee requests and not nearly enough mentor volunteers. Katie asked for ideas on how to address this problem and asked for M&PD's members' help in recruiting mentor volunteers. Our current practice – of sending out a general email on the RBMS listserv – clearly doesn't work.

Brainstorming on this topic ensued and the following suggestions were put forward:

- We need to go after newer members (and “medium” members) to serve as mentors; we need to change the perception about this; people often think that they are “too new” to mentor, but this is not the case.
- We could follow SAA's example and take a more proactive approach to mentoring – invite a select group (both leaders and newer members) to a lunch, for example, and ask them to get involved.
- The University of Kentucky has a mentoring program that we could investigate and learn from.
- Use the phone – call people up and make a personal appeal to them; get a verbal okay and follow up with an email reminder, which would contain the link to the mentoring volunteer form on the RBMS website
- Ask those who have been RMBS mentees to become mentors

15. RBMS Presence at the ACRL Booth – K. Carr

Katie noted that we need volunteers for this. She emphasized that it is a worthwhile thing in that it promotes RBMS membership at ACRL and help us to acquire new members. Tory currently needs someone to help at the ACRL conference in Philadelphia.

16. Liaison Reports – K. Carr

ACRL Professional Development Coordinating Committee, ACRL Membership Advisory Committee:

There has been some restructuring of committees at ACRL and the Chair of M & PD is no longer required to attend these meetings. Katie will attend the new “ACRL Membership Coordinating Committee” today, however, to see what is going on.

17. Assignments and Volunteer Opportunities

- New Members' Mixer – need a volunteer (or two) for this
- Book Fair liaison – need a volunteer
- Mentoring program – all M & MD members are asked participate in this effort
- Membership Survey – volunteers needed to work with Athena on this project

18. Scholarships Committee Report – D. Warner

This committee meets virtually. Diane reported that they are gearing up for the new scholarships season. The advertisement for RBMS Pre-Conference scholarships will go out very shortly. Scholarship winners are usually notified during the last week of April. It was suggested that a ticket to the New Members' Mixer could be part of the scholarship package. Tory and Diane will look into this possibility.

19. New business

There was no new business reported.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Whiteman 01/27/2011