

ESRT General Membership Meeting - Minutes  
New Dorp Library  
Staten Island, New York  
January 17, 2014

Attendance: Fred Gitner, QBPL; Selina Sharmin, NAP; Adriana Blancarte-Hayward, NYPL; Manny Figueroa, QL; Grace Riario, RCLS; Tracy Allen, FML; Brigid Cahalan; Xi Chen, QL; David Nochimson, NYPL; Kacper Jarecki, QL; Katrina Ortega, NYPL/QL; Tejas Desai, QL; Tom Brogan, BPL.

President Adriana Blancarte-Hayward began the meeting at 12:10pm. She welcomed everyone to her library and asked the thirteen attendees to introduce themselves.

The General Meeting attendees reviewed the Minutes from September 26 meeting in Niagara Falls. Brigid Cahalan made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Fred Gitner with the following amendments:

In the Attendance section, Havershaw was changed to Haverstraw; Morbetu was changed to Morbeth; Bibliographies that Adriana and Grace planned to do was changed to Spanish books for Adults instead of Children; In Manny's review of the past year as President, Irina Chernick was changed to Galina Chernykh.

Brigid Cahalan announced her retirement from New York Public Library this past December. She will continue to be an active and invaluable member of ESRT.

A discussion arose regarding selling the new ESRT publication: Connecting Cultures: Ethnic Services in the Libraries of New York State. The members felt that we should sell our book through amazon.com to reach more customers. Fred stated that he has been in contact with the NYLA president, who prefers us to sell our publication through their online store. However, NYLA online store is being revamped. Grace offered to contact Amazon to see if we can add it to the amazon website and provide customers to a link to NYLA to buy the book. The book is currently being sold through NYLA website.

Fred Gitner presented the Treasurer's report as follows: We have sold 64 copies of our publication: Connecting Cultures. A \$1500 donation was received from the Russian Publishing House which paid for 60% of the publication cost of the book. ESRT President, Adriana Blancarte-Hayward has sent a copy of Connecting Cultures along with a thank you note to our benefactor. ESRT paid \$1100 towards the publication costs, plus \$73 for shipping charges, and \$100 for the front cover illustration.

Fred also announced that NYLA's fiscal year has changed from Jan-Dec to July-June. ESRT is starting the 2014 year with a balance of \$2554.61. Each member in attendance received a copy of the financial statement.

ESRT newsletters will be published twice a year, before and after the NYLA Annual Conference. Manny will work with Irina Kuharets on the newsletters.

The chairs of the different committee were chosen;  
Nominating Committee Chair - Manny Figueroa, QL  
Conference Program Committee Chair - Tracy Allen, FML  
Membership/Public Relations Committee Chair - Brigid Cahalan  
Publications and Newsletter Committee Chair - Irina Kuharets, FML  
Awards Committee Chair - Manny Figueroa, QL; Members, Grace Riario, RCLS and Fred Gitner, QBPL

Other Responsibilities:

NYLA Website - Grace Riario

ESRT Facebook - Manny Figueroa

Instagram - Manny Figueroa

Flickr account will be deleted.

NYLA Website: The members suggested that Irina write a paragraph about the ESRT publication. Our new president will add a small biography of herself. The website will be updated with the new chairs information.

The logo idea discussed during the Board meeting was introduced to the members. Tracy Allen and Grace Riario will contact a designer to develop a logo for ESRT. The samples will be shown at the next meeting.

ESRT Awards - We need sponsors for the Multicultural Award and Professional Development Award in order to offer them in 2014.

ESRT Professional Development was \$500. It covers the conference registration fee and other expenses. ESRT contributed \$250 and a sponsor contributed \$250.

ESRT Multicultural Award was \$500.

The members suggested a plaque of recognition instead of the \$500 for the Multicultural Award.

Information on both awards will be updated to the website once sponsors are found by members.

Programs for the 2014 Conference - Draft Ideas:

1. US Citizenship Information Sessions led by the Westchester/Rockland Counties Literacy volunteers.
2. Spanish Collections Panel - Publishers and Librarians discussion Spanish multimedia collections.
3. How to develop a collection without speaking the language?

Tracy Allen will submit these ideas to NYLA by the Monday, January 20 dateline. She will be attending the mandatory programmer meeting at NYLA headquarters on February 5th.

Members agreed to meet in April, September and during the NYLA Conference in November.

Dates will be announced at a later date.

Adriana adjourned the meeting at 1:15pm and then gave a tour of the New Dorp Library. Adriana also invited members to have lunch at a nearby Indian restaurant. Afterwards, we had a fascinating tour of the Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Brogan

ESRT Secretary