

MINUTES

RBMS Membership Committee Meeting
Saturday, July 8, 2000, 9:30-11:00AM
Sheraton Chicago, Illinois Room

Present: Suzy Taraba, Lois Fischer Black, Isaac Gewirtz, Julie Grob, Mike Kelly, Helice Koffler, Henry Raine, Gerriane Schaad

Visitors: Ellen Ellickson, David Faulds, Shanon Lawson, Steven Lawson, Laura Micham

1. Taraba welcomed members and visitors.
2. The committee approved the agenda with some additions.
3. The minutes from the 2000 Midwinter Meeting in San Antonio were approved.
4. Taraba reported on the Buddy Program. 12 experienced Section members volunteered, and there were 11 requests for buddies, mostly for the preconference. 2 additional requests were made at the last minute, and Taraba reported that she found out about 2 other buddy pairs who made their own arrangements independently of the program.
5. Taraba reported on the orientation for first-time attendees at the preconference. This was the first preconference at which the orientation was the Membership Committee's responsibility, and it proved to be a success. Between 50 and 60 people attended. The formal orientation was followed by an opportunity to socialize. Black prepared two handouts for the orientation, including "RBMS at a glance," and a list of helpful hints for those wanting to become more involved in RBMS. Other handouts were available at the rear of the room. Black agreed that she would have "RBMS at a glance" mounted on the web site before the next preconference. Committee members noted that the orientation conflicted with one of the Preconference tours, and that it would be preferable to hold the orientation during a no-conflict time slot. They discussed ribbons to identify new members, and agreed that ribbons should be available at the next orientation. The committee suggested that the chair could have a supply of ribbons to hand out at the orientation, but that wearing a ribbon should be optional since some people do not like to be identified as new members. All agreed that more of the committee chairs should be present at the orientation, and that the committee should try to find out ahead of time who would be there and encourage committee chairs to attend.
6. Taraba reported on the Membership Survey Seminar at the preconference. Minutes were taken by Swann, and will be made available in the future. The session was also tape-recorded. The committee agreed that the session could have gone on longer. A large part of the discussion was devoted to the issue of reaching out to para-professionals in libraries and archives, and to the possibility of bringing people into RBMS through regional involvement in ALA, student

chapters, and linking up with the ACRL national conference and with ACRL chapters and other regional organizations. The committee also discussed the possibility of holding shorter, more affordable one-day regional conferences, perhaps attached to regional ACRL meetings, to make it easier for people to attend RBMS conferences. The committee agreed that this should be on the agenda at some point in the future, and that a proposal could be made to the Preconference Planning Committee. Taraba asked for a volunteer to draft a position paper to discuss at Midwinter, but no one volunteered. She suggested having this as an agenda item for discussion at the next Midwinter meeting.

7. Taraba reported on the section restructuring proposal currently under discussion by the Executive Committee, and on the suggested merger of the Membership Committee with the Educational and Professional Development Committee. She explained that this proposal came about as a result of the increasing number of conflicts in the meeting schedule. She mentioned the overlap between the charges of both committees, said that Executive Committee was supportive of a merger, and announced that she and Wilkie had drafted a new charge for a combined committee called the Membership and Professional Development Committee, which was expected to be approved at the Executive Committee meeting on Monday. She announced that Henry Raine would be appointed chair of the new committee.

8. Schaad reported on her research concerning the possibility of a membership directory for RBMS. She noted that most other ALA sections do not have a directory, though Swann had mentioned that WESS has a directory which is voluntary and includes information such as research interests and educational background. Most of the directories issued by ALA and its divisions only include members with committee appointments. The committee decided that it would revisit the topic of a membership directory in a couple of years.

9. Taraba and Gewirtz reported on the committee's non-members survey and said that they had compiled a list of 230 institutions with predominant minority enrolment and sent out a survey in mid-June with a deadline of August 1. 28 responses have been received so far, mostly from non-ALA members, and there seems to be a lot of interest in the survey.

10. Koffler reported that she had not yet sent out buddy evaluations, and that she would get a list of names from Taraba and send them out soon.

11. Kelly reported on the new RBMS Preconference scholarship program for first-time attendees who receive no institutional support. He said that there were 20 applicants, and that 6 full scholarships and 4 partial scholarships were awarded. He explained that this program is administered jointly by the Budget and Development Committee and by the Membership Committee. The committee suggested that this program should be included as part of the charge of the Membership and Professional Development Committee.

12. Taraba announced that Gewirtz, Koffler, Otelie, and Swann had come to the end of their terms on the committee, and thanked them for their service. She asked anyone interested in becoming a committee member or intern to contact new committee chair Raine.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.