

Literacy and Social Justice Special Interest Group
Business Meeting

International Literacy Association

Boston, MA

July 10, 2016, 8:A.M.-9:30 A.M.

Persons Present: Denise Stuart, Pat Bloem, Janet Wong, Carolyn Cook, Cheryl Nelson, Jenne Palmer, Andrea Karlin, Margaret Swope, Patty Dean

Bulleted topics addressed/discussed at the Business Meeting:

- Discussed the possible rubric used by ILA to rate our SIG. No one remembered seeing it before but we are very interested in viewing it to insure that we will remain a large SIG since we definitely need a large timeslot. As it is, 2 hours is a downsize from past years when we had 2 hr 45 minutes. It is difficult for us to organize our program in such a limited timeframe.
- We also discussed our concern at the size of the room for our SIG. We usually have around 50 people in attendance, but the Liberty A room holds only 40 people. We all discussed why we received a small room..
- We then proceeded with introductions and welcomed the newcomers while those who know each other made quick updates in their professional work.
- Plans for 2017 SIG Meeting in Orlando were then discussed. Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy have asked to be key note speakers, basing their presentation on their new Social Justice poetry anthology. We discussed their investment and historical roles in creating and supporting the LSR SIG and it was unanimous to formally invite them to speak. Janet Wong, our Program Director, will take charge of this.
- More discussion about next year's proposals for the Round Tables transpired. Janet wants to have a theme, based on the winning Social Justice books from the past 3 years. Janet wanted to give a title to the SIG presentations for next year, but Carolyn questioned that isn't Social Justice already a theme? Discussion ensued, and finally we agreed to keep the theme Social Justice and basing the Round Table presentations around 1 or more of the winning books, as long as it was only a suggestion and not a requirement.
- Discussion continued on the quality of the round tables (RT). Janet worried that there were too many, and should we referee more strenuously and limit the number? Through the discussion Patty, Andrea and Denise, senior members of the SIG, shared the importance of not eliminating proposals since the bulk of our

membership and attendance is directly related to the round table presenters. We discussed the quality of the RT presentations and agreed that all have been high quality and many are return presenters each year. The decision was made to accept all proposals unless there is a specific proposal that is obviously not worthy of our group (which has not occurred to date).

- Discussion proposed by Janet on web site issues was the next order of business. Following the treasurer's report we know we have to be frugal so our balance has been consistent over the last several years. There is no consistent financial support, however, so we must be careful to be thrifty when spending money. To support a yearly cost of a domain name for the web-site, Janet wondered if we could charge \$5 a year to members to support the cost. Many thought the draw of being free was important so we decided not to charge a membership fee. We all agreed that a book raffle would be one way to raise funds. {Discussion regarding the website continued in 2017 minutes.} Janet mentioned the need for a Communication Diva, someone who can actively tweet and add to our FB page. {Discussion on communication continued in 2017 minutes.}
- We also would like to have someone send out several messages to the entire SIG membership to remember to check out the eJournal, and that our proposals are due soon, and then a reminder about attending the next ILA conference and our SIG. We were wondering if Beth would consider doing this. Beth has agreed. We also brought up the need for an events planner for Orlando. In our business meeting we had a member of the FRA state group who will help us find a place for our dinner together, possibly at the Peabody. She will pass this need on to Kathy Fontaine, FRA president.
- Book Award Committee's report stated that Carolyn Cook will hand over the chair position to Aimee Rogers. This committee is meeting for lunch today and will discuss details including number to be on the committee, how long should they serve? How do we get quality books?
- Denise and Cheryl discussed the lack of proposals submitted for the Social Justice Award and urged the group to spread the word. One person self-nominated but the committee did not feel he was of the quality needed to represent this award. The committee needs 2 things: More committee members and more submissions seeking the award.
- Meeting was adjourned and the group moved to the site of the SIG.

Respectfully submitted by Patty Dean