

IFLA Roundtable on Women's Issues (RTWI)

Business Meeting Minutes

Sunday, August 18, 2001

Boston, MA

- I. Meeting was called to order at 2:30pm by Leena Siitonen, the IFLA Roundtable on Women's Issues (RTWI) Chair. The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting and commented on the fact that this was the 12th year of the Roundtable's existence.
- II. The agenda was approved and adopted.
- III. The minutes from the RTWI meeting in Jerusalem in 2000 were approved.

IV. Report of the chairperson

The Chair reported that the Roundtable's Research Project (the Women Attending IFLA Questionnaire) was ongoing. The questionnaire's would be placed in IFLA Express and attendees could fill them out and drop them off near the registration desk.

Two issues of the newsletter came out this year but there has been a problem getting the information into IFLAnet. The Chair will check into this with Sophie Felfoldi at IFLA headquarters.

The RTWI Brochure is in two languages – English and Spanish.

The following papers were accepted and will be presented at the RTWI Open Session

- Edita Bacic (Croatia) "*Partnership with NGOs as a Great Opportunity for Librarians for Promotions of Women's Information Needs in Croatia*"
- Kaplana Dasgupta (India) "*Information Needs of Women: Addressing Diverse Factors in the Indian Context*"
- Nancy Kuhl (USA) "*Family Planning, Censorship and the Library*"

V. Report of Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the RTWI finances are healthy and their bank account contains approximately \$513. A new account was opened by the Secretary-Treasurer at Washington Mutual Bank.

VI. Report of the Information Officer and Newsletter Editor

Beth Stafford is the Roundtable's Information Officer and Newsletter Editor. Unfortunately, due to illness, she was not able to attend the meeting. Her hard work on the newsletter was noted and commended. The comment was made that there may be a need for a new Information Officer as a position in addition to the Newsletter Editor. The Chair reported that she had gone through IFLAnet and found 64 instances of women's issues on the entire site. Some of this information needed to be updated or deleted. The Information Coordinator for RTWI could keep the website up-to-date. A recommendation was made from the floor that we involve a new member in this activity as a way to get more involvement from newer members. The Chair will announce this at the open session on Wednesday.

Mary Biblo reported on the RTWI brochure which as noted above was translated into Spanish. This project was undertaken by Thelma Tate. Special thanks to Ramon Abas who did the Spanish translation. There were a number of changes that needed to be made to the brochure such as new email address for the Information Coordinator and Newsletter Editor. Once the changes have been made, the brochure will be copied onto blue paper for the English version and orange for the Spanish version.

VII. RTWI In IFLA's New Organization

The RTWI is very firmly established within IFLA and has established a good reputation for strong programs. As of 2002, Roundtables are being eliminated and we must decide if we want to become a section or a discussion group.

Much discussion ensued. The general consensus among the group was that we should go for section status. The Chair agreed to draft a request and pass it by several members for comment. The group also discussed the fact that the key to keeping this group alive and thriving is to recruit and encourage young women to take a leadership role. We have to seek them out, ask them to work on projects or committees and nurture them to responsibility within the RTWI.

VIII. IFLA Journal

The *IFLA Journal* will soon celebrate its 75th anniversary. The editor is asking for suggestions about how to improve the journal. The Chair asked for comments from the group. Comments included suggesting that articles not already published on IFLAnet or in the conference proceedings be published; more representative articles on women's issues from different regions; something more similar to the Special Libraries Association *Information Outlook*; new ideas that would attract younger readers. It was suggested that the RTWI have an article ready to include in a future issue such as an article on women's issues and IFLA over the past 75 years. Monica Ertel agreed to find the contact information for Susan Hildreth. [note: Susan is now the City Librarian at San Francisco Public Library]

IX. Nominating New Officers - Meeting held Friday, August 24

The following officers were elected or reinstated:

Chair – Leena Siitonen

Secretary/Treasurer – Monica Ertel

Newsletter Editor – Thelma Tate

Information Coordinator -- Edita Bacic

X. Nominating Corresponding Members

It was suggested that information in the next newsletter include information inviting corresponding members from other countries to become part of the RTWI. The IFLA listserv could also be used for this purpose – stating that RTWI is attempting to formalize its relationship with women in other countries and would welcome corresponding members who would disseminate information to other women in their countries.

XI. Report on Research Project of Woman at IFLA

The principal researchers could not be at IFLA this year. However, surveys have been placed throughout the conference registration area and a box is available for depositing the completed surveys. Monica Ertel will collect the survey's and mail to Sandra Parker and Patricia Gannonleary for evaluation.

XII. Future Programs

The overall theme for the next IFLA conference in Glasgow is "Democracy, Diversity Delivery." Suggestions were made of possible RTWI themes such as "Democratic Diverse Delivery of Information to the World's Women." Or new technologies – women using technology to build communities. The possibility of a satellite meeting in Berlin was also discussed. A suggestion was made to partner with the women's issues section of the German Library Association. The chair will investigate and organize.

XIII. Proposal for Publication of RTWI Papers

The chair recommended that the Roundtable publish a compilation of papers given at the RTWI Open Session over the past 12 years. The chair will pursue.

XIV. Announcements

The Chair will check on a time for RTWI members to staff the IFLA booth.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.

Attendees:

Leena Siitonen, Chair

Monica Ertel, Secretary-Treasurer

Lain Kho

Mary Biblo

Barbara Ford

Kalpana Dasgupta

Jo Kibbee

Carolyn Brown

Respectfully submitted: Monica Ertel (ertelm@kornferry.com)