

International Relations Round Table meeting
April 20, 2018
OLA Conference, Eugene, Oregon

Present:

Veronica Vichit-Vadakan
Linda Campillo
Lori Wamsley
Richard Sapon-White
Patricia Wand
Suzanne Sager
MaryKay Dahlgreen
Caren Agata
Star Khan

Veronica stated that IRRT membership currently is at about 25.

The Horner Exchange Grant fund has a balance of about \$5,000, and IRRT has another \$1,000. Another \$10,000 is needed in order to fund another exchange, which is scheduled for 2019, but the group agreed to consider postponing it until 2020. The reason is to raise more funds and also to wait until the State of Oregon Library has a new state librarian.

Discussion for fundraising included:

- Setting up a GoFundMe account (note: Veronica later discussed this with Shirley Roberts and this is unlikely to work)
- eScrip -- also the same thing
- Amazon Smile
- PayPal Account

Enough funding needs to be saved to provide lodging, food and transportation for the visiting librarians. Dahlgreen also pointed out that it took almost a year in 2016 for the previous visitors from Fujian Province to gain permission to come to Oregon. A formal relationship exists between Fujian Provincial Library and the State of Oregon Library. The state librarian actually sends the official invitation letter. In the past, Rosalind and Amy did the major communication with the Fujian Provincial Library to organize the exchange.

Agata explained there could be another funding option through the LSTA grant process. Grant requests are submitted in January 2019 for funding in July to June 2020. Linda Campillo plans to follow up on this idea with Agata.

Linda also said she would try to contact someone at Nike to see if any funding options exist through the company or perhaps Phil Knight himself. The Fujian provincial librarians always go to UO, and it would be nice to have them visit the Nike campus and see the library there. Nike also does business in China.

Jian also put together a list of Chinese organizations in Portland that can be approached for potential funding as well.

OLA/WLA connection could be utilized to work with Fort Vancouver Library regarding the Horner Exchange.

For OLA/WLA joint conference, have a session with a retrospective on the Horner Exchange with highlights by past participants. Also promote the exchange and gain some more potential funding ideas. Need to contact Amy and Rosalind about this idea.

Special guest Star Khan talked about the Guadalajara Book Fair and the Libros for Oregon initiative. It is a two-year LSTA grant funded project that purchased books for nine Oregon libraries in nine days. Libros for Oregon is going to become its own Round Table and we discussed working with them to help get the group off the ground. Books in 27 different languages are available for purchase at the fair, and assistants are there to take care of all the logistics for participants. The libraries that purchased books contributed a \$350 stipend for the librarians who traveled to Guadalajara. The fair takes place the week after Thanksgiving every year, and any library can participate either on their own or through Libros for Oregon. A website for Libros for Oregon should be coming soon.