



Arkansas Library Association

Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, June 14, 2024, 9:00 AM
Virtual via Zoom

Executive Board in attendance (voting members denoted by *): *Carol Coffey, *Amy DeVooght, DeAnna Dillon, *Crystal Gates, *Britt Anne Murphy, *Secretary Jessica Riedmueller, *Treasurer Ron Russ, Amber Wilson, *Lynn Valetutti, *President Taylor Vanlandingham, *Lacy Wolfe

Not in attendance: JP Myrick

- I. **Call to Order** – President-Elect Lynn Valetutti called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence on Zoom. Minutes of the 4/19/24 Executive Board meeting accepted as distributed.
- III. **Consent Agenda** – Consent agenda of information-only reports was distributed prior to the meeting. Crystal Gates made a motion to receive the reports on the consent agenda; seconded by Britt Anne Murphy. Motion carried.
- IV. **President’s Report** – No report
- V. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Ron Russ delivered the financial report. ArLA has \$107,142.40 in Edward Jones—\$84,154.26 of which is scholarship money and \$22,988.14 of which is LEAF funding—and \$114,092.65 in the checking account. Ron attended ALPS InfoBits and worked at the registration table. The meeting made a profit of \$228.99. The Budget and Finance Committee met on May 22. Ron renewed two Zoom licenses for the next year.
- VI. **Councilor Report** – Crystal Gates has reserved dinner for Arkansas attendees at ALA in San Diego on Sunday June, 30, 7:30 PM at Lou and Mickey’s. Text Crystal if you will be there.
- VII. **Committee and CI Reports**
 - a. **Budget and Finance Committee** – The committee met with financial advisor Brian Canales. The committee discussed several options for safe investments that would help the association see more return on its investment. The committee proposes a portion of the Edward Jones funds be invested in short-term CDs for more flexibility. Money can be removed from the CDs without penalty if needed, but any accrued interest would be lost.
 - b. **Bylaws and Handbook Committee** – The Bylaws and Handbook Committee met with Britt Murphy from the Membership Committee to discuss a proposal to make institutional memberships follow a rolling schedule rather than a fixed dues schedule, suggesting that the flexibility might encourage more institutions to apply for membership. Following the meeting, Chair Jessica Riedmueller met with the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss the potential impact to ArLA's finances. The Budget and Finance Committee unanimously agreed to change the dues schedule from fixed to rolling. The Bylaws and Handbook Committee met on May 17, 2024 to make the changes.

- c. **Conference Committee** – Lynn Valetutti reported that registration will open on June 15. The conference schedule will be posted today [6/14/2024]. All speakers have been scheduled. There will be a variety of activities and displays including yoga and various book mobiles. Sunday morning has more content than in previous years. The annual meeting will take place on Sunday. Hot Springs Convention center has expressed interest booking our conference for another two years. The committee recommends that a sub-committee be formed to explore future conference sites.
- d. **Intellectual Freedom Committee** – Adam Webb reported that the IF committee has been meeting every month. They have discussed creating handouts for AAIM conference and now have them ready to go. The committee has also discussed the upcoming legislative session and strategy to prepare for it. Cori Williams has joined the Intellectual Freedom Committee. Two book challenges were reported to the committee and submitted to ALA. ALA grant looking to pick up 10 state associations to helpline. Would like to use it to make sure we can help school librarians. Conversion of preliminary injunction into final ruling. State could possibly appeal to 8th circuit, but a similar case lost in 5th circuit. Still a two-week window in October where could go to trial.
- e. **Membership Committee** – Britt Anne Murphy requested feedback and advice concerning the current PR project. The committee is working on developing calendar and poster series and needs pictures that better represent our communities. The deadline for submitting photos is July 29th. Calendar will be for 2025 and will be promoted and sold at the ArLA annual conference. The posters will likely be 11x17 and available for self-print. The committee requests incentive ideas for distribution of the posters.

The mentorship program kick off should occur at the annual conference and will be an opportunity for promotion of the association. The committee hopes to handout ArLA memberships as door prizes.

- f. **Nominating and Elections Committee** – The committee has been working to recruit candidates for office in 2025 in addition to recruiting candidates for the vacant member-at-large spot on this year's board.

VIII. Business Items

- a. **Edwards Jones CDs** – The Budget and Finance committee brought a motion to transfer \$20,000 from the Edward Jones insured bank account to a 3-month CD. Motion carried

The Budget and Finance committee brought a motion to transfer \$20,000 from the Edward Jones insured bank account to a 6-month CD. Motion carried

- b. **Bylaws Changes** – The Bylaws and Handbook Committee brought a motion to approve the proposed changes to the Bylaws in order to send the proposal to the ArLA membership for a vote. Motion carried.
- c. **Intellectual Freedom Helpline Grant** – The Intellectual Freedom Committee brought a motion requesting the board to allow the committee to apply for an Intellectual Freedom Helpline Grant through the American Library Association. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. **Election candidates** – The Nominating and Elections Committee to approve the 2024 slate of candidates for the special election to fill the vacant member-at-large spot, to approve the 2025 slate of candidates, and to approve Jenn Wann and April Sheppard to certify the results of the 2024 special election. Motion carried.
- e. **EveryLibrary Support** – Lynn Valetutti brought a proposal to support EveryLibrary's message development project. The project is working to understand voter perceptions about libraries and create effective messaging that can be used by individual libraries in their communities.

The full project is anticipated to cost approximately \$300,000, and is requesting pledges from state library associations. ArLA would fund the project only if it meets the full project goal. The board discussed what we should expect to see from the project if it goes forward and the anticipated timeline for the project. The goal is for the project to close at the end of 2024. It was noted that this would not be an unusual project to use LEAF money for. The board recommended the proposal go to the Budget and Finance Committee for review, and no action was taken.

- f. **AAIM Institutional Memberships** – Crystal Gates called for a Suspension of Rules for the board to consider a motion from the Membership Committee to allow Britt Anne Murphy to offer free institutional memberships at the AAIM conference. Carol Coffey seconded the motion to suspend. The motion to suspend passed with at least two-thirds vote. The motion to offer free memberships at the AAIM conference passed.

IX. Calendar

X. Announcements

XI. Public Comments

XII. Adjournment – President-Elect Valetutti adjourned the meeting at 10:03 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Riedmueller