

**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting Retreat
Mountain Harbor Resort
Feb. 23, 2007**

Those present were: Debbie Hall, Bettye Kerns, Barbara Martin, Ramona Abernathy, Britt Anne Murphy, Kaye Talley, Kristie Boucher, Kay Bland, Ellen Johnson, Dwain Gordon, Jim Robb, Loretta Edwards, JoAn Ingersoll, Sarah Ziegenbein, Diane Hughes, and Jamie Melson.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Debbie Hall, Vice-President/President-Elect in President Ashley Burris's absence. With several new members present, roll call went around the table and everyone introduced themselves.

Reports:

President-----Ashley Burris:

ALA Councilor-----Ellen Johnson: I have just returned from Seattle and ALA's Midwinter Meeting. It was an excellent conference and the Seattle weather was most cooperative. As those of you who have been know, Midwinter is more of a working conference and Annual has more programs, although there is some of each at both conferences.

At your places, in addition to a notepad and pencil from the Washington Convention Center, you will find a handout from each of the ALA presidential candidates. I'll also pass around the awards issue of Cognotes, the conference daily newspaper. There are also (1) guides available for winning support for rural libraries and (2) copies of the dates of future ALA conferences.

The next conference is Annual in Washington, D.C., (June 21-27). If you're interested in going, you might want to know that early bird registration for personal members is \$ 175 until March 2. After that date, advance registration is \$ 200 until May 18. Onsite registration for personal members is \$ 260. Registration is slightly lower for division members, and even lower for retired members and library school students. One of the big days will be Tuesday, June 27, when ALA's Washington office will be busing interested participants to Capitol Hill for activities there. There are many other events in the works as well, and much information is already posted on the ALA website.

Although I can't say that there is anything absolutely earthshaking to report from the Seattle conference, all in all it was a good meeting, and there will be more details of the conference and Council actions in my report in Arkansas Libraries.

SELA Representative-----Dwain Gordon:

The new 2006 – 2008 Southeastern Library Association Officers:

President

Faith A. Line
Sumter County (SC) Library

President-Elect

Kathleen R. T. Imhoff
Lexington (KY) Public Library

Secretary

Dr. Gordon N. Baker
Clayton State University (GA)

Treasurer

William (Bill) N. Nelson
Augusta State University

Immediate Past President

Judith A. Gibbons
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

The SELA Leadership Conference will be held on March 22-24, 2007 in Atlanta. The meeting hotel is the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center on Virginia Avenue, College Park/Atlanta, GA.

The SELA joint conference with the Kentucky Library Association will also be the National Diversity in Libraries Conference. Plan to be in Louisville, Kentucky from October 1-4, 2008 at the Louisville Downtown Marriott. Incoming President-Elect Kathleen Imhoff will be coordinating SELA's participation.

Executive Administrator-----Barbara Martin: Barbara reported that we already had received over \$13,000 in dues. She presented the income/expense report. The new pay online system is rather difficult and wieldy right now. The SELA joint conference for 2010 was discussed. Diane Hughes moved that ArLA offer the official invitation to SELA for a joint conference. Jim Robb seconded the motion. Motion passed. In the meantime, Barbara will be doing more investigating as well as talking to the Little Rock Convention Bureau.

AASL Division-----Ramona Abernathy: Jeanna Cook, AASL Chair-elect, has been working on the plans for the AASL summer conference. It will be held on July 29 and 30 at the Mount Magazine State Lodge. Rooms are being held. Reservations should be made no later than June 29. The keynote speaker will be Nancy Pollette. She will also present three sessions at the conference.

Also, AASL will have a vendor's table at the AAIM conference in April in Hot Springs. Additionally, the National AASL contact information has been updated, listing myself, Ramona Abernathy, as Chair and Jeanna Cook as Chair-elect. The ArLA office address was given as the main contact location.

ALPS Division-----JoAn Ingersoll: ALPS Executive Council met Jan. 5, 2007 in Conway for the Leadership Exchange of officers. New officers are: JoAn Ingersoll, Chair; Brenda Van Dusen, Past-Chair; Lynaire Hartsell, Chair-Elect; Elaine Contant, Treasurer; and Subrina White, Secretary. ALPS Co-chair for ALPS Conference, Trish Miller, gave a report on plans for the conference in Little Rock on May 16-18. The theme is "The Many Faces of ALPS". We were reminded that all officers, regional representatives, and committee chairs need to be members of ArLA in the current year.

I asked for an ad hoc committee headed by Brenda Van Dusen to work on the bylaws so that everyone understands exactly what is expected of each office.

We are also planning our Fall InfoBits and will have more on that later.

College & University Division-----Kathie Buckman: We have set the College and University Division Spring meeting date for Friday, April 13th at UALR. We will be having a joint meeting with ArkLINK. More details as we have them.

The survey (addressing the status of librarians across the state) has been sent electronically to all academic library directors in Arkansas. The closing date for the survey is Feb. 6th. The results of the survey will be presented at the Spring meeting in April.

Public Libraries Division-----Kristie Boucher: We are working on ideas and are hoping to have some programs for the conference.

Reference Services Division-----Jennifer Davis: Jennifer sent a report that stated that there is a reference survey available online at the ArLA website and for everyone to please visit the survey and fill it out.

Children's Services Roundtable-----Sarah McClure: Sarah is newly appointed to chair this roundtable as of this meeting.

Government Documents Roundtable-----Sarah Ziegenbein: Sarah Ziegenbein & Karen Russ are working on programs for the Fall 2007 Conference. Possibilities are:
1. Karen Russ & Sarah Ziegenbein are considering presenting a program on Ben's Guide to US Government for Kids, a website for children developed by the Government Printing Office. It's an extremely useful tool for those working with children or adults.

Information & Technology Roundtable-----Loretta Edwards: We are currently working on creating the Technical Support Call List with volunteers who selected the IT Roundtable as one of their interest groups on last year's membership form. An email with a letter explaining what and who this support group would serve and a survey of skills was sent to 52 members. 5 of the messages were returned undeliverable. I asked that all responses be returned to me by February 26th. I will have a detailed call list by the April board meeting with the names, contact information and areas of expertise for each member of the support group.

New Members Roundtable-----Diane Hughes: see combined reports under Membership Committee.

Two-Year Colleges Roundtable-----Jim Robb: no report

Awards Committee-----Kaye Talley: Kaye reported that she would like to see nominations in every category this year.

Conference Committee-----Kay Bland: Kay reported that she has now put together a committee. They have already chosen a theme, Libraries: The Diamonds of Arkansas Communities.

Constitution Committee-----Barbie James: Board approval will be needed for the following change so that we can vote on this at the 2007 ArLA Conference. The information will be sent out to the ArLA membership with the registration materials. It has already been approved by the Round Table.

December 2006

"The Government Documents and Mmicroforms Round Table is requesting a vote of the entire Arkansas Library Association membership to allow the removal of the phrase 'And Microforms' from the Round Table name.

Pro

1) The "And Microforms" section of the Round Table name has not been used on nearly all formal

materials by the Round Table or the Association administration in over ten years.

2) The number of microforms being distributed by the depository programs is dramatically decreasing, with the U.S. program looking to eliminate them all together by 2010.

3) Members of the Round Table do not believe a material format should be part of the name because there are other groups in the Arkansas Library Association whose materials come in microformats as well.

Con

1) The majority of microforms distributed are still sent out through government document programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Russ

Chair, Government Documents and Microforms Round Table

Jim Robb moved with a second made by Dwain Gordon that the ArLA Association Executive Board accept this proposed Round Table name change. Having no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Executive Committee-----Ashley Burris:

Finance Committee-----Jamie Melson: Jamie commended Barbara Martin for all of her hard work in putting together the 2007 budget. Jamie also informed everyone that if you requested money for 2007, your request had been approved with some revisions in the ALPS request. If there are any questions, please call on Jamie.

Intellectual Freedom Committee-----Bettye Kerns:

Legislative Committee-----Dave Burdick:

Library Legislation

The 2007 Legislative year is off to a slow, comfortable, yet deliberate start. There are a few bills affecting libraries, or librarians. AAPL has Martha Perry again watching over the legislative activities for Public Libraries, and she also gives a heads up if she hears anything which looks unusual which might pertain to school and college libraries too – although that is not what she is being paid by AAPL to do.

The Arkansas State Library is once again tracking bills week by week which affect either the State Library, State Employees, or some form of Library in the state. One can view their list by going to their website at: www.asl.lib.ar.us/LegisUpdate/Legislature2007.htm.

Currently, the State Library funding is holding its own, as are the funds needed for matching federal funds for the Traveler Databases. State Librarian Carolyn Ashcraft is seeking more funds for books & subscriptions. Due to Governor Huckabee not allowing for the State Library to request more funds for Public Library Aid, the original bill (HB1193 - Joint Budget) which appropriates funds to the Arkansas State Library for Biennial operations did not include an increase for State Aid to Public Libraries. However, on February 7th, an amendment to increase State Aid to \$4.9 million the first year, and \$5.7 million the second year.

Governor Beebe, in his State of the State address, said the following:

And we'll expand educational access to more young people and adults through our public libraries.

The old image of people reading books in a quiet library isn't the only reality anymore. Public libraries bring children's reading programs, the Internet, and today's technology to countless Arkansans.

So, to make sure that the resources are available for the task our public libraries are charged with, we'll increase funding for them by \$1.7 million.

The amendment to HB1193 fulfills Governor Beebe's promise. Now, we just need to be sure that this State Aid is funded in the A or B category.

There are many bills which affect public schools, and if one is interested in tracking them, visit the Arkansas Department of Education's "Status on Education Bills" website at: arkansased.org/legislative/bills_senate.html

There are many bills which affect Department of Higher Education, and if one is interested in tracking them, visit their "Legislative Alert" website at: www.adhe.edu/legislativealerts.aspx

ERA

In non-library legislation, but one which possibly could affect the majority of people who are employed in our libraries, is the "Equal Rights Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution. House Joint Resolution (HJR) 1002, would ratify the proposed Amendment to the United States Constitution which provides "Equality of Rights under the Law Shall Not Be Denied or Abridged by the United States or Any State on Account of Sex." Although this amendment dates back to the "1970's", most people thought it was "dead" when it did not get enough states to ratify it by 1979. Congress added a three year extension, but by June 30, 1982 the amendment was three states short of full ratification, and was considered a loss.

However, as found on the 4ERA.org website, "In 1992, Congress added the Madison Amendment to the Constitution. The Madison Amendment was passed by Congress in 1789. The ratification of this 27th amendment, 203 years after it was passed by Congress, set a precedent which, when applied to the Equal Rights Amendment, means that the ERA is still legally viable and before the states."

Can the ERA amendment still be alive, or is it dead due to the 7 year limitation, later changed to 10 years, by the US Congress when the original legislation was introduced is something the courts would have to decide. However, the Arkansas Library Association could still support this special Arkansas Legislation, which supports the ERA, even if such passage of the legislation is deemed to be just a symbolic act.

National Legislative Day

National Library Legislative Day events will be held in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 1 & 2, 2007. Librarians, trustees, friends of libraries, library school faculty and students, and other library advocates will visit with members of Congress about Library issues. State Librarian Carolyn Ashcraft, members of the State Library Board, and myself will be among the many who attend the National Legislative Day activities this year.

Diane Hughes moved with a second made by Ellen Johnson to ask Ashley Burris, ArLA President, to draft a letter to Gov. Beebe on behalf of the Association and libraries of Arkansas.

Membership Committee-----Diane Hughes: At the end of 2006, we had a total of 557 members, 75 of these are new members. As of a.m. on February 22, 2007, we have a total of 349 members, 33 of these are new members. Membership forms are coming in daily.

The new online membership option was launched on February 1, 2007 and we are considering options concerning annual renewals.

Our ArLA office has been sending an email to all 2007 members saying their membership has been received. It also has the dates for the Annual Conference. The new system automatically sends an email to all members when they enroll online that says,

“Welcome to Arkansas Library Association Forums. Please keep this email for your records. Your account information is as follows: (Username & Password). Your account is currently inactive, the administrator of the board will need to activate it before you can log in. You will receive another email when this has occurred. Please do not forget your password as it has been encrypted in our database and we cannot retrieve it for you. However, should you forget your password you can request a new one, which will be activated in the same way as this account.

Thank you for registering.

Thanks, The Management”

Also, the ArLA office is sending out a card for those who are giving scholarship donations.

Nominating Committee-----Debbie Hall: Discussed which area was up next for the Vice-President/President-Elect office.

Publications Committee-----Dominique Hallett: They are currently soliciting manuscripts for Arkansas Libraries. Jamie Melson moved that the committee talk to our current journal printer, Larry Chesser, about his layout ideas for the journal. Diane Hughes seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Public Relations Committee-----Amanda Moore: We have a booth reserved for the Arkansas Literary Festival, and we are making plans for our exhibit. We would appreciate any ideas or suggestions that the Board might have to make this PR opportunity a tremendous success.

Scholarship Committee-----Leroy Gattin: The board wants to charge the new chair of this committee and his committee members to bring a recommendation back to the board on how to use the actual scholarship fund. There is currently \$21,000 in the scholarship account and it has never been used for what it was set up for. The money needs to be used or, at least, be shown that it is being used before someone in the IRS finds that a non-profit group is saving money and not using it. Either the interest needs to be used each year or expend one scholarship from it each year along with a fundraiser each year to pay for a 2nd scholarship. There has not been a fundraiser for the last two years. There has been some discussion for the past few years of creating 2 - \$1,500 scholarships.

Arkansas Libraries-----Britt Anne Murphy: The journal is currently looking for a new editor as well as a graphics designer. (See notes under Publications Committee.) Britt Anne expressed no desire to take on the Managing Editor's position at this time since she is expecting a new baby soon. Dominique is acting as interim editor for now. She also mentioned that the publications

chair and/or members of the publications committee would meet with our printer, Larry Chesser, to discuss his ideas about the layout for the journal. The journal also has several openings for column editors.

Webmaster-----Ron Russ: Kier Heyl and April Sheppard have been putting the finishing touches on our website redesign (which includes the ability to join and pay ArLA online). You will also be given the option to fill out the original membership form online, print it, and mail it in the traditional fashion. We will also have forums that members could use to communicate on various topics. Hopefully, everything will be in place by the time the board meeting takes place. If there are any glitches, I'll apologize in advance. We hope you find the new website more convenient to use and more robust in its features. If you have any problems or questions, feel free to contact us at webmaster@arlib.org or asheppard@astate.edu.

Unfinished Business: none

(At this time--12:30, a break was taken so training could begin directly following lunch. The meeting floor was left open so it could resume as soon as training was over.)

New Business:

Ellen Johnson presented the thought that since the journal has gone to a quarterly issue, there is no avenue to present opposing officer candidates qualifications and that we need some guidelines. Debbie Hall sees this as a nominating committee task so she and her committee will draw something up and bring it back to the Board. Much discussion ensued over this topic.

Dwain Gordon addressed the dues structure discussion that was had recently in e-mail among the Executive Board members. He did a 16 state comparison of minimum dues and maximum dues, the 12 states that belong to SELA and 4 other states around us. We fall right in line with everyone else. He also surveyed those same states as to what type of system each state uses. He found that approx. 13 out of the 16 states use the calendar system like we do and the other 3 use a monthly renewal system like ALA does.

Ellen Johnson brought up Ashley Burris's thought of how the Association can recruit new blood to be officers in every capacity. Much discussion and ideas ensued over this topic. Debbie will talk with Ashley and Diane, as membership chair, about forming an ad hoc committee.

Having no further business, Diane moved with a second from Kristie Boucher that we adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:30.

Saturday, Feb, 24: Debbie Hall reconvened the Board at 10:00 a.m. (during a break in the training) to discuss a conference site for 2008. Barbara has 3 proposals on the table for us to consider. They are: The Embassy Suites at Rogers, the Embassy Suites at Hot Springs, and The Doubletree in Little Rock. There was some discussion. Diane Hughes moved that we go to Rogers in 2008. Jim Robb seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jim Robb moved that we adjourn the meeting. Diane seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.