

**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Laman Library
North Little Rock, AR
April 3, 2009**

Those present were: President, Jerrie Townsend; Vice-President, Connie Zimmer; Secretary/Treasurer/Finance Com. Chair, Jamie Melson; ALA Councilor, Ellen Johnson; SELA Councilor/Conference Comm. Chair, Dwain Gordon; ALPS Div. Chair, Kim Hillison; College & University Div. Chair/Constitution Comm. Chair, Jim Robb; Special Libraries Div. Chair, Jessie Burchfield; Children's Services RT Chair, Laura Speer; Government Documents RT Chair, Frances Hager; Centennial Planning Comm. Chair, Karen Russ; Legislative Comm. Chair, Donna McDonald; Publications Comm. Chair, Kathie Buckman; Associate Editor, Britt Anne Murphy.

President Jerrie Townsend opened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Jim Robb moved with a second from Karen Russ to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed . A roll call sheet was passed around.

Reports:

President: Jerrie reported that the Executive Comm. during their 8:30 meeting this morning approved the purchase of an lcd projector similar to one that Barbara purchased recently for one of her other organizations. The Exec. Comm. also authorized the move of \$30,000 from the checking account into a 90 day CD upon recommendation from Barbara Martin. The IRS tends to frown on a non-profit group holding that much money in an account.

ALA Councilor, Ellen Johnson: My report for April will focus on ALA's current financial situation. Despite a reduced budget for 2009, ALA is expecting a \$ 1.6 million shortfall by year end on a total budget of just over \$ 27 million.

Two of the primary reasons for the shortfall are a 30% decline in advertising revenue ((usually a significant portion of ALA's income) and lower net revenues from sales of publications, subscriptions, and conferences.

On a positive note, registration for Annual Conference is up as compared to this time last year. Also membership in ALA is increasing, particularly among young persons in the library profession.

ALA has developed a plan that includes the following steps:

1. Make ten staff cuts within the next two weeks

2. Leave six additional positions unfunded in 2010
3. 3% across the board expense cut (already implemented)
4. Use by all ALA staff of any carry over vacation time, two unpaid holidays, and three furlough days
5. A one-time use of ALA's reserve, built up in part to meet unexpected exigencies
6. Other cost cutting measure (such a suspension of the print publication of the ALA Handbook)

Goal: "to create a stable balanced budget for 2010, to maintain – and develop – services that meet the needs of members libraries, and to work on developing new revenue sources that will sustain and expand these services in the future."

(Most of the information for this report was sent to Council by Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director, and Rod Hersberger, Treasurer)

SELA Councilor, Dwain Gordon: Tentative dates have been set for two conference calls for the SELA board. I know that I will not be able to participate in one of these calls.

SELA is considering having a board gathering at the Georgia Library Conference in early October.

Executive Administrator, Barbara Martin: Balance in the checking account is \$97,731.46.

AASL Division, Jana Dixon: A group of public and school librarians has been formed, with the approval of the state library, to establish a state young adult book award. This group has representation from AAIM, as AAIM has been working on this effort for some time. As AASL chair, I would like to know if ArLA would like a representative on the committee and would be interested in backing/sponsoring at some point. I am already on the committee and would be happy to represent ArLA and AASL, but there is room for an additional member should ArLA desire to add one.

The AASL Summer 2009 Conference information is posted on the ArLA website. The theme is "Celebrate Arkansas in the Ozarks." The conference will be held in Mountain View at the Ozark Folk Center State Park on July 26-27. The registration forms are available on the website, as well as a conference informational flyer.

ALPS Division, Kim Hillison: We are putting together a survey from Library Support System Round Table (LSSRT) in regards to information we have received about a Paraprofessionals Certification Program, to see if any paraprofessionals or directors would find a need for or an interest in this program. (A hard copy of the survey is available in the ArLA files.)

We are finalizing plans for our Conference. (A hard copy of the conference schedule is available in the ArLA files.)

We are switching our meeting on May 1st from Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, since they have no room for us, to CALS. Meeting time is still 10:30.

College & University Division, Jim Robb: We will be holding our Spring meeting in conjunction with ARKLink on Friday, April 17th at National Park Community College in Hot Springs.

We have submitted several programs to the conference committee for the annual conference.

Public Libraries & Trustees: no report

Reference & Instruction Services Division, Kathy Davis: no report

Resource & Technical Services Division, Michael Klossner: no report

Special Libraries, Jessie Burchfield: We had tentatively planned to try to schedule an April meeting, but because of conflicts (college and university division was already meeting this month, for one)., we will look at possibly scheduling a meeting in May or over the summer.

Children's Services Roundtable, Laura Speer: At this point, Jerrie introduced Laura Speer as the new Children's Services Roundtable Chair. She is from UCA. There was no report at this time from the new chair.

Government Documents Roundtable, Frances Hager: On Saturday March 28th, Karen Russ, UALR, and Frances Hager, ATU, represented the Government Documents Round Table of ArLA at the Arkansas Genealogy Road Show in Paragould.

The Road Show was co-sponsored by the Arkansas Genealogical Society and the Greene County Historical and Genealogical Society. They spoke to nearly 60 people about the use of government publications in researching family and local history. Materials supplied by the National Archives, Government Printing Office, Library of Congress American Memory Project, and US Geological Survey were distributed to

interested attendees, as were recommendations for websites to search for additional information.

Given the interest of attendees at this year's and last year's events, we have been invited to take part again in 2010. That Road Show will be in the southern part of the state, but a location has yet to be announced. Karen has agreed to continue requesting materials for distribution from government agencies based on the popularity of those titles we had and questions asked.

The Government Documents Round Table has a program for the Annual Fall Conference. Katrina Stierholz, from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, will present a program on materials and databases available, for business and economic data through the Federal Reserve system. All her travel expenses will be covered by her employer.

Information Technology Roundtable, Dominique Hallett: no report

New Members Roundtable, Debbie Hall: Barbara reported on behalf of Debbie that we have 48 new members.

Two-Year Colleges Roundtable, Eileen Burg: no report

Awards Committee, Barbie James: Barbie's report was sent via Dwain. She stated that she will be sending information out to the membership soon for submitting awards. Dwain informed the Board that Barbie's mother was in the hospital at this time.

Centennial Planning Committee, Karen Russ: The Committee is continuing to develop celebratory activities and we hope to provide a detailed list to the Board later this year.

The list of past officers has been generated and we are working to determine who is still living and how to reach those who are not still active in the Association. It was hoped that permission forms for the interviewers and interviewees would be ready for this meeting, but the ASI opening put that project on hold temporarily. Former Scholarship winners will also be contacted for comments and possibly a special meal at the conference.

The current economy has made fundraising very difficult, but a letter requesting support will be provided to all vendors at this year's conference, hopefully via a personal visit in the exhibit hall from a committee member, recognizing that a follow-up at the corporate level will be needed in many cases. A draft of this letter will be provided to the Executive Committee later this year for comments/approval.

Photos are slowly being provided for the calendar. Additional commitments from libraries statewide would be appreciated. Only 4 libraries are represented so far and none of them are school media facilities. And only one commitment has come from a library (Arkansas Tech). The rest are from members of the Arkansas Outdoor Photography Club. More volunteers and historic photos from libraries would be appreciated.

On the subject of calendars, Michael Strickland (Scholarship) and I have agreed that the Scholarship Committee will not use the Book a Day calendars as a fund raiser in 2010 to avoid a conflict of interest between the two committees. We consulted with the Constitution Committee Chair who agreed that the Board does not need to vote on this issue, but that the agreement between the committees should be recorded in the Board minutes for record-keeping reasons.

Several projects are still on hold until the date and location of the 2011 conference is confirmed.

Conference Committee, Dwain Gordon: We have about 63 proposed sessions, with a few more “on the way”. We don’t have anything on literacy or genealogy. I would also like to have more authors. Judith Gibbons has submitted a contract for our approval. She would provide a double session (2 hors) on Customer Service, and a double session on Grant Writing. We do not have a general session or luncheon speaker. I may issue an invitation to ALA for one of these events. ALA has contacted us and would like to have an ALA Planning Forum.

From Michael Dowling—

ALA's fall Executive Board Meeting is October 23-25. Whoever is a keynoter could also do the Forum.

I believe that ALA President-elect Camila Alire may already have been asked to present with another state conference that overlaps with Arkansas, but it is worth reaching out to her if you would like her to speak. Her email address is calire@att.net Please feel free to contact her directly.

We won't know who the new President-elect will be until April 25 when the ALA Election taking place right now ends. When this is confirmed you could also invite him/her.

Another possibility would be ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels.

Dwain also handed out a copy of the proposed program list and a proposed schedule for sessions and business meetings. A few of the proposed speakers were

cut as the Board looked at the list based upon Dwain's recommendations and other discussions. (Hard copies will be available in the ArLA files.) He also handed out a finalized list of the 2009 Conference Committee: Chair, Dwain Gordon; Exhibits Chair, Linda Evans; Website, April Sheppard & Ron Russ. Dwain also re-emphasized the different levels of exhibit fees.

Oversight Sub-Committee: Dwain Gordon, Jerrie Townsend, Connie Zimmer, Debbie Hall, Diane Hughes, Barbie James, and Barbara Martin

Academic Libraries Sub-Committee: Kathie Buckman (leader), Sara Seaman, Kathy Davis, Mary Ann Harper, Linda Evans, Virginia Brady Perschbacher

Public Libraries Sub-Committee: Jay Carter (leader), Julie Hart, Ashley Parker, Nancy Arn, Laura Cleveland

School Libraries Sub-Committee: Amy Miller, Jessica McGrath, Tiffany Hough, Kay Taylor

Technology support team: Ron Russ, Lori Bush, Kevin Barron, George J. Fowler, Amber Castor, Christine Peterson

Footnote: Dwain presented two proposals via email from Darcy Pattison and Judith Gibbons for a vote for conference programs. The Pattison proposal received 19 yes, 0 no, and 12 no responses from the Executive Board. The Judith Gibbons proposal passed with a 5 for and 1 no response from the Executive Committee.

Constitution Committee, Jim Robb: Attached a copy of the ArLA Manual with the revisions discussed at the retreat (as best as I could interpret them from my notes and the minutes) and a couple of other changes that seemed appropriate as I went through the manual. I had a note in my copy that the Awards Committee section needed a major rewrite, but I'm not sure that the Constitution Committee is the best place to draft that. I would ask that each committee chair review the section on their committee and submit recommendations for any changes by the June Board meeting. (A hard copy of this attachment will be available in the ArLA files.)

Intellectual Freedom Committee, Devona Pendergrass: no report

Legislative Committee, Donna McDonald: Donna McDonald, Sarah Ernst and Carolyn Ashcraft will be attending Legislative Day in Washington D. C. on May 11 and 12th. The group will attend a Monday morning briefing and will then proceed to visits with all of the Arkansas delegates on Monday afternoon and all day Tuesday. The American Library Association, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the District of Columbia Library Association and the Special Libraries Association sponsor national Library Legislative Day

Membership Committee, Debbie Hall: On behalf of Debbie, Barbara reported that we now have 429 members registered for 2009.

Nominating Committee, Connie Zimmer: The next Vice-President/President-elect will come from the Public Library sector. Connie already has some feelers out but hasn't heard anything definite from anyone yet.

Publications Committee, Virginia Perschbacher: On behalf of Virginia, Kathie Buckman presented copies of the license plate design entries we've received so far. It was decided to extend the deadline until the next board meeting on June 5 to see if a few more entries could be enticed in.

Scholarship Committee, Michael Strickland: no report

Managing Editor—Arkansas Libraries, Dominique Hallett: no report

Associate Editor, Britt Anne Murphy: The journal is at the new printer and we still need articles.

Wedmaster, Ron Russ: Renewed web-hosted account with JaguarPC for three years. Also renewed arlib.org, arlib.com, and arlib.net for another year. Updated arlarefdiv mailing list and calendar of events for website. Provided statistics for website use (posted on the arlaboard list). Have been working with David Hudson on fixing some of the programming issues with the website. As far as the online membership form, the year listing of membership should not need to be updated since it will roll forward automatically as the years do. There are some other areas that are still being worked on, but I'll have more information in my next report.

Members should feel free to send me any news items regarding Arkansas libraries or people in the news (involved with Arkansas Libraries). This is an inexpensive way of publicizing an event or giving an employee some props. Also, feel free to send me job ads. My email address is rsruss@asub.edu.

Archives, Bob Razer: no report

Unfinished Business:

Four board members volunteered from the retreat to investigate the possibility of virtual meetings but we have not heard from them.

New Business:

Barbara explained about ALA not receiving copies of Arkansas Libraries. The Executive Committee agreed that issues should be given complimentary.

Jerrie announced that the Arkansas Genealogical Society would be meeting in Little Rock on Sept. 2-5. Flyers were available.

President Jerrie Townsend adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Melson

ArLA Secretary/Treasurer