

**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Laman Library, North Little Rock, AR
August 6, 2010**

Those present were: Connie Zimmer, President; Shawn Pierce, Vice-President/President-elect; Ron Russ, ALA Councilor & Webmaster; Jamie Melson, Secretary/Treasurer & Finance Comm. Chair; Barbara Martin, Executive Administrator; Kara Propes, ALPS Div. Chair; Virginia Perschbacher Public Relations Comm. Chair; Kaye Talley, College & University Division Chair; Kathie Buckman, Publications Comm. Chair; Linda Evans, Conference Comm. Exhibits Chair; Heidi Vix, Resource & Technical Services Div. Chair; Tina Bradley, Two Year College Roundtable Chair; Diane Hughes, Scholarship Comm. Chair; Michael Strickland, Special Libraries Div. Chair; Karen Russ, Centennial Planning Comm. Chair; Frances Hager, Government Documents Roundtable Chair; Kara Propes, ALPS Div. Chair; Laura Speer, Youth Services Roundtable & Journal Editor; Sarah Ernst, Public Libraries & Trustees Div. Chair; Donna McDonald, Legislative Comm. Chair; and Holly Mercer, visitor.

President Connie Zimmer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. She then proceeded to give her report:

- Represented the Association at the Arkansas Association of School Librarians Annual Conference and spoke on behalf of ArLA at the Welcome ceremony. Devona Pendergrass spoke as President of AASL and Cassandra Barnett, Past National AASL President also spoke.
- I taught 4 graduate classes over two summer sessions at Arkansas Tech University this past summer and assisted a new librarian in her first job following a librarian who had been there 28 years. A lot had to be done and is still being done.
- Spent 4 days in the hospital with cellulitis of a toe and am teaching three graduate classes this semester.

The minutes had previously been sent out by email. Karen Russ moved with a second made by Kaye Talley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Reports:

ALA Councilor, Ron Russ: The expense form is quite old and needs to be updated. For instance, there is no place on the form that gives the ArLA mailing address. Also, it does not lend itself towards use on the web. Therefore, I'd like to request that we update the form, to be in line with other forms that we already have.

During Ron's report, Karen Russ moved and Michael Strickland gave a second to expedite and update the expense form both hard copy and online copy. Motion passed.

I attended the 2010 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC and sent Twitter feeds from the ALA Council floor. Also, updated the Arkansas ALA Councilor's blog daily while there. 10 people attended the Arkansans Out On The Town dinner at Clyde's of Gallery Place that was held on Monday June 28. I participated in the Library Advocacy Rally and the visits to our congressional delegation. It was an enjoyable experience.

I attended the ALA Annual Conference in Washington, DC from June 25 – June 30, 2010. In light of the poor economy, attendance was pretty strong. Total attendance figures were 26, 201 (this includes advance registration, on-site registration, vendor registration, and exhibits only passes). While I did not attend much in the way of programs, there were many to choose from. Toni Morrison headlined as the Opening General Session speaker on Saturday, June 26 at 5:30PM. Other authors that spoke at the conference included Sir Salman Rushdie, John Grisham, Amy Sedaris, Junot Diaz, among others. Singer Natalie Merchant performed at the Exhibits Closing Ceremony on Monday, June 28 at 4:30PM. Programs covered a wide spectrum as usual.

To keep with tradition, I organized the Arkansans out on the Town Dinner on Monday, June 28 at 6:15. It was held at Clyde's of Gallery Place, in the Chinatown neighborhood. Attending were Carol Hanan (from UCA), Alexis Linoski (a former *Arkansas Libraries* managing editor, now a librarian at the U.S. Naval Academy), Diane Hughes (Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) Librarian), Jason Holsclaw (Diane's son-in-law), Arkansas Author Carla McClafferty, Darmae Brown, Shannon Weaver, Becky Fischer, and Krista Petty (all from the Saline County Library), and of course, yours truly. Considering the difficulty of coordinating schedules at a conference this large, we had a pretty good turnout. A good time was had by all and I look forward to our next dinner at ALA Annual 2011 in New Orleans, LA. Just remember to bring the crawfish.

Another event that Arkansans participated in was Library Advocacy Day rally. Held at Upper Senate Park on Tuesday, June 29 at 11AM, people at the rally were arranged by state. Our contingent was led by our Legislative Committee Chair, Donna McDonald, and included Sarah Ernst, Brenda Compton, Faye Drittler, Lauren Drittler, Hadi Dudley, and me. Despite hot temperatures, the rally had over 2000 people and speakers included Young Adult Author Lauren Myracle, ALA President Camila Alire, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI), and Congressman Vern Ehlers (R-MI). For more information, check out Hadi Dudley's article on the rally in this issue of *Arkansas Libraries*.

While some people may think that the life of an ALA Councilor is all glamour, this is hardly the case. Much of the time is spent in meetings discussing the finer points of resolutions that come before us. Anyway, here is a brief summary of some of the resolutions that we looked at:

Council I - we approved the ALA Strategic Plan for 2011 – 2015. One of the items in the plan deals with supporting and collaborating with chapters. The fact that ALA recognizes our chapters as important is a good first step.

Council II - we passed a resolution supporting the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University, in light of their proposed closing by the University administration. Letters will be sent to the LSU Board of Trustees and the Louisiana Board of Regents. Council also passed a resolution that calls for financial support of Summer Reading programs. This is especially important in light of deep budget cuts to library programs across the nation.

Council III – we passed a resolution on a prisoner’s right to read, an interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights*. Prison librarians have indicated that they have wanted to guidance in this area and it is hoped that this document will assist them in serving their clientele. In addition, the resolution on Comprehensive Immigration Reform passed. While there was some conjecture on this, due to a lack of clarity when it came to libraries, the idea behind it are laws by individual states or municipalities that require police and other government agencies to check paperwork on those suspected of being illegal aliens. It was thought that this would create a “chilling effect” on people of certain ethnicities using library services. Another item that passed was the creation of a Retired Members Round Table. This was something that membership indicated that they wanted, so we were more than willing to oblige.

Overall, I believe this was a fairly successful conference. We got a lot of work done, and Washington, D.C. is a good conference city. I’ll continue to post any updates between conferences on the Arkansas ALA Councilor’s Blog at <http://arkchapcouncilor.wordpress.com> and I’ll post updates from the council floor at conferences on my Twitter account at rsruss67. I look forward to serving you at the 2011 ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA.

SELA Representative, Dwain Gordon: no report

Executive Administrator, Barbara Martin: Barbara told how many people have registered for the conference as of this week which, at this point, is kind of low. There is still some confusion concerning the conference registration form as to what it includes or doesn’t include and some of the vendors have been using the wrong form to register for the conference. She handed out the expense and income reports. The balance in our account is \$122,758.47.

AASL Division, Devona Pendergrass: no report

ALPS Division, Kara Propes: The ALPS Council met on July 9 at the Alma Public Library. We discussed our upcoming Infobits to be held November 6 at the State Library. Our theme is “Libraries in the Digital Age”. We are hoping to have a speaker on Web design and we are currently looking for someone to speak on this topic. We are looking at serving lunch at Infobits which will warrant a charge to attend. In the past, we took an on your own lunch break but since our meeting will be held in downtown Little Rock, we felt it would be better to have lunch served on site. I am currently trying to get prices for lunch and delivery. The cost of Infobits would only be for food unless they are nonArLA members, then the cost would be \$5 plus the meal.

Our website has officially moved to the ArLA web server. It seems to be working great and we really appreciate Ron Russ and all his help for getting us up and running.

Melanie Allen and her team have pretty much gotten the 2011 conference planned. The theme is “Rollin’ on the River, Keeping Libraries Current”. Our site will be historic Fort Smith. We are looking at having the riverboat be the focus for decoration. Some session ideas include:

Historian-Tom Wing from Fort Smith area

1. Children’s Programming
2. Author: Dusty Rhodes from area
3. Legal Aspects of Libraries (ex. 1st Amendment, censoring, etc.)
4. Self Defense
5. Relaxation Techniques for work Digital Media in Libraries: digital media available in libraries e-Books, e-Audio, eVideo
6. Dealing with student workers
7. Cataloging—Basic MARC
8. Community Outreach Programs
9. Genealogy

College & University Library Division, Kaye Talley: For our spring meeting, the College and University Division held a joint meeting with ARKLink on April 16th at Southeast Arkansas College in Pine Bluff.

Public Libraries & Trustees Division, Sarah Ernst: I attended Advocacy Day in D.C. Dwain has asked me to recruit fifteen public librarians to be a part of a focus group with Keith Curry Lance of the RSL Research Group. This focus group will be interviewed on how the State Library can better meet the needs of public libraries. The groups will meet during the conference.

Reference & Instruction Services Division, Amber Wilson: no report

Resource & Technical Services Division, Heidi Vix: I have removed the Resources and Technical Services Blog. It wasn't being tracked and wasn't useful for members. The other officers and I are discussing a possible Wiki or listserv.

Special Libraries Division, Michael Strickland: no report

Government Documents Roundtable, Frances Hager: no report

Information Technology Roundtable, George Fowler: no report

New Members Roundtable, Jerrie Townsend: no report

Two-Year Colleges Roundtable, Tina Bradley: no report

Youth Services Roundtable, Laura Speer: Sent out a message encouraging all interested to attend the Roundtable meeting during ArLA-SELA. And this Roundtable is looking for a new chair for 2011.

Awards Committee, Barbie James: Diane Hughes gave Barbie's report in her absence. Nominations have been received for all awards except the Frances P. Neal Award.

Centennial Planning Committee, Karen Russ: The Committee would like to order a banner with the Centennial logo on it that could be displayed at events where ArLA has a table or at the registration table at ArLA conferences, including those of divisions and round tables, not just the main fall conference. We looked at the Arkansas Flag and Banner catalog and have two ideas. We would like input from the Board before placing the order. Do we want a feather banner that can be stood on a pole next to the table, or a table throw that covers the entire table with the logo on the front?

Most of the Committee met on June 15th to work on a variety of projects for the Centennial year.

The 2011 celebratory calendar will be sent to the printer later this month with 300 being printed for sale at the ArLA-SELA conference in September. The Committee would like the minutes to reflect our appreciation for the funding of this project, provided by the Arkansas State Library. Carolyn Ashcraft provided the entire cost of the production of the 300 calendars (\$4,000.00) to allow the Committee to profit from their sale. We hope to sell enough to need a second run.

Heidi Vix has agreed to join the committee as our webmaster and take on the task of the Association's Centennial homepage, approved at the previous board meeting. Her assistance is greatly appreciated.

Numerous other projects are in various stages of development.

Conference Committee Report, Dwain Gordon:

1. The bags have been delivered to Connie Zimmer.
2. Kathie Buckman reports that we have 14 table top/poster session participants.
3. The schedule has been posted on the ARLA website. (the ALPS meeting should be 5:00 - 5:50)
4. The program guide has been posted on the ARLA website and is included with this report. We are working through the typos and the descriptions have been seriously trimmed.
5. We have had one of the major speakers report that she cannot attend, so she is trying to find a substitute. These sessions were school focused so their replacements should be also.
6. Barbara reports that registrations are coming in, and that the vendor registrations are doing OK.
7. I will send out a solicitation for hospitality folks via email in the coming weeks.
8. Not sure what is happening about reporters for the journal.
9. Barbie has indicated we will have some awards.
10. The Arkansas History Commission has requested that we allow them space for a display Re: the Civil War. They will provide a session on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War in Arkansas.
11. I have some bookmarks (600) from NASA which will be added to the packets, or just placed somewhere for people to pick up.
12. Barbara will be working on making the hotel reservations for some of our special speakers plus Connie, Dwain, Linda, Kathleen, & Gordon.

Constitution Committee, Bill Parton: no official report, but Laura Speer handed out copies of proposed rewrites of Article I, Section 1. Classification of membership; and Section 2. Dues. The recommendation on the rewrite of Membership was tabled pending a report from the Membership Committee regarding the criteria for Student membership.

Michael Strickland moved with a second from Virginia Perschbacher to empower the Membership Committee to review the membership dues structure biannually. Motion passed.

Intellectual Freedom Committee, Devona Pendergrass: no report

Legislative Committee, Donna McDonald: June 29th 2010, myself and other trustees and librarians met in Washington, D. C. for ALA Legislative Day.

Those attending include Brenda Compton and Hadi Dudley, Bentonville, Sarah Ernst and Donna McDonald, Arkansas River Valley, Lauren and Faye Drittler, Russellville, and Ron Russ, ArLA board member. The group had appointments with Congressman Mike Ross, and Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor. An attempt was made to schedule an appointment with Congressman John Boozman. (Lauren and Faye Drittler met with Congressman Boozman on Wednesday). The group met with other ALA participants at a rally on Capitol Hill Tuesday morning. The rally included a various speakers including ALA President, Camile Alire and President-Elect, Roberta Stevens. From there, the Arkansas contingency went to their appointed meetings. Each participant had previously received a packet of talking points provided by the Arkansas State Library and was prepared to discuss reauthorization and funding for LSTA, Improving literacy through school libraries and issues in broadband and technology. In years past, legislative visits had been spread over a two-day period. Meeting with three offices in one afternoon was difficult from a logistic perspective and the group walked fast in very warm temperatures to make each appointment. With the exception of Sarah Ernst and me, the members of the Arkansas group were new to the process. Their contributions were fresh and informative. They were able to tell our representatives how federal legislation affects the libraries in Arkansas and how important our legislators are to libraries in Arkansas. All in all, our visits were productive and the group was energized to continue to advocate for Arkansas Libraries.

Membership Committee, Jerrie Townsend: no report

Nominating Committee, Shawn Pierce: These three librarians have accepted nominations to the following positions:

Holly Mercer (Cross County Library/Wynne) East Central Arkansas Regional Library System for Conference Chair 2011.

Jim Robb (North Arkansas College/Harrison) for VP/President-elect. Footnote: Special Libraries Division had to be skipped this time due to the fact that no one from that area could be found to take this position at this time. The Board decided to move on to the next area in the rotation which is Academic.

Michael Strickland (Arkansas State Library) for Secretary/Treasurer.

Darby Wallace (Jackson County Library/Newport) for Youth Services Roundtable Chair but she is waiting for approval from her board before accepting.

Public Relations Committee, Virginia Perschbacher: no report

Publications Committee, Kathie Buckman: Reminded everyone about the poster sessions that would be held during the conference.

Scholarship Committee, Diane Hughes: Scholarship applications are currently being received by the ArLA office. The deadline for scholarship applications is August 10, 2010.

We have been selling license plates at the various conferences and meetings across the state. We will have a booth in the exhibit hall and will sell the license plates there and also be accepting donations to the scholarship fund.

We will have a basket for the basket auction.

Managing Editor-Arkansas Libraries, Laura Speer: Due to Laura moving to a new library, she will not have access to the "Journal" software that is on her current work computer. Kathie Buckman moved to purchase a laptop computer for the Managing Editor as well as any necessary software upgrades. A second was made by Kara Propes. Motion passed.

Associate Editor, Britt Anne Murphy: no report

Webmaster, Ron Russ: We are now using the Issuu service, for viewing Arkansas Libraries, instead of the traditional Adobe Reader. It allows for easier reading (you can turn pages), increased visibility on the web, and downloading. The service is free and more information can be found at issuu.com. I also added guidelines for columns to the Arkansas Libraries web page. David Hudson, our programmer, has been fixing some of the problems with the website including issues with the membership list and editing issues with the calendar of events and the jobline. We moved the ArLA Centennial Committee mailing list to the ArLA server from the UALR server, by request.

Heidi Vix is continuing to update and maintain the ArLA/SELA Conference Website. If you have any information for the conference, you can email her at VIXH@hsu.edu.

Archives, Bob Razer: no report

New Business:

Discussion was held on distribution lists, listservs via Wiggin and googlegroups.

Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon, moved by Kathie Buckman with a second made by Virginia Perschbacher.