

**Arkansas Library Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, October 14, 2012  
Northwest Arkansas Holiday Inn and Convention Center, Springdale, AR**

**Present:** Jim Robb, Michael Strickland, Shawn Pierce, Trish Miller, Bill Parton, Ron Russ, Carol Hanan, Devona Pendergrass, Sara Seaman, Kathy Seymour, Jamie Melson, Kevin Barron, Carol Coffey, Hadi Dudley, Ashley Parker, Whitney Ivy, Holly Mercer, Tracy McAllister, Anne Gresham, Britt Anne Murphy, Daniel Page, LaTonya Jones, Kara Propes and Lynda Hampel

**Call to Order:** President Jim Robb called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

**Roll Call and Minutes:** The Roll Call sheet and the minutes were distributed. Corrections were noted. Melson made a motion that the previous meeting minutes with corrections be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

**President's Report/Executive Committee, Jim Robb:**

Robb reported that there was no Executive Committee meeting earlier as has been tradition. It has been a very busy and productive year. Robb expressed that the year had been amazing and that he has really appreciated working with everyone on the board. He thanked everyone for their hard work. Everything he had hoped to accomplish has yet to be completed but ArLA is much further along now than it was a year ago. He said it was really amazing what has been accomplished in the past year. He has appreciated the honor of serving as president this year. Robb hoped to see the transition of power occur in the December meeting rather than in January 2013, if the ballot measure is approved by the ArLA membership. Robb said the formal passing of the gavel will occur at the General Membership meeting this year instead of December, as had been customary. The official passing of the gavel will not occur until the end of the year. The purpose is to let the entire leadership see the change in leadership. He will also ask the newly elected board members to stand and be recognized as well. The goal is to help formalize the process and the give the membership a face to go along with the names. He challenged the chairs to give three or four highlights by their committee or roundtable from the past year to go along with the customary narrative report.

**ALA Councilor Report, Ron Russ:**

Russ reported that Booth 40 at the ArLA conference has buttons, ribbons and other items that were related to the American Library Association (ALA). Russ will be presenting a program entitled, "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about ALA Council but Were Afraid to Ask."

**SELA Representative Report, Kevin Barron:**

He is awaiting a vote on the constitutional amendment for ArLA to discontinue its membership to SELA.

### **Executive Administrator Report, Lynda Hampel:**

Hampel reported that all of the current figures in the Profit and Loss Actuals and Comparison had been updated. The Association currently shows a slight increase in profits partly due to the fact that this year's annual conference expenses have not been taken out yet. The profit is greater this year than at this time last year partly because the annual conference was held earlier last year and all the expenses had been taken out. This year all the conference expenses have not been taken out yet.

Russ moved that the budget and Executive Administrator's Report be approved. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Division Reports:**

#### **ArASL, Tracy McAllister:**

McAllister reported that 125 attended the ArASL Conference in Eureka Springs. The next conference will be in Little Rock. McAllister hoped to send out a statewide mailing inviting the 500+ school librarians to participate in the ArASL and ArLA. There seem to be a few reasons why more school librarians are not participating. First, public school districts do not pay for any sort of membership in any organization. Typically they will pay for one conference but is starting to fade out. McAllister who has taught for 25 years and works for a progressive school district – the Conway School District – had to take a personal day to attend the ArLA Annual Conference. The school district no longer provides days off to attend meetings or conferences. Second, many school librarians are in charge of implementing the changes required by the new CORE standards. This involves using a lot of new technologies.

So school librarians are split not only need to promote and push reading and using library materials but also teach and educate teachers and students on using some of the newest technologies.

McAllister guesses that due to the pressures to teach and use the new technologies that most school librarians faced with having to choose one conference to attend will often decide to attend the Arkansas Instructional Media Conference (AIM) so they can stay up-to-date on the latest technologies. AIM is not a threat to ArASL it is a good counterbalance to the programming planning that is often provided by ArASL. McAllister said because many school librarians are willing to give up a few days of their summer to attend the ArASL annual meeting which focuses on reading and programming this clearly shows there is a need for both technology and programming training. ArASL will focus more toward the literacy side in 2013 and less toward the technology side.

McAllister pointed out that potential ArASL members need to know that their membership in ArLA is valuable. McAllister said the mailing she plans to send in January should include the things that ArLA and ALA can do for the school librarians.

She would also like to make the membership fees more attainable for school librarians. The AIM membership fees are \$20. There are over 1200 school librarians and only about 600 actually attend the AIM conference.

Under a recommendation from Tom Kimbell, Director of the Arkansas Department of Education, he wanted to take out the teaching requirement for Library Media Specialists and just require that they have a Master in Library Science. McAllister pointed out that there is a difference in working as a school librarian versus working in an academic library or a public library.

There were changes and the Department of Education did remove the requirement that a person had to have two years of teaching experience before they could become a school librarian. School librarians cannot be used as substitute teachers and they don't have recess duty, bus duty or lunch duty in order to keep the library open all day during school hours for students and teachers.

McAllister fears Arkansas schools in a budget crunch might move the direction of Texas and replace certified school librarians with paraprofessionals to cut their cost.

McAllister asked the Association to consider making a statement in support of both school librarians and any legislation that protects what they currently do.

Robb asked McAllister to get a committee together and draft a statement based on the ALA statement and including whatever language is appropriate for Arkansas school librarians.

McAllister hoped to do a better job of getting to know the librarians at the Faulkner County Public Library. She said while her library cannot afford to purchase ebooks she hopes to develop a partnership with the public library that can. This will provide her students who get Kindle's or other such devices an opportunity to access these electronic materials. The goal is for school librarians and public librarians to form partnerships and work together to provide the best resources possible.

Robb suggested that since he will be serving on the membership committee next year that a sub-committee is formed to focus on ways ArLA membership is beneficial to current and potential members.

Robb also asked the ArASL Committee to draft a statement (modeled on the ALA statement on school librarians) and present the statement concerning school librarians to the general membership for approval at the Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, October 16.

**ALPS, LeTonya Jones :**

Next ALPS meeting will be November 16, 2012 at the Jonesboro Public Library.

The 2013 chair will be Shya Washington.

**College & Universities, Carol Hanan:**

There will be a program Monday after the College and Universities Business Meeting at ArLA Annual Conference. The president of ACRL Steven Bell will be the guest speaker.

**Public Libraries & Trustees, Ashley Parker:**

Anne Gresham, vice chair, reported that five people attended the pre-conference division trip to the Shiloh Museum. The program was based on genealogy along with a tour of the Shiloh Museum.

**Reference & Instruction Services, Amber Wilson:**

No Report.

**Resource & Technical Services, Linda Evans:**

No Report

**Special Libraries, Debbie Hall:**

No Report

**Roundtable Reports:**

**Youth Services Roundtable, Kara Propes:**

Propes hoped to continue promoting youth services through the Facebook page along with connecting with school librarians to promote and share resources.

**Government Documents Roundtable, Kathy Seymour:**

Seymour reported that the Roundtable is supporting a speaker sponsored by GODORT. The last weekend in October in North Little Rock there will be the fiftieth anniversary of the Arkansas Genealogical Society Conference. Karen Russ and Francis Hagar will be hosting a table with various government documents related to genealogy. Seymour also stated that the listserv for GovDocs is very helpful to us. There is forty-two in the group and a way to share various lists and helpful for weeding state and federal documents. It is also a way to recruit items for your government documents collection.

**Information Technology Roundtable, Carol Coffey:**

No Report

**New Members Roundtable and Membership, Shawn Pierce:**

Hampel reported for Pierce that there were 83 new members and 549 total members.

**Two-Year Colleges, Sara Seaman:**

No Report

## **Committees:**

### **Awards, Jamie Melson:**

Melson reported there will be an awards dinner on Monday night, October 15, 2012. There are several awards to be given. There were nominations for each award. One of the nominators was current ArLA member so there will be no trustee award this year.

### **Conference, Holly Mercer:**

Mercer was thrilled with the number of registrants for the conference. The conference seemed to be meeting the goal of reaching out to new members and revitalizing the organization.

There were some changes to the program from last year's format.

Conference will be in Hot Springs next year.

There will be a networking activity which is different from last year.

### **Constitution, Bill Parton:**

Amendments to the ArLA Constitution will be voted upon by the general membership on Monday.

### **Intellectual Freedom, Devona Pendergrass:**

Pendergrass has 15 members of her committee. No challenges in Arkansas so far to consider. Intellectual Freedom committee is sponsoring the scavenger hunt in the exhibit hall to help publicize the committee and its work.

### **Legislative, Hadi Dudley:**

On August 23-24, 2012, Dudley, Mercer, State Librarian Carolyn Ashcraft and Bob Razor and met with Advocates for Public Libraries, LEAF and Apple representatives at the Saline County Public Library. The meetings began with a report on National Library Legislation Day. Ashcraft gave a State of State's Libraries Report. Library issues were discussed during the two days. The Arkansas Libraries lobbyist and Dr. Bobby Roberts of Central Arkansas Library System also spoke to the participants. The determination was made that there was no major financial crisis among Arkansas libraries. Apple promised financial support to support a positive library advocacy message to state legislators and the public in February. Dudley, Mercer, Tracy McAllister and Aaron Waller will work on messaging. It will be a partnership between Apple, Public Libraries and the State Library and whoever wants to be involved with promoting all kinds of libraries in Arkansas.

Robb asked that the membership committee also coordinate with Dudley and the Legislative committee to promote the state's libraries.

**Nominating, Patricia (Trish) Miller:**

The committee has been active. The committee chose Sunday, October 14 from 3-3:30 pm to host "A Meet the Candidates" in the exhibit hall. The committee hoped to also draw attention to the exhibits area and the exhibitors and meet with the vendors. The ballot is posted on website and sent out an email on the listserv. Hampel made the ballot box. Only members of ArLA got members in their packets. If there is a member listed on the master list that does not receive a ballot, they will discuss their situation with Hampel.

Candidate Bios were published to the web by Jon Goodell on the ArLA website.

An email also went to candidates offering basic guidelines. There were 20-25 nominated or volunteered to serve in the positions. Some later dropped out.

An email went out explaining what area they wanted candidates to be. The candidates were to be in the area near the food. Later the committee sent an email to the membership explaining where the candidates would be.

Robb will announce information about voting and encourage members to vote.

The committee will stop taking ballots at 4 pm on Monday and proceed to count the ballots as quickly as possible.

The winners will be announced on Tuesday morning at the General Membership Meeting.

Miller also thanked the board for helping secure nominations for the open positions and with the election process itself.

**Planning Committee (Ad Hoc), Jim Robb/Trish Miller:**

Robb has not been able to plan with the committee as well as he liked due to work commitments.

**Public Relations, Ashley Parker:**

No Report

**Publications Committee, Kathy Davis:**

No Report

**Scholarship Committee, Daniel Page:**

Page encouraged members to support scholarships by giving donations or purchasing items at the scholarship booth such as calendars and license plates. He stated that Lyon College was sponsoring a basket to be auctioned and whose proceeds would go

to the scholarship fund. The committee will meet to see how many funds were raised at the end of the conference.

**Arkansas Libraries, Managing Editor, Whitney Ivy:**

No Report

**Associate Editor, Britt Anne Murphy:**

The latest Arkansas Libraries is out. The latest issue was only 24 pages. The idea goal is to have 28 pages of information. Anyone with ideas for an article let Murphy know.

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**Webmaster, Jon Goodell:**

No Report

**Unfinished Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

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**Adjournment:**

Russ made a motion at 11:19 a.m. to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Strickland  
Secretary/Treasurer