

**Arkansas Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes (Board Retreat)
Friday, February 25, 2011
Saturday, February, 26, 2011
Lake Point Conference Center, Russellville, AR**

Call to Order: President Shawn Pierce opened the meeting at 2:15 p.m. A quorum was established.

Roll Call and Minutes: The roll call sheet and minutes were distributed by Secretary/Treasurer Michael Strickland. President Pierce asked for corrections to the minutes. Corrections were noted. Pierce made a motion that the previous meetings minutes with corrections be approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

President's Report/Executive Committee, Shawn Pierce:

President Pierce greeted everyone distributed and discussed the agenda for the Board Retreat. Board Members introduced themselves.

ALA Councilor Report, Ron Russ:

Russ reported attended the ALA Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA from 1/7/11 - 1/12/11. A full report is attached and has been submitted to Arkansas Libraries as well as posted on the Arkansas ALA Councilor's Blog. The ALA 100th Anniversary Resolution that Russ authored did pass the ALA Council. An electronic version is linked off of the Centennial website and the print version will be sent to ArLA as well. A budget has been prepared and sent to the ALA Executive Committee for attendance at ALA Annual in New Orleans, LA this summer.

Diane Hughes, Scholarship Chair, and Russ are looking into the possibility of ArLA sponsoring an ALA Emerging Leader for 2012. We've had several people from Arkansas participate in the program and it would be of benefit to our organization in the long run since it will help develop our future leaders. Sponsorship generally includes a \$500 stipend for ALA Midwinter and \$500 for ALA Annual. More information will be forthcoming as the process develops.

SELA Representative Report, Kevin Barron:

No Report.

Executive Administrator Report, Barbara Martin:

Martin gave board members an ArLA Profit & Loss Budget Overview for review and discussion. ArLA Membership fees are down \$7000 while the membership is up by 16.

Martin asked that the 2011 Conference fees for vendors with tables be set at \$150 for authors and \$400 for all others. Holly Mercer made the motion, Laura Speer seconded, motion passed.

Pierce made a motion that ArLA Administrator Barbara Martin be allowed to pay bills until the next board meeting on April 1, 2011. Motion seconded and passed.

Division Reports:

AASL, Cathy Toney:

Toney reported AASL will have a booth at the AAIM conference in Hot Springs on April 3-5, 2011.

Toney will also represent AASL at the ALA annual conference in New Orleans on June 24-28, 2011.

The AASL summer conference will be at the Eureka Springs Conference Center/Best Western Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, Arkansas on July 24-25, 2011. Tracy McAllister is the conference chair/chair-elect this year. She has planned an outstanding conference with many authors, sessions, a Sunday night and has added a pre-conference on Saturday night for a round table discussion of the many issues that school librarians are facing.

ALPS, Melanie Allen:

No Report

College & Universities, Daniel Page:

Page reported CULD will have a joint meeting with ARKLink on April 22, 2011, at Arkansas State University Jonesboro, AR, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Public Libraries & Trustees, Ashley Parker:

Survey Monkey was used to poll librarians on their needs/wants for conference programming. This data was forwarded to Holly Mercer.

Reference & Instruction Services, Amber Wilson:

No Report

Resource & Technical Services, Jennie Ballinger:

The RDA online conference at the University of Arkansas Little Rock Law Library went well despite the bad weather. 14 individuals signed up and 7 were able to make it to Little Rock. Access to these materials will be provided for 6 months.

Special Libraries, Loretta Edwards:

Edwards contacted Dena Plaisted at UAMS Library about doing outreach activity at ALPS Conference in May and AASL Conference this summer. Edwards will contact the State Library and Law Library to see what services/resources can be utilized by public and school libraries. Edwards will also be contacting the AHEC librarians about services they can offer for libraries around the state.

Roundtable Reports:

Children's Services Roundtable, Randi Eskridge:

Eskridge is working on getting an author for the annual conference and trying to get sessions planned. She would like to hold a youth services meeting soon; possibly virtually.

Government Documents Roundtable, Frances Hager:

The Government Documents Roundtable would like to request \$500 for this budget year. The funds would cover the cost of a potential speaker for the Fall Conference and for any expenses for materials for our representing the Association at the Arkansas Genealogical Association's meetings. They have meetings twice a year.

Information Technology Roundtable, Jon Goodell:

The IT Round Table sent a survey January 7, 2011 seeking feedback for the third annual Collaboration UnConference to be held Friday, July 29, 2011. There were 35 responses; 22 or 62.9% of which attended the 2010 UnConference. 20 respondents or 57% answered that they intended to attend the 2011 UnConference. 22 or 66.7 respondents answered they would prefer a face to face conference over the 11 or 33.3% saying they would favor a hybrid format with an online component and multiple sites. No respondents indicated they wanted to have the conference completely online or skip a year. Little Rock and central Arkansas were listed as the most convenient conference sites. There were two volunteers to help with the UnConference. At this point I am leaning toward having a main conference site of 20-30 attendees with satellite sites of 5-10 attendees throughout the state.

The IT Round Table will be contacting members of the ArkLIB and ArLAInfoTech email lists in the next few weeks to report on the UnConference survey results and to invite list members to participate in UnConference planning.

Goodell would be happy to share the full results of the online survey to anyone that wants it.

New Members Roundtable, Connie Zimmer:

No Report

Two-Year Colleges, Tina Bradley:

No Report.

Committees:

Awards, Jamie Melson:

The Awards Committee's budget request consists of the cost of the plaques. Barbara Martin would have these in the office and the monetary awards given to the Arkansiana award authors which are a total of \$2,000.

Melson was able to get an article turned in to Britt Ann Murphy for the journal announcing the awards that are available this year. The Awards committee consists of:

Kara Propes of the Faulkner Co. Library
Melanie Allen of the Crawford Co. Library System
Trish Miller of Remington College
Diane Hughes of ACTI Library, Hot Springs
Ron Russ of ASU-Beebe
And Bob Razer of CALS (since we will be covering the Arkansiana awards this year)

Melson thanked all of them for consenting to serve this year.

Melson asked that any of the 2010 nominations that could be carried over to this year be sent to her at the CALS Main Library in Little Rock.

In conjunction with the Centennial Committee, the idea of adding the Centennial logo to the plaques this year was brought to the attention of the Awards Committee. The committee has agreed to this idea and, after some discussion with Barbara Martin, it has decided that there shouldn't be any additional cost to the plaques.

Centennial Planning, Karen Russ:

ArLA now has a unique centennial logo and new web page. ArLA will be using the Centennial page as its front page throughout 2011.

Conference, Holly Mercer:

No Report

Constitution, Bill Parton:

Parton discussed a possible rewrite of ByLaws, Article I (copies distributed at meeting); discussed reorganization of Article I; discussed Life Membership amount; discussed possible student membership category & dues amount; and recommended revision to be submitted to membership for approval.

He is continuing to review ByLaws, Article I (membership).

Barbara Martin will be investigating what other state association membership fees currently are.

Intellectual Freedom, Devona Pendergrass:
No Report

Legislative, Donna McDonald:
No Report

Membership, Connie Zimmer:
No Report

Nominating, Jim Robb:
No Report

Public Relations, Virginia Perschbacher:
Perschbacher met with Karen Russ, Chair of the Centennial Planning Committee, to discuss publicity for the September Centennial Conference. An inquiry from the Arkansas Times has been received and will be followed up. A news release concerning the Centennial Conference will be prepared and distributed to newspapers, other periodical publications, and the various broadcast media throughout the state in August.

Publications Committee, Kathy Davis:
We are requesting \$300 to purchase a camera to take pictures at ArLA meetings and other ArLA-sponsored events to include in future issues of Arkansas Libraries. No action taken at this meeting. Item tabled to be considered at the April Board Meeting.

Scholarship Committee, Diane Hughes:
No Report

Arkansas Libraries, Managing Editor, Laura Speer:
No Report

Associate Editor, Britt Anne Murphy:
No Report

,
Webmaster, Ron Russ:
Russ renewed the three web domains: arlib.org, arlib.com, and arlib.net for another year. Heidi Vix created and is maintaining the Centennial page. The www.arlib.org address will now redirect to the Centennial page. There is a link from the Centennial page to go to the old ArLA entry point, or you can go to <http://www.arlib.org/index.php> (which is the actual address for that page). We created a new reimbursement form to replace the old expense form and it is now on the website in the Forms section. Russ updated the website with new officer and unit information.

If you have additional information for your unit pages, please let Ron Russ know. It is hard for him to know whether they are all up to date since he doesn't represent the units. He relies on each unit representative to make sure that the information is accurate. You can always email him at rsruss@asub.edu.

Archives, Bob Razer:
No Report

Unfinished Business:
None

New Business:
None

Adjournment:
President Pierce moved adjournment. The motion was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Strickland
Secretary/Treasurer

ALA Councilor's Report

By Ronald S. Russ, MLS

Assistant Librarian, Arkansas State University-Beebe

I attended the American Library Association Midwinter Meeting in San Diego, CA from January 7 – January 12, 2011. Despite the poor economy, total attendance was 10,110 as opposed to 11,095 for Midwinter in Boston last year. While I did not attend any programs, there were some to be seen. Ted Danson, actor and environmentalist, was the main speaker at the President's program, Nancy Pearl and Newbery Medal Winner Neil Gaiman discussed Gaiman's "The Graveyard Book," and of course, the Youth Media Awards were given out. A full list of the Youth Media Awards can be found at

<http://www.ilovelibraries.org/news/topstories/yma2011.cfm>. Most of the time that I spend at conference is involved with either ALA Council related activities or other meetings that involve ALA Chapters. So, while some may think the life a Councilor is glamorous, it really isn't. While there is a lot of stimulating debates on resolutions, it is probably not for everyone. Anyway, here is a summary of some of the resolutions and reports that we looked at:

Council I – There was a report by the Membership Meetings committee that looked at the future of the membership meeting. For many years, it seemed like it was nearly impossible to get a quorum at the membership meetings at ALA Annual. So, they are looking to have a virtual membership meeting as a pilot project. I think that if this is well publicized, it could work.

As far as resolutions go there was a long and contentious discussion on the addition of domestic partner benefits to job listings in ALA publications. The wording originally said

requires a statement by potential employers “that domestic partner benefits are being offered by this institution” or “domestic partner benefits are not being offered by this institution” in a job ad. It also encouraged other providers to do the same. It was later amended to say encouraged that potential employers provide a statement rather than requires. While I have nothing against domestic partner benefits, I thought this resolution was too micromanaging for my taste, so I voted against it. This was one of those situations where I can applaud the concept behind a resolution, but I wasn’t happy with the wording. Maybe if this was discussed in the council forums, I would have thought otherwise. But, since that was not the case, my vote was what it was. Council did pass that resolution regardless of my vote. There was a resolution on a “Do Not Patronize” list and this was in regards to labor actions at ALA hotels. This list comes from labor organizations and hotels that appear on this list are undergoing some sort of labor action (what this can be wasn’t very clear). Since it was not looked at by the ALA legal counsel, it was postponed to another council session. We felt that it was important that we do not pass something that might be interpreted as supporting a boycott, which might be interpreted as a violation of anti-trust laws, so we felt it was prudent to postpone.

After Council I, the American Library Association-Allied Professional Association has its council meeting and there was good news, for a change. ALA-APA finished nearly \$50,000 in the black for 2010 and will pay back some of the loan that ALA lent them for startup costs. My feeling is that this might have something to do with the certification programs that they offer for library support staff and for public library administrators. Regardless, it is a step in the right direction after some years finishing in the red.

Council II – Report from ALA Treasurer, Jim Neal, was encouraging. The results of our

audit for fiscal year 2009-10 (which ends on August 31, 2010) showed that there were no material weaknesses and issue an unqualified opinion, which is the best possible rating.

From FY09 to FY10, our net assets improved by \$3.1 million to \$29.7 million. Long-term investments improved by \$1.8 million to \$28.8 million due to market performance. Total ALA revenues declined by \$1.7 million to \$52.5 million due to a reduction in subscriptions, a lower number of grants and awards secured and declining interest rates.

In addition, expenses declined by \$3.3million to \$50.2 million.

The “Do Not Patronize” list resolution gets postponed to Council III since after the legal counsel looked at the resolution, it was clear that the wording needed to be adjusted. Two WikiLeaks resolutions get postponed to Council III as well. Honorary membership was granted to Yohannes Gebregeorgis, librarian, author, and founder of Ethiopia Reads, a nonprofit organization that is establishing children’s libraries in Ethiopia and publishing bilingual and trilingual children’s books. Programmatic priorities approved by council are diversity; equitable access to information and library services; education and lifelong learning; intellectual freedom; advocacy for libraries and the profession; literacy; organizational excellence; and transforming libraries.

Council Forums – Many of the resolutions are debated in informal meetings called Council Forums. This is why, you may notice that some resolutions get postponed from one council meeting or another, if not withdrawn entirely depending on the whether or not the supporters of the resolution think it will pass or not. We have two Council Forums and one Chapter Councilor’s forum (where we discuss items related to chapters). Anyway, while I won’t go into the details of this, as I’m probably boring you already, I hope it clarifies a few things.

Council III – The tribute and memorial resolutions are read and voted upon early in the meeting. The resolution honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Arkansas Library Association was passed and met with applause. Council approved a resolution supporting the declassification of federal documents and commended President Obama for the creation of the National Declassification Agency. While this was influenced by some of the activities regarding WikiLeaks, it did not mention tacit support of that organization.

Another resolution that passed was in support of and reintroduction by congress of the DREAM act. If passed, this would give benefits for children of illegal immigrants brought to this country before age 16, are under 30 years of age, and have lived here for a minimum of five years, and wish to attend college or join the military. Other resolutions that passed included recognition for Bob Tapella, the 25th Public Printer, Susan Hildreth, the new Institute of Museum and Library Services Director, and Sen. Jack Reed for recognizing libraries as essential community organizations during disasters. The “Do Not Patronize” list resolution was rewritten and did not pass. The amended resolution did not make any reference to the “Do No Patronize” list. Some felt that people can look up information on the topic without ALA having to do so for them. The two WikiLeaks resolutions were tabled indefinitely. There were a number of problems with these resolutions. One of them asked us to support WikiLeaks which many of us felt by doing so, we would be supporting illegal activity, and we were really not comfortable with that. I also know that some felt that the “data dumps” that they do were not a public service and might hurt people. After numerous discussions in the council forums, the two resolutions failed.

Surprisingly, we got out early from Council III, although many were stranded by snow storms on the east coast. I met up with some of these people at a dinner at Seersucker’s. It was a fun dinner,

and I hope that people were able to forget their sorrows, for a little while. They told me that many of their colleagues were not sympathetic that they were stuck in San Diego. All in all, it was a good and productive meeting and I look forward (despite the heat and humidity), to ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA.