



**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 7, 2023, 1:00 PM
Laman Library, North Little Rock**

Executive Board in attendance (voting members denoted by *): *Kathleen Ashmore, President *Carol Coffey, *Crystal Gates, *Jessica Kirk, *John McGraw, *JP Myrick, Ron Russ, *Rachel Shankles, *Jennifer Wann, Secretary *Jessica Riedmueller, *Taylor Vanlandingham, Amber Wilson

- I. **Call to Order** – President Carol Coffey called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence in-person and on Zoom. Minutes of the 2/10/2023 Executive Board meeting accepted as distributed.
- III. **Consent Agenda** – Consent agenda of information-only reports was distributed prior to the meeting. Jennifer Wann made a motion to receive the reports on the consent agenda; seconded by Jessica Kirk. Motion carried.
- IV. **President’s Report** – President Carol Coffey reported that she has had several meetings with different groups about SB 81 including meeting with ALA and calling a special board meeting to discuss possible actions the board may take. President Coffey has met with the Conference Committee and has extended an invitation for SELA to join our conference.
- V. **Financial Report** – Kathleen Ashmore delivered the financial report. ArLA has \$102,049.96 in Edward Jones—\$10,538 of which is scholarship money and \$16,887 of which is LEAF funding—and \$100,934.28 in the checking account. The LEAF and scholarship funds have been moved to Arvest to Edward Jones as approved at the last Executive Board Meeting. The Budget and Finance Committee has been working on updates to the Bylaws and Handbook.
- VI. **ALA Councilor Report** – Crystal Gates has registered for ALA Annual which will be in Chicago from June 22-27, 2023. She will be coordinating the Arkansas attendees dinner.

ALA is closely monitoring current legislation in various states and at the national level which will impact libraries. ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom together with ALA Chapter Relations Office met with AAAL President Adam Webb, ArLA President Carol Coffey, and myself a few times over the last several weeks to discuss SB81 and potential opposition. The Media Coalition, which is a member of the OIF and Freedom to Read Foundation, opposed the bill and requested changes in the language. ArLA and AAAL requested ALA and OIF to remain in the background when opposing SB81 due to Arkansas Legislative sentiment regarding ALA. ALA remains supportive of Arkansas libraries and library workers and available to all for discussion and support.

ALA Chapter Relations Office Manager Michael Dowling recommended that all discussion involving legislative actions and reactions be held via phone, text, videochat, or personal emails. He reminded all that library work email accounts are covered under FOIA regulations. Many of the

legislative conversations are considered legal and advisory and therefore should be held off work devices/accounts.

VII. Committee Reports

a. Conference Committee – Save the Dates and calls for proposals have been sent out. The author luncheon will include Arkansas authors. Craig O’Neill will be one of the speakers. EveryLibrary will provide the keynote and a preconference session.

VIII. Business Items

a. Committee Vacancy – President Coffey moved that Jean Waldrop fill the vacant chair position on the Records Management Committee. Motion carried.

b. Conference Budget – The Conference Committee moved that the board approve the conference budget. Motion carried.

c. Additional Arkansas Libraries copies – The board discussed the three options presented by the Membership Committee regarding extra copies of the journal, and reached the consensus that the third option is our best path forward. With this decision, the board is referring this item back to the committee so that they can bring forward a specific resolution that addresses the details/logistics for additional wording that should be included in the ArLA Handbook.

IX. Calendar –

a. ALPS Infobits is planned for May 12 at the Garland County Library.

b. ArLA Annual Conference proposals are open until May 8.

The next Executive Board meeting will be June 9, 2023 at 9:00 AM via Zoom.

X. Announcements – President Coffey reminded board members of the SWOT activity immediately following the Board Meeting. Rachel Shankles announced that nominations for the ArLA Board Election will remain open for an additional two weeks.

XI. Public Comments – No public comments were made.

XII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 1:42 PM.

XIII. Actions Taken via Email – These are actions taken by the Board, outside of regularly scheduled meetings, due to exigent circumstances.

a. Special Meeting Minutes Approval – On April 20, 2023, the board approved minutes of a special meeting held on March 28, 2023.

b. 2023 Nominations and Elections – On May 3, 2023, the board met via Zoom to approve the 2023 slate of candidates for ArLA Office. A motion was brought by the Nominations and Elections committee and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Riedmueller