



**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, September 10, 2021, 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Executive Board in attendance (voting members denoted by *): Kathleen Ashmore, *Carol Coffey, *Crystal Gates, *Ron Russ, President *Philip Shackelford, *Rachel Shankles, *Lynn Valetutti, *Jennifer Wann, Secretary *Janice Weddle, Amber Wilson

- I. **Call to Order** – President Philip Shackelford called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- II. **Roll Call** – Attendance was recorded via presence on Zoom.
- III. **Minutes & Consent Agenda** – Minutes of the 08/13/2021 meeting and consent agenda of information-only reports distributed prior to the meeting. Jennifer Wann made a motion to receive the reports on the consent agenda; seconded by Rachel Shankles. Motion carried.
- IV. **Financial Report** – Lynn Valetutti delivered the financial report. ArLA has \$60,334.40 in Edward Jones and \$89,481.14 in the checking account, \$20,000 of which is scholarship money and \$12,165 of which is LEAF funding. The operating cash balance is \$57,316.14. Lynn Valetutti made a motion to move \$5,000 of designated scholarship money from the checking account to Edward Jones, leaving a balance of \$15,000 of scholarship money in the checking account. Ron Russ seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. **ALA Councilor Report** – Lacy Wolfe delivered the ALA Councilor report. ALA has released information about Pokémon Clubs for school libraries, the upcoming Bill Morris seminar for book evaluation, State of America’s Libraries report with information about COVID-19, and the Build America’s Libraries Act. ALA released a statement August 18 reaffirming the core values of equitable access to knowledge, social justice, and intellectual freedom. Conference proposals are being accepted for the next ALA Annual Conference, to be held in-person in Washington, D.C. on June 23-28, 2022.

Lacy Wolfe is working to complete the State of the Chapter report for ALA and sought the Board’s input on some questions for that report. Discussion ensued on the appropriate numerical ranking for the relationship with state legislators, on a scale of 1-5. Members of the Board determined that a number in the middle of the scale would be most appropriate. The question was raised of whether ArLA had ever contracted with a lobbyist. It was observed that ArLA could legally contract with a lobbyist, up to the percentage allowed by the IRS under the guidelines for a 501(c)(3). However, ArLA has relied on advocacy efforts in the past, rather than formal lobbying. The AAAL organization contracts with a lobbyist on behalf of Arkansas libraries. The question was also raised if any ArLA committees are charged with Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) and whether EDI is explicitly addressed in ArLA’s Strategic Plan. Through discussion, it was determined that EDI has been discussed throughout the work of the association, but it may need to be made more explicit within materials.

The Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) reached out to Lacy Wolfe and President Shackelford recently to discuss drafting and submitting a joint letter of support from OIF, PLA, United for Libraries, and ArLA for the Craighead County Jonesboro Library before their next library board meeting September 13. OIF also inquired if they could offer any support regarding statements recently made by select Arkansas state legislators in favor of withholding state library funding for libraries that include LGBTQIA+ materials in their collections. The question was raised of how involved the local Jonesboro library leadership had been in seeking OIF's support, given the sensitive nature of their ongoing work with local authorities. It was reported that Craighead County Jonesboro Library leadership had contacted OIF to seek their support.

- VI. Bylaws Committee Report** – Janice Weddle reported that the Bylaws Committee had submitted a business item for Board consideration, with a proposed update to the Handbook 10.6.2 Action without a Meeting. The committee felt this procedure was important enough to the continued work of the Board to be proposed separately for immediate adoption. The question was raised of whether this procedure would be presented to the full Association membership at the Annual Business Meeting in October. It was noted that the deadline for proposing Bylaws changes for the full membership has already passed this year. Therefore, the proposed change to a 2/3 majority approval for acting without a meeting, rather than unanimous consent, will not be able to take effect unless the Bylaws are amended by the full Association membership in 2022. Parliamentarian Amber Wilson observed that all other procedural details and timelines could be put into place immediately if adopted by the Board.

- VII. Conference Committee Report** – Rachel Shankles reported that the registration numbers for the conference are good, with more than 200 registered attendees already signed up. With registration, vendors, and expenses accounted for, the Conference Committee anticipates making a profit on the 2021 Annual Conference. All 200 free t-shirts for registered conference attendees will be distributed to regional library hubs for further dissemination. The conference program will be completed and distributed soon.

- VIII. Other Committee or CI Reports** – Ron Russ reported on behalf of the Web Services Committee and the Nominating & Elections Committee that the elections are open and electronic ballots were distributed. Any members who did not receive a ballot should check their membership profile on the website to ensure their current email address is included and their membership dues are current. A message will be sent out on the listserv to let all members know they should have received their ballot.

- IX. Business Items**
 - a. Handbook 10.6.2** – Janice Weddle made a motion to adopt the revisions to Handbook 10.6.2 as submitted by the Bylaws & Handbook Committee; seconded by Jennifer Wann. Motion carried with at least 2/3 majority.

- X. Announcements** –Jennifer Wann announced that applications for the ALL-In 2022 cohort are open and will be due October 1. A recorded informational webinar is available on the website.

President Shackelford announced that the next Lunch, Learning & Libraries webinar will be held September 15. Jennifer Wann will present about “Ethics at the Desk.”

Jessica Riedmueller announced that RISci will host a program September 10 from April Sheppard about “Creating Inclusion.”

Janice Weddle announced that it is time to start working on Annual Reports for ArLA. Oral reports are traditionally given by committees and CIs during the Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for October 15. Written reports will need to be filed before the end of the year.

The next meeting will be held October 12, 2021 via Zoom at 8:00 AM.

XI. Public Comments – No public comments were made.

XII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Weddle