



Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, June 12, 2020, 10:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

In attendance: Shelley Blanton, Jodie Bogerding, Dan Boice, Carol Coffey, David Eckert, Becky Fischer, Stewart Fuell, Crystal Gates, Jill Heard, Ruth Hyatt, Susie Kirk, Lavis Martin, Autumn Mortenson, Britt Murphy, Jessica Riedmueller Ron Russ, Philip Shackelford, Rachel Shankles, Lynn Valetutti, Rebecka Virden, Janice Weddle, Lacy Wolfe

- I. **Call to Order** – President Crystal Gates called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence on Zoom. Minutes of the 4/10/2020 were made available through Dropbox prior to the meeting. Philip Shackelford made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Dan Boice. Minutes approved.
- III. **President’s Report** – President Gates has released a [statement](#) affirming ArLA’s support for libraries and library workers who are working to change the systemic racism prevalent in American society. She has also sent a letter to the governor, urging him to keep libraries in the conversation at the state level.
- IV. **Financial Report** – Lynn Valetutti reported that the Association has \$77,631.98 in our checking account and \$40,207.77 in Edward Jones. The association is still seeing a drop in renewals, receiving only 4 in the past month. We have received total donations of \$100 for the masks being made by ArLA members. In total, we have spent \$3962 for the mask program, and \$68 on materials.

Lynn gave an update on the letter from the IRS. H&R Block filed the 2018 taxes late; they will handle the fees. H&R Block has also audited our records and P&L statements. Our 2019 revenue was \$45,207.77, which reflects the savings from no longer using a management company.

Lynn reported that we have paid back approximately \$15,000 of the \$56,000 that we borrowed from the scholarship fund. Becky Fischer made a motion to approve the financial report; seconded by David Eckert. Financial report approved.

- V. **ALA Councilor’s Report** – ALA Councilor Lacy Wolfe reported registration for ALA Virtual closes on June 17, 2020. The registration fee is \$60 and is free for those who are facing hardship right now.
- VI. **Committee Reports**

Awards – The committee has received a total of four nominations so far.

Bylaws – Janice Weddle submitted a report with a summary of the major changes and a document with the full recommended Bylaws changes.

Conference – Philip Shackelford advised that Amigos will be virtually hosting the ArLA annual conference this year. The conference budget has been revised. The programming committee has selected the first tier proposals and will be notifying the presenters. Keynote speakers have been confirmed, and registration is currently open.

Arkansas Libraries—Britt Murphy informed the board that the coming issue of the journal will likely be longer than recent issues. There will be many new columns and more content.

Emerging Leader – Rebecka Virden reported that she had received an email from the manager of the Emerging Leader program. In light of the canceled ALA in-person conference, participation in the EL program will be extended to 2021. There will be no new class in 2021. Sponsors are urged to continue support for their Emerging Leader in 2021.

Future Conference – No report.

Intellectual Freedom – No report.

Legislative – National Legislative week will be held online this year.

Marketing – Susie Kirk shared information on social media for the annual conference, RISD reference exchange day, ALPS Virtual Training, and the COVID-19 pandemic response survey and mask form.

Membership – No report.

Nominating – The committee will be meeting to determine which nominations are needed according to the new board structure.

Scholarship – No report.

Strategic Plan – No report.

Web Services – New mailing for the Pandemic Reponse Committee and ArLA Mask Makers have been created. The committee used Google Forms, to create a mask order form that will notify mask makers on the mailing list of requests. Due to notification limitations in Google Forms, the committee purchased a plug-in for \$29, in order to handle the overwhelming amount of requests. ArLA virtual conference registration forms for attendees and vendors were created and are now live on the website. ArLA membership cards are now available online and are attached to the member's profile. Members will need to login to the ArLA Website to access.

ArASL – The UCA Media and Literacy Conference scheduled for July 8 & 9 has been canceled.

ALPS – Becky Fischer reported that ALPS is hosting virtual training meetups two times a month. Topics include circulation training and COVID-19 training. The sessions have been well-received. The training is recorded and available for people view at any time. ALPS is specifically encouraging participants to join ArLA, and advertising the virtual ArLA conference to participants.

CULD – No report.

Public Libraries – No report.

RISD – This year’s Reference Exchange, held virtually, had 42 participants and was very successful.

RTSD – No report.

Two-Year Colleges – Ron Russ reported that TYCRT has provided a program for the ArLA Virtual Conference entitled "Online & Ready to Help: Three Libraries, Three Realities." Speakers are representing three different libraries: Northwest Arkansas Community College, Arkansas State University-Mountain Home and Arkansas State University-Beebe. Shawna Thorup, NWACC, will moderate the proceedings. In addition, Ronald Russ, TYCRT Chair is editing a new column for Arkansas Libraries entitled "What's Up in Arkansas Two Year College Libraries."

Ron also requested guidance on how to transition the round table to a Community of Interest.

Youth Services – Ruth Hyatt reported that she promoted the group during a Zoom meeting for Programmers at public libraries.

SELA – No report.

Pandemic Response Ad Hoc Committee – The committee shared that they mask-making team of seven people has filled 2339 requests for masks for 1591 staff members at libraries. Public library requests have been completely filled, academic library requests are almost finished, and school library requests will be filled next.

The committee would like to identify and help with other needs in the library community such as requests for hand sanitizer, ear protectors to reduce mask discomfort, and PPE needs. David Eckert noted that headbands for plastic face shields can be made using a 3D printer.

President Gates noted that conversations about these needs have been happening statewide. Britt Murphy supported the use of the Library Development Districts to coordinate these conversations.

The committee recognized the need for long-term infectious disease planning past this current pandemic and stated that they are looking at how they can collect data related to the long-term and short-term efforts.

VII. Business Items

- a. Bylaws Amendments – Janice Weddle covered the major and substantive changes to the Bylaws recommended by the committee. These recommendations include:
 - Simplifying and clarifying Membership Types (V.1.A--E)
 - Clarifying language for Membership and Officer censure or expulsion, and removing process details to Handbook (V.4 and VIII.5)
 - Reinstate information about bonding, as found in previous Bylaws/Manual (Now, VI.7)
 - Remove references to a Communities of Interest Council (VII.1-9)

- Set the term for elected officers, except for the ALA Councilor, to coincide with the calendar year (VIII.1)
- Reinstate petition by membership as a method for calling a special meeting of the full membership (X.4)
- “Nominating & Elections Committee” (multiple references)
- Consistency of days/timelines for action, with 30 days and/or 14 days as the most frequent selections (multiple references)

The first major point of discussion arose over the timing of the officer changeover in ArLA. Currently changeover happens immediately following elections at the ArLA annual conference. However, succession following the calendar year would be ideal for continuity of the organization.

The role of “Assistant Treasurer” was discussed. There was a question whether the office was elected or appointed. President Gates stated that the office is elected to succeed the Treasurer, similar to the succession of President-Elect to President. It was decided that renaming the office to “Treasurer-Elect” would help avoid ambiguity.

A question was raised concerning whether membership dues are rolling or based on calendar year. Members of the Bylaws committee pointed out that the adopted Bylaws state that membership renews based on calendar year.

Janice Weddle summarized the committee’s decision to change some membership types. The “Friend” and “Trustee” categories will be combined in a “Supporter” category. Britt Murphy asked about the current institutional membership dues structure. Several ideas were discussed for the dues including a structure based on population. The decision was tabled until next year when the financial consequences of the current pandemic will be better known.

The Bylaws Committee brought a motion to approve the suggested changes to the Bylaws; seconded by David Eckert. The motion passed.

The Bylaws Committee brought a motion to approve the changes made to the dues structure; seconded by Ron Russ. The motion passed.

VIII. Announcements – Becky Fischer thanked President Gates for writing and releasing the statement of support for libraries.

David Eckert asked if anyone knew the status of state aid for this year.

The next meeting will be held August 14, 2020 via Zoom at 10:00 AM.

IX. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Riedmueller