

Nominations for 2024 Offices on ArLA Executive Board in alphabetical order by office as presented to the Board by the Nominations and Elections Committee members: Rachel Shankles, Chair; Chrystal Gates, Shawna Thorup, Taylor Vanlandingham and Lacy Wolfe 3/31/23.

President Elect Nominees



Lynn Valetutti

Lynn Valetutti is the Library and Learning Management Systems Director at National Park College since 2019. Previously, Lynn held the position of Manager of Digital Services at the Arkansas State Library. She directed the statewide Traveler database program. Prior to that, she worked at University of Arkansas in Monticello as the Electronic Resource and Serials Librarian. Lynn also held the position of Coordinator of Instructional Media at Ouachita Baptist University (OBU) from 2005-2010. She graduated from OBU in 2013 with a B.A. in History and Spanish and received an MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2015. Lynn is an active member of ArLA and has served as Secretary/Treasurer and member of the website team for six years. Currently, she serves on the ArLA Financial Committee. In 2019, she received the ArLA Presidential Award. Lynn has worked on several conference committees and the pandemic working group for ArLA. In 2022, Lynn served as the President for ArkLink. In addition, she is currently a committee member on the American Library Association (ALA) Office of Information Technology Policy (OITP) and has been in this role for five years. Lynn is also on the SREB Arkansas OER Action Team.

Member at Large



Jason Byrd

I'm Jason Byrd, Director of Library Services at The University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. Although I'm relatively new to Arkansas, I'm not new to libraries. I have previously worked in academic libraries in New York, Virginia, and Arizona.

In my first year in Arkansas, I dove into working with ArLA. I was on the conference planning committee for the annual conference in Fort Smith in 2022, where I presented my research on educational technology and . I'm also involved with RISci and CULAR.

Timothy Healy, former president of the New York Public Library, said, "The most important asset of any library goes home at night – the library staff." I agree, and I'm passionate about supporting librarians in my adopted home state. I would be honored to be an advocate for all librarians in Arkansas as we work towards our shared values.



Amy DeVooght

Amy DeVooght works at Bailey Library at Hendrix College in Conway. She's held the position for five and a half years. Her favorite part of working at Hendrix College is the students. Amy supervises 25 student workers and they are "fun to watch grow and learn over their years at the college". She recently received the Lorrie Shuff Paraprofessional award (ArLA conference October 2022) for her work with the Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals (ALPs) community of interest as well as for work within her own library. Amy has chaired ALPs for the last two years and is currently overseeing the organization and implementation of the workshop InfoBits, an annual event for paraprofessionals across the state to attend for professional development.



Tammie Evans

Tammie Evans lives in Cabot, AR with her 16-year-old daughter, two cats and a Australian Shepard named Rocky. Tammie is currently employed at the North Little Rock Library System. Her 10+ years working in public library settings has given her opportunities to be well rounded in many different library positions. These include Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Branch Manager, Assistant Director, Marketing Director and now her current role as the Adult Services Supervisor for the William F. Laman Public Library. Tammie currently assists in the Arkansas Library Association as the Communications chair for the Library Advocacy Community of Interest (LACI) and is serving as Vendor chair for the ArLA Conference Committee. Tammie received her master's in Library and Information Science from UNT in December 2020



Shannon Hicks

Shannan Hicks is the Library Services Director at the North Little Rock (Arkansas) Public Library System. She has previously worked in a number of different types of libraries, including state, special, law and school. However, her heart belongs to children's literature, and prior to her current role, she served as an elementary school librarian for several years in her hometown of Shreveport, LA.

Shannan holds a BA and MLIS from Louisiana State University. She also has a JD from Tulane University. She worked in the nonprofit field and practiced law for several years before becoming a librarian. Shannan has served on the Caldecott Committee and the Odyssey Committee through ALA. Currently, she is serving as chair of the Ezra Jack Keats Committee. She has also served on the Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Committee. You can find her book reviews on Instagram and TikTok. She lives in North Little Rock with her dog Nelson, her favorite book reviewer.



Lisa Pickett

Lisa Pickett has been with the Public Library of Camden & Ouachita County since 1997, and began serving as director in 2007. This is the same library where she spent her a great deal of her childhood, reading everything in the children’s section before ending up as a voracious reader of mysteries. That original building was lost to a fire in the summer of 2011. The aftermath of that fire--operating in temporary quarters for the library while rebuilding the collection and overseeing construction of a new building—are what Lisa considers to be both the most challenging and the most rewarding part of her career. She spends most of her spare time driving her 15-year-old daughter from one practice to the next, and serving at the beck and call of her cat, Polyester.



Katie Phippen

Katie was born in Little Rock, Arkansas and grew up in Prairie County in the great town of Des Arc, AR. She received her BA in History from Lyon College. Katie became a teacher in the Little Rock School District where she taught 2nd and 3rd grade students. Growing up with teacher parents, she always felt that teaching in some capacity was her calling. The library was always her happy place, and she decided to attend UCA to work toward her Master’s Degree in 2013. She is now the Teacher Librarian at William Jefferson Clinton Elementary School in Sherwood, AR. She says, “I love my students and watching them learn to love reading; and having them share their favorite books makes my day.” Katie also serves on the North Little Rock Library System Board of Trustees. Katie lives in North Little Rock with her husband, Aric, their two boys, Bodhi and Freddie.



Amy Shipman

Amy Shipman has worked in Arkansas libraries for the past ten years. She has spent three years at the Garland County Library and seven years in school libraries. Currently, she is the Library Media Specialist at Lakeside High School in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Amy was the Arkansas Association of Instructional Media's 2022 School Librarian of the Year and has been recognized in state organizations such as the Arkansas Declaration of Learning and the Arkansas Library Leadership Institute. She is honored to be recognized by her colleagues, but her greatest achievement is creating a safe and welcoming space for her students. Amy's passion is creating a library program that reflects her community and is a place where students can find books, learn, and play. Her library is always full of laughter and on occasion waffles, which is the students' favorite day in the library!



Kacy Earnest Spears

Kacy Earnest Spears currently serves the Springdale Public Library as their Circulation Supervisor where she oversees operations for a staff of 15. She graduated from Emporia State University with a Master's of Library Science degree in December of 2022, and she continues to seek professional development and continuing education opportunities. Kacy enjoys networking and meeting new people in the library science profession. Last year, she joined the Arkansas Library Association's Conference Committee, where she worked with the catering sub-committee to make menu decisions. She also designed the conference t-shirt. Kacy is a board member for the Friends of the Pea Ridge Library and assists First Presbyterian Church of Bentonville with their growing church library. She lives in the mountains of Bella Vista, Arkansas with her spouse, dog, and two cats. In her spare time, Kacy enjoys cycling, cross-stitching, playing video games, and baking anything with chocolate.



Lacy Wolfe

Lacy Wolfe is a Youth Services Manager at the North Little Rock Public Library System. Prior to working in the public library, Lacy worked for 10 years in various roles in academic libraries including Electronic Resources, Reference, Instruction, and Interim Director. Lacy served as the Arkansas Chapter Councilor to the American Library Association from 2016-2021. She's served various roles within ArLA and ALA including chairing and membership in several committees. Lacy participated in the inaugural Arkansas Library Leadership Institute (ALL-In) hosted by the State Library and continued working with following cohorts in a mentorship capacity. In 2014, Lacy was chosen to represent ArLA as an Emerging Leader in ALA and in 2021 Lacy was awarded the Suzanne Spurrier Academic Librarian Award. Lacy is passionate about serving Arkansas libraries and connecting them to the national and international library communities. Lacy's received fellowship and grant support to attend two International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) conferences in the US and Greece. In her spare time, Lacy enjoys reading, sewing, knitting, hiking, and traveling.

SELA Representative Nominee



Rev. John Paul Myrick

John Paul (J.P) received his master of Library Service Un at the University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 1991. At present he is Executive Director and Regional Librarian at East Central Arkansas Regional Library System in Wynne. He has been there since 2013.

From 2006 to 2016 he was adjunct Professor at the University of Alabama, College of Communications and Information Sciences, School of Library and Information Studies, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. John Paul belongs to many library organizations---American Library Association, Public Library Association, Association for Rural and Small Libraries (Finance Committee Member), Arkansas Library Association (Executive Board Member, Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair), Southeastern Library Association (Author Awards Subcommittee, Intellectual Freedom Committee), Association for Bookmobile and Outreach Services. He also is active in the community--- Cross County Chamber of Commerce, Cross County Arts Council Board of Directors, Chair of the Cross County Hometown Health Coalition, Woodruff County Library Foundation Board of Directors,