

**Arkansas Library Association Board Meeting
April 1, 2005**

Those present were: Art Lichtenstein, President; Diane Hughes, Vice-President/President-elect; Loretta Edwards, Past President; Jamie Melson, Secretary/Treasurer; Ellen Johnson, SELA Councilor; Marilyn Schulte, ALA Councilor; Mary Walker, Resources & Tech. Services Chair; Necia Parker-Gibson, Ark. Libraries Editor; Lyn Calhoun, IT Roundtable Chair; Lisa Johnson, Public Libraries Vice-Chair; Jerrie Townsend, Two-Year Colleges Chair; Bob Razer, Archives Comm. Chair; Renee LeBeau-Ford, Conference Comm. Chair; Jil'Lana Heard, AASL Chair; Karen Richardson, Membership Comm. Chair; Barbie James, Constitution Comm. Chair; Laura Downing, Reference Services Chair.

President Art Lichtenstein called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Loretta Edwards moved and Ellen Johnson seconded to approve the minutes that were sent out electronically to everyone. Motion passed.

President's Report: Art updated the board on the fact that as of March 1, Coleman Management is working for ArLA part-time now. The dedicated ArLA phone line is still working too. The exec. comm. checked on that since that was one of the cost cutters the executive committee recommended.

Reports:

SELA Councilor--Ellen Johnson: Ellen will be attending the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) Leadership Conference on May 12-13 at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Decatur, Georgia. Leadership conferences are held on alternate years from the biennial conferences with member states.

ALA Councilor--Marilyn Schulte: Marilyn encouraged everyone to vote while ALA's voting is open. If you are an ALA member, you should have received your voting packet by now and you can now vote for officers online.

AASL Division--Jill Heard: Connie Zimmer is planning the AASL Summer Conference. She is working on a budget. So far her expenses include \$250.00 for the keynote speaker. She has arranged to use the Arkansas Tech University campus at no charge. The meals will be catered through the East Dining Room. The president of ATU will welcome the participants on their arrival to the conference. The conference registration form will be ready in time to have at the booth at the AAIM conference. AASL will have a booth at the AAIM conference and offer registration forms and ALA forms. We will also be offering cookbooks as a fundraiser for the conference. Diane Hughes is still working on national AASL affiliation. The national AASL conference will be in Pittsburgh, PA in October.

College & Universities Division--Donna Daniels: no report.

Paraprofessionals (ALPS)--Kareen Turner: ALPS held their last meeting at the Alma Public Library. Eva White welcomed us and offered us snacks and drinks. We went over the bylaws for Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals and will present the new bylaws and suggested realignment of regions at the Spring Conference to be voted on at the Fall Conference. We finalized most of the conference plans. We've put the registration brochure online. Shirts were offered and have been ordered for the conference. We are finalizing the conference packet and will be sending it to the printers this week.

Public Library Division--Phyllis Burkett/Lisa Johnson: The officers of the Public Library Division Phyllis Burkett-chair, Lisa Johnson-vice-chair, and Kathy Buchanan-secretary, met on March 21, 2005 to plan for the year. The officers adopted a goal for 2005: To provide education and training for all types of library staff. They also adopted three objectives. Objective 1: Provide conference programs that provide basic day-to-day training. Objective 2: Provide a conference program that

educates and informs public library staff on current issues. This program can cross library-type lines if possible. Objective 3: To offer a customer service workshop in the fall, preferably Sept. 8, 2005.

The officers reviewed the program of the upcoming Paraprofessional Division meeting and discussed past programs. The officers would like to recommend that the Conference Committee consider repeating some of the Spring programs such as the Spanish Language and Power Point programs. The table discussions by library work groups could also be done at Conference, possibly in the Exhibit area. The officers would also like to recommend that Vendor Database Training be scheduled at the Conference Hotel in hopes of drawing some staff.

Phyllis Burkett attended the PLA Spring Symposium and discussed the ALA Smart Card campaign. One of the task force members is Sallie Johnson of the Memphis-Shelby Co. Library. It might be possible to get her or a member of the ALA staff to do some public relations training and/or general information about ALA's campaign.

Other topics discussed included communication skills among co-workers, professional dress and manners with the public, movies at the library including licensing dos & don'ts, promotion, and choice of movies, and services to Spanish speakers.

There are two programs from the State Library's Children's Services Workshop that were provided by staff of the Craighead Co. Jonesboro Public Library (CCJPL) and Fort Smith Public Library that might bear repeating at the annual conference: Bullying and ALA's Every Child to Read. CCJPL will make arrangements for their staff members to be available if requested.

The officers are committed to assisting the Conference committee in planning and executing any and all programs that have been suggested.

Reference Services Division--Laura Downing: The Reference Services Division has been working on putting together two programs for the 2005 Annual Conference, one on communicating effectively with library patrons and one on paraprofessionals staffing the reference desk at both college and public libraries. Dominique Hallett, reference librarian at Arkansas State University, has agreed to be vice chair for 2005.

Information Technology--Lyn Calhoun: no report

Children's Services--Ruth Hyatt: no report

Two-Year Colleges--Jerrie Townsend: no report

Government Documents--no report.

New Members--no report.

Archives--Bob Razer: no report.

Awards Committee--Sandy Olson: no report.

Conference Committee--Renee LeBeau-Ford: The Conference Committee has narrowed down a logo and theme for the 2005 conference and will have updated information and session request forms out shortly.

Renee asked for permission to reserve the Presidential Library for a conference reception. The Library charges \$2,500 for any event and although she has two vendors interested in sponsoring the event she does not have confirmation. She asked that the Association cover the \$2,500 in the event that possible sponsors fall through. Loretta Edwards moved with a second from Laura Downing to allow Renee to make the arrangements with the Clinton Library as needed. Motion passed.

Constitution Committee--Barbie James: Barbie obtained a copy of the ArLA Constitution & Bylaws from Jennifer Coleman and is working on corrections and updates. She will have them by the June meeting.

Executive Committee--deferring until New Business

Finance Committee--no report

Intellectual Freedom Committee--no report

Legislative Committee--Dave Burdick: The 2005 Legislative year has been a busy one, full of many bills affecting libraries, especially public libraries. Much of the legislation has been good, a few have been controversial, and public librarians are thankful that AAPL has Martha Perry monitoring legislative activities for the Public Libraries of the state.

The Arkansas State Library is tracking nearly 90 bills which affect either the State Library, or some form of Library in the state. It is probable that there are more bills which are not being tracked which can have some possible impact due to the high number of bills filed this legislative session. One can view their list by going to www.asl.lib.ar.us and clicking on "Library Related Legislation 2005".

Currently, the State Library funding is holding its own, as are the funds needed for matching federal funds for the Traveler Databases. They also seemed pleased that they eliminated performance-based budgeting for all state agencies.

House Bill 1219, if passed and funded, would provide another \$1 million in state aid for public libraries the first year (bringing state aid up to \$3 million), and completely restore state aid the second year (back up to the \$4.9 million level) – something public libraries have been trying to do the past two sessions. Getting it passed is one thing, getting it funded is another issue. Time will tell.

Two bills give more control of City and County Library funds to the public library. Another requires that a public library be "administered by a qualified librarian, as determined by the State Library Board," and allow for state aid funds to be used to assist current staff in their pursuit for a Masters Degree from an ALA approved program. (Originally this bill was going to force the State Library to recognize a Master's Degree in Library Science awarded through any college in the State of Arkansas; better known as school librarians.)

Nearly 50 general improvement appropriation bills, totaling over \$9 million dollars, were filed on behalf of individual city or county libraries throughout the state, including funds for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas project. Another bill provides \$2 million in general improvement funds for Public Library grants administered through the State Library. How many of these bills will actually be passed "and "funded is another matter. It does help to know that we have so much support in the House and Senate for Public Libraries in general. We can only hope this support will equate to \$\$\$\$\$\$ this year, especially when it comes to higher state aid (which should continue year after year).

Public schools: Two years ago library books were exempted from sales tax, and a bill was filed this year which would broaden this to include sheet music, electronic databases, and other educational materials. Another bill adds school librarians to the incentive bonuses paid in high-priority schools.

College and University: There are many normal appropriation bills which have passed, or are in the process of passing, which include funds for the College or University Library. It is uncertain the funding is higher or lower than in past years, but I have not heard from any College or University librarians pertaining to this, or any other items.

Membership Committee--Karen Richardson: Last year's ArLA membership was 531. This year we have 322 renewed memberships and 209 non-renewals. I have a list of those who have not renewed.

I have composed a letter to non-renewals which Coleman Management will be mailing next week along with the membership form. In June we will re-evaluate non-renewals and take further action.

I will have copies of the membership form at the registration table at the AAIM conference this month. I encourage all others who have conferences to do the same.

Nominating Committee--Diane Hughes: Diane will be contacting current committee chairs about serving again in 2006. A person from the public libraries area is due to become president-elect next year and is looking for anyone that is interested in running for office.

Publications Committee--no report.

Public Relations Committee--Amanda Moore: Amanda is working on the ArLA booth for the Arkansas Literary Festival to be held later this month on April 15-17. She would like for people to donate library bookmarks and allow her to borrow their library logo shirts (which can be mailed to her). As it stands, she has enough volunteers to staff the booth but still needs display items.

Scholarship Committee--Kaye Talley: Information on the scholarship has been updated and posted on the association's website and will also appear in the next issue of Arkansas Libraries. There has been one inquiry at this point concerning the scholarship.

Arkansas Libraries--Necia Parker-Gibson: The next journal is being worked on and the deadline is April 15.

Website--Ron Russ: The minutes are posted on the website. The link is listed under the Leadership section. Under the executive board minute link you will see a list of years. Click on the year in order to reveal all of the minutes for that calendar year. Each year should have the minutes listed in date order.

Unfinished Business--none

New Business--Art was contacted by a representative from Morgan Stanley about a cd that expired in December and has not been re-invested. Art will be meeting with her and make a decision.

Art presented Dave Burdick's request for travel money to DC. Loretta Edwards moved and Diane Hughes seconded that the association give Dave up to \$500 in reimbursement upon presentation of receipts. Motion passed.

Art informed everyone that we now have a signed contract with Ebsco to publish Arkansas Libraries online.

Art read a proposal* from Donna Daniels. Necia Parker-Gibson, as co-signor, summarized the reason behind the proposal to use the Arkansas Grid Network video-conferencing. No fees would be involved. Discussion ensued about the pros and cons. Loretta Edwards, Necia, and Laura Downing formed a committee to look into the possibility of using these services for future ArLA board meetings. Loretta will serve as chair. Jill Lana Heard moved that we give it a trial run at the Aug. 4 meeting with a report to be given later. Mary Walker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Art submitted an FYI from Sandy Olson concerning an upcoming ALA Webcast on April 12 on How Salaries Affect Library Recruitment. He also submitted Dwain Gordon's letter concerning his position as the ArLA rep. on the Charlie Mae Simon Award Committee. His term on the committee has expired. The board agreed to ask Dwain to stay on.

Art asked Diane Hughes to tell about her conversation with Jennifer Coleman concerning the 2006 conference site. Conference site for 2006 is Fayetteville. Ideas brought out concerning the possible dates at the Fayetteville hotel was conflict with a Razorback football game. Art told the board the dates the executive committee had picked out as a first choice and a second choice. The first choice was Oct 1-3. Second choice was Oct. 8-11.

Art reported that Marilyn Schulte had contacted him concerning HB 2609, a bill concerning the non-requirement of an MLS for public libraries in small counties that pull out of or get dropped from a consortium or region. Bob Razer explained a little further on top of Dave Burdick's report as to what the bill is and trying to find a common ground to make the public librarians happy. Discussion ensued. The State Library's guidelines state that you must have an

ALA-accredited MLS as a director in order to get state aid.

Art reported to the board that we have received four applications for a new director. These were generated from the newspaper ad that was placed in March. The search committee will meet directly following the board meeting to go over the applications.

Having no further business, Diane Hughes moved with a second from Ellen Johnson to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Melson
ArLA Secretary/Treasurer

*Footnote: The proposal brought to the ArLA board stated the following:

"We would like to propose that the Arkansas Library Association make use of the access grid network in the State for all meetings except for the December and June meetings. These are the meetings where there is a change of leadership and discussions about the annual conference. For those of us who work outside of the Central Arkansas area, we otherwise lose a full day of work for a two hour meeting. From Fayetteville it is a six hour round trip drive (presuming there are no construction delays). We should take into consideration the price of gas, which is well over \$2.00 per gallon. It costs approximately \$30-\$40 per trip not counting the wear and tear on the vehicle and people. Fayetteville, Little Rock, and Jonesboro have access grid sites, and information needed for the meeting could be e-mailed or mailed ahead of time. This would allow all of us to remain productive at our jobs and may encourage others to get more involved with ARLA. Thank you for your consideration of this matter."

Signed,
Donna Daniels, Chair, College and University Library Division
Necia Parker-Gibson, Editor, Arkansas Libraries
Kareen Turner, Chair, Arkansas Library Paraprofessionals Division
Mary Walker, Chair, Resources and Technical Services Division.