

Arkansas Library Association Executive Board Meeting of Saturday, October 17, 2004

**Minutes: Arkansas Library Association Executive Board Meeting**

(Submitted by Secretary-Treasurer, Sandy Olson)

**Board Members Present**

President, Loretta Edwards  
Vice President, Art Lichtenstein  
Secretary/Treasurer, Sandy Olson  
Past President, Dwain Gordon  
SELA Representative, Ellen Johnson  
ALA Chapter Councilor, Marilyn Schulte  
Paraprofessional Division, Donette Smith  
Public Libraries Division, Tracy Cline

**Others Present**

Necia Parker-Gibson, Ron Russ, Jan Dixon, Jamie Melson, Kevin Barron, Frances Morgan, Maggie Milligan, Dave Burdick, Barbie James, Karen Richardson, Deborah Bailey, and Tracy Framer.

President Loretta Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:04 am. Art Lichtenstein moved that the minutes be accepted as presented, Dwain Gordon seconded. MOTION PASSED.

*SELA Representative, Ellen Johnson:* I plan to represent the Arkansas Library Association at the joint SELA Biennial Conference and the NCLA Centennial Conference in Charlotte, NC to be held November 9-13. (Passed around sample program).

*AASL Division, Jil'Lana Heard:* AASL had a booth at the AAIM conference in April to promote the AASL summer conference and ArLA membership. The AASL 2004 summer conference was held on August 8 and 9 at the Clarion Resort in Hot Springs. Chair-elect, Jil'Lana Heard and Secretary-Treasurer, Jana Dixon and their committee did a superb job with the conference. 94 were in attendance at the Sunday night activities. Ms. Linda Williams, AASL National President-Elect spoke bringing greetings from the national office. Dr. Stephen Layne, noted children's author, was the keynote speaker. On Monday, there were 112 in attendance and eleven vendors. There were seven breakout sessions presented by Dr. Layne and by Arkansas Media Specialists. The luncheon speakers included Dr. Stephen Layne, Loretta Edwards, Arkansas Library Association President, Margaret Amps from the Arkansas Department of Education, Sally Hawkes from the Arkansas State Library and Diane Hughes, Past Chair of AASL. We are sponsoring 5 breakout sessions at this conference. We are providing at least two baskets for the LEAF silent auction.

*Paraprofessional Division, Donette Smith:* The ALPS council met Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at North Arkansas College in Harrison. Plans were finalized for the up-coming ArLA conference.

*Public Libraries Division, Tracy Cline:* We are still working on planning training workshops. We will discuss it at the Public Libraries meeting tomorrow.

*New Members Roundtable, Diana Lott:* We have added 1 new members since the August meeting.

*Awards Committee, Jamie Melson:* There will be an awards banquet tonight but come November's meeting I will need to discuss a problem with the nominations that arose this year. But due to time constraints this morning, I won't go into details.

*Legislative Committee, Dave Burdick:* In 2004 we set up a Legislative page on the ArLA website, and provided the Association pertinent information pertaining to Legislative needs at both the State and Federal level. One of our goals for the 2005 legislative session is to restore the State Funding for Public Libraries. The committee will work closely with the Advocates for Arkansas Public Libraries group in getting the word to the Legislators about the needs of the Public Libraries. Over the past 4 years of diminished funding, many Regional Public Libraries have vanished, many small Public Libraries have reduced hours, and a few have shot their doors. Many smaller Public Libraries need major repairs, including roofs, carpet, and in many cases, a means to bring the Library up to ADA standards. This is a vast contrast to the new Libraries which have been built in Little Rock, Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Benton, and Bryant. Two smaller towns, Malvern and Crossett also have new libraries, but Malvern's was the result of a fire, which destroyed the old one. However, the Legislative Committee recognizes the needs of other Libraries, especially those in Higher Education, and K-12 Education. College and Universities are under the budget knife too, and this up-coming legislative session will surely see attempts to cut higher education funds even more. These will surely have a negative impact on their libraries. Our Public Schools have seen increases in their budgets, but this does not mean that Library Media Centers will benefit, or are safe. In the last session, there was a covert attempt to eliminate the need for Librarians in the elementary level schools. The bottom line, the Legislative Session of 2006 will need to be closely monitored, and our Legislators will need to be asked by all Librarians to improve our Public Library funding, and safeguard our Higher Education and Public School Libraries. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact the Legislative Chair, Dave Burdick at the Pine Bluff/Jefferson Library System, 870-534-4802 or [dburdick@pbjc-lib.state.ar.us](mailto:dburdick@pbjc-lib.state.ar.us).

*Membership Committee, Karen Richardson:* The Arkansas Library Association has 536 members as of 10/15/04.

*Nominating Committee, Art Lichtenstein:* Voting will be from 9:00 am Sunday until 4:00 pm Monday. Candidates are Diane Hughes, President Elect, Myron Flugstad and Jamie Melson, Secretary/Treasurer.

*Publications Committee, Ron Russ:* The contributor forms for Arkansas Libraries have been modified to reflect the fact that the articles might be available electronically through

third-party vendors for their online databases. Volunteers were recruited for photographing and writing about the conference. Updated the conference website to include programs descriptions, Amigos Breakfast, and registration forms. Updated the Jobline to reflect new positions in the region. Contact H.W. Wilson about an incorrect link to our website from their database. Britt Anne Murphy has volunteered for another term as Associate Editor of Arkansas Libraries (pending board approval).

*Scholarship Committee, Carolyn Ashcraft:* The committee met and selected a recipient for the Scholarship Award (Hadi Dudley of Bentonville). Also made preparations for a program at the ArLA Conference and worked towards a door prize to be given in a random drawing from the list of contributors to the Scholarship Fund.

*Unfinished Business:* The December meeting place was not available, the location will still be at CALS but the meeting place will be in the Cox building across the parking lot from the library.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Cox building in Little Rock at 10:00 am. This will be the Leadership Exchange meeting.