



**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, April 8, 2022, 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Executive Board in attendance (voting members denoted by *): *Kathleen Ashmore, *Carol Coffey, *Crystal Gates, *John McGraw, *Emily Rozario, *Ron Russ, *Philip Shackelford, President *Rachel Shankles, Secretary *Janice Weddle

- I. **Call to Order** – President Rachel Shankles called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence on Zoom. Philip Shackelford made a motion to accept the minutes of the 2/11/2022 Executive Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Ron Russ. Motion carried.
- III. **Consent Agenda** – Consent agenda of information-only reports was distributed prior to the meeting. Janice Weddle made a motion to receive the reports on the consent agenda; seconded by Carol Coffey. Motion carried.
- IV. **President’s Report** – President Rachel Shankles reported meeting with the Conference Committee in Fort Smith to look at the conference facility. This year’s conference theme has been updated to “The New Normal,” rather than “Finding the New Normal.”

President Shankles researched state law, explored online toolkits, and met with representatives from AAAL, AAIM, LACI, Intellectual Freedom Committee, and the Department of Education to coordinate a united front against censorship efforts in Arkansas and form a coalition called Arkansans for the Right to Read. Resources are being compiled into a new website for Arkansas library workers facing censorship challenges: <https://arrighttoread.com/>. The draft Intellectual Freedom Statement will be presented to the Board under New Business.

President Shankles directed the Libraries Transform campaign to proceed. She worked with the Marketing Committee to prepare marketing materials for National Library Week and spoke on the radio about the importance of libraries. The question was raised about who was responsible for the Libraries Transform campaign. The campaign is being conducted by LACI. The question was also raised about what, if anything, had changed about the Libraries Transform campaign since it was approved by the Board under New Business at the February meeting. Discussion ensued that there were no new updates to the information that had been approved by the Board in February.

- V. **Financial Report** – Kathleen Ashmore delivered the financial report. ArLA has \$74,011.20 in Edward Jones and \$86,810.24 in the checking account, \$10,000 of which is scholarship money and \$13,762 of which is LEAF funding. The operating cash balance is \$63,048.24. Kathleen has finished transitioning paperwork and materials from the previous Treasurer’s name. She has also been in contact with H&R Block regarding ArLA’s taxes and has provided them with everything they need.

- VI. ALA Councilor Report** – Crystal Gates delivered the ALA Councilor’s report. The Transforming ALA Governance Taskforce (TAG) led a discussion at the recent ALA Council Meeting regarding their third proposal of the proposals originally brought to Council in January. This proposal addressed whether the Executive Board or Council would be the governing body for ALA. At their meeting, Council approved moving policy making authority to the Executive Board and Council would become an advisory body. This would not be an immediate change. It will be voted on again during ALA Annual and would then need to be voted on by the full ALA membership. Council also plans to further discuss the size of the new advisory body and the size and makeup of the Executive Board.

The question was raised about how this change came about, given previous votes from Council about becoming an advisory body instead of the policy-making body for ALA. Crystal reminded the group that the entire reorganization conversation came about from the results of a membership survey many years ago, where members raised concerns about the size of ALA and a lack of clarity on how to get involved or run for Council. The subsequent taskforces studying the issue recommended converting Council to an advisory body and placing policy-making authority in the much smaller group making up the Executive Board. As the matter has been discussed and voted on during Council meetings, the votes have been very close between the number of people who support making Council an advisory body and those who want it to remain the policy-making body. Crystal pointed out that many of the same conversations and arguments about efficiency, transparency, diversity, inclusion, and checks and balances from supporters on both sides of this issue have been recurring for the last few years. Crystal stated her opinion that people have become weary of the ongoing debate. When it was voted on during the recent meeting, it passed by a narrow margin. Crystal pointed out again that these votes have all been “in concept” and that they are still subject to further votes, including a vote by the full ALA membership.

- VII. SELA Report** – Emily Rozario delivered the SELA report. The SELA Conference will be held October 11-14, 2022 in Meridian, MS. Additional details will be available following SELA’s next meeting on May 14.

VIII. Committee/CI Reports

- a. Intellectual Freedom Committee** – John McGraw reported on behalf of the committee that the Intellectual Freedom Statement has been drafted and will be voted on in New Business.
- b. ALPS CI** – Amy DeVooght reported that the CI has submitted Bylaws to the Board for approval. Their next meeting will be in June.
- c. Awards Committee** – Melissa Freiley reported on behalf of Quanta Wyatt. Awards nominations will open April 15 and close June 1.
- d. Conference Committee** – Carol Coffey reported that the committee visited the conference center in March and were able to move forward with additional plans. The call for program proposals is open. They are communicating with potential speakers for the conference and will release more information about that as they confirm those speakers. Registration for the 2022 ArLA Conference will open June 1 and close at the end of September.
- e. Web Services Committee** – Ron Russ reported the committee’s findings regarding a Zoom account for ArLA. The committee believes ArLA would need to purchase the Pro option from Zoom, at a cost of \$149.90 per year, per license. That option allows for up to nine licenses and up to 100 participants. Discussion ensued about the flexibility of the purchase options and the

urgency of acquiring a license for ArLA. Kathleen Ashmore made a motion to acquire one license under Zoom's Pro option at a cost of \$149.90 per year, per license. Philip Shackelford seconded. Discussion ensued that one license may not be sufficient to meet ArLA's needs. Janice Weddle offered a friendly amendment to the original motion for ArLA to acquire two licenses under Zoom's Pro option (at a cost of \$299.80 per year). Kathleen Ashmore amended the original motion as suggested; seconded by Philip Shackelford. Motion carried.

f. **Youth Services CI** – No representative of the CI gave an additional report.

IX. Business Items

- a. **Intellectual Freedom Statement** – Janice Weddle made a motion for ArLA to sign the Intellectual Freedom Statement as distributed; Ron Russ seconded. John McGraw stated that one spelling correction had been made since the draft was distributed. Motion carried.
- b. **Arkansans for the Right to Read** – Kathleen Ashmore made a motion for ArLA to officially join the Arkansans for the Right to Read group; seconded by Crystal Gates. President Shankles observed that the group is a coalition formed to assist librarians in different ways with various resources as they face ongoing challenges and censorship. Motion carried.
- c. **Conference Registration Costs and Budget** – Carol Coffey made a motion on behalf of the committee to approve the submitted budget. A question was raised about how the anticipated number of conference attendees was determined. Carol responded that the committee made conservative estimates for the number of attendees, using figures below the number of attendees at the last virtual conference and in line with lower attendee numbers typically seen at conferences that occur outside of central Arkansas. The motion to adopt the budget as submitted carried.

Carol Coffey made a motion to set the registration costs for the 2022 conference. The committee's proposed registration costs and extra tickets for meals were set at amounts sufficient to cover the costs of catering, which will be substantial. An early bird registration option is included to encourage earlier registration. A one-day only registration cost is being offered for Saturday. Preconference options will also be offered. An institutional registration option is not being offered this year, due to the overall cost of the conference and unknown variables. The motion to set the registration costs as submitted carried.

- d. **Everylibrary** – President Shankles announced that no information had been provided to the Board regarding this agenda item. Philip Shackelford made a motion to revisit this agenda item at the Board's June meeting; seconded by Ron Russ. Motion carried.
- e. **ALPS Bylaws** – Janice Weddle made a motion to receive the ALPS Bylaws as submitted; seconded by Kathleen Ashmore. The question was raised if these bylaws had been vetted by the Bylaws & Handbook Committee. Janice Weddle stated that the ALPS Bylaws had been reviewed by the Bylaws & Handbook Committee and are in agreement with ArLA's governing documents. Motion carried.
- f. **Youth Services Bylaws** – Kathleen Ashmore made a motion to receive the Youth Services Bylaws as submitted; seconded by Philip Shackelford. Discussion ensued. The question was raised again if these bylaws had been vetted by the Bylaws & Handbook Committee, and Janice Weddle stated that they had not been reviewed. Janice Weddle observed that one section of

the submitted bylaws suggests that vacancy of the CI's chair/contact should be appointed by the ArLA President. Since the CIs are interest groups formed by members and do not receive a formal charge from the Board, it is not appropriate for vacancies to be filled by Board appointments. The question was also raised if the CIs were required to send bylaws to the Bylaws & Handbook Committee to review. They are not required to do so, and members of the Board determined that adding that requirement is not necessary. Philip Shackelford made a motion to return these bylaws to the Youth Services CI for revision and resubmission to the Board; seconded by John McGraw. The motion to return the bylaws to the CI for revision carried.

- g. Date for Awards nominations** – Philip Shackelford made a motion to approve the Awards Committee's request to accept nominations from April 15-June 1. Carol Coffey seconded. The question was raised as to whether these dates required the Board's approval. If these proposed dates contradict any actual dates set in the Handbook, the motion requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Board to pass. Members of the Board consulted the Handbook and determined that the dates for accepting nominations are set at the discretion of the committee chair. No further action was taken.

- X. Calendar** – President Rachel Shankles announced the following calendar items:
 - a. April 14** - COSLLE Free PD for School LMS – Short book talks 4:00 PM
 - b. April 15** – Budget and Finance Committee Meeting – 10:00 AM
 - c. April 21** – AQuALib Alliance Meeting – 2:00 PM
 - d. April 24-26** -- AAIM LR Conv Center
 - e. May 16** -- AAAL, AAIM and ArLA Advocacy meeting 7:00 PM

The next Executive Board meeting will be June 3, 2022 via Zoom at 9:00 AM.

- XI. Announcements** – Philip Shackelford announced that a Lunch, Learning & Libraries program is being planned for April, though the date has not yet been determined. Look for updates to be sent out soon.

Carol Coffey encouraged everyone to submit program proposals to the Conference Committee.

- XII. Public Comments** – No public comments were made.

- XIII. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Weddle