



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

**In attendance:** Dan Boice, Carol Coffey, Dean Covington, David Eckert, Mindy Farley, Stewart Fuell, Crystal Gates, Jill Heard, Ruth Hyatt, Susie Kirk, Alison Malone, Lavoris Martin, Shenise McGhee, Britt Murphy, Christine Peterson (Amigos), Jessica Riedmueller, Emily Rozario, 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 10:03 AM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence on Zoom. Minutes of the 9/27/2019, 12/06/2019, and notes from the 2/14/2020 Executive Board meetings were made available through Dropbox prior to the meeting. Dan Boice made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Lynn Valetutti. Minutes approved.
- III. **President’s Report** – President Gates has been in contact with ALA Advocacy which was scheduling a tour of the country for ALA President Julius Jefferson. The tour plans are tentative, but conversations are still happening.

Pres. Gates also discussed COVID-19. The State Library has a survey form that asks libraries to report closings, re-openings, changes in services, and other related information.

- IV. **Financial Report** – Lynn Valetutti reported that the Association is seeing a drop in renewals likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is looking into a letter the Association has received from the IRS stating that we owe taxes.
- V. **ALA Councilor’s Report** – ALA Councilor Lacy Wolfe reported that the ALA Annual Conference has been officially canceled. Patty Wong has been elected as the incoming ALA president. A new division of ALA has been created from combining ALCTS, LITA, and LLAMA called Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, and Futures.

ALA has created a [Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit for libraries](#)

**VI. Committee Reports**

Conference – Philip Shackelford proposed that ArLA pivot to a virtual conference for 2020 in light of COVID-19 uncertainties. It is possible that the Association will lose a \$1000 deposit. President Gates asked if the deposit could be rolled over to next year. Philip will check with the convention center.

David Eckert asked if we have the infrastructure to produce a virtual conference. Pres. Gates stated that the Association has a Zoom account that could be used, and that we can gather proposals from companies the professionally produce virtual conferences. We are confident we have the software

capabilities.

Rachel Shankles asked if vendors have been notified. Pres. Gates stated that they have not yet been notified, but we do have plans for sponsorships. Alison Malone stated that a virtual exhibit hall may be possibility to consider.

Britt Murphy stated that Amigos may be able to provide services for a virtual conference. Lynn Valetutti invited Christine Peterson from Amigos to speak. Christine relayed that they have done conferences for other states as well as produced their own member conference. Amigos has a range of abilities and provide as little or as much help as we would like. Britt asked Christine to describe various conferences they have produced. Christine stated that Amigos recently produced an ILL conference for the Texas Library Association. Christine will connect us with the Amigos employee who handles online conferences.

Arkansas Libraries—Britt Murphy, journal editor, informed the board that they are assembling content for the Spring/Summer issue. They are unsure about what volume of content they will have considering the changes that COVID-19 has brought upon people’s schedules. They are considering different ideas for preserving historical memory of the pandemic including written narratives or photo essays. Rachel Shankles suggested that an article from the Governor’s perspective might be interesting.

Bylaws – Janice Weddle reported that the committee has had two Zoom meetings in the time between board meetings. The committee has discovered that they will need to recommend some changes to the new Bylaws. The committee is not yet ready to present a formal draft for the board to vote on. Janice led a discussion about Bylaws changes the committee is considering including:

- Article 5 – Membership Categories
  - Change the terminology of “salaried library employees” to library employees
  - Clear up confusion about an “honorary” member versus an “honorary life member” by removing one category or clarifying the difference.
- Article 7 – Communities of Interest
  - Recommend that a definition of the Community of Interest Council (CIC) be added to the Bylaws and that the structure of the CIC be defined in both the Bylaws and the Handbook.
- Article 10 – Membership Meetings
  - Need to add a mechanism for the membership to petition for a special meeting.

Britt asked if this needs to be voted on by the membership. Janice responded yes, and the committee is working on a draft. David Eckert noted that the vote could take place electronically. Pres. Gates asked if the Bylaws changes can be voted on before the annual meeting. Janice stated that the committee is not prepared to make formal recommendations at this time.

Further discussion about the CIC followed:

- It was established the CIC elects its own chair and vice-chair
- The CIC chair will be represented on the board in some way
- The Bylaws state that the CIC can approve funding
  - It was recommended that this function be removed from the CIC and all funding requests go directly to the Executive Board.

The recommendations will be included in the committee's formal recommended Bylaws changes.

Awards – Nominating forms are going out this month with nominations due by June 30, 2020.

Emerging Leader – Rebecka Virden reported that even though the ALA conference has been moved to a virtual environment, Emerging Leaders will not be affected since most of their work is done virtually anyway. She has asked Tonya Ryals, this year's Emerging Leader, for an update.

Future Conference – No report.

Intellectual Freedom – No report.

### Legislative

1. ALA has just announced that the Annual Conference has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Patricia "Patty" M. Wong, city librarian at Santa Monica (Calif.) Public Library, has been elected 2021–2022 president-elect of the American Library Association (ALA). Wong received 6,718 votes, while her opponent, Steven Yates, assistant director of University of Alabama School of Library and Information Studies, received 2,448 votes.
3. National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) scheduled for May 4 and 5 at Georgetown University Conference Center in Washington, DC.
4. ALA is discussing plan in place for the Virtual Event scheduled as a result of the Annual Conference cancellation

Marketing – Susie Kirk sent info about the conference session submissions to surrounding state library associations. She has posted updates about COVID19 and the deadline change for submissions on social media. She updated the tri-fold ArLA brochure for use at an event.

Membership – Dean Covington reported that he has a plan for changing membership dues but the committee has decided that needs to be put on hold amid COVID-19 uncertainty.

Nominating – No report.

Scholarship – No report.

Strategic Plan – No report.

Web Services – No report.

ArASL – The UCA Media and Literacy Conference scheduled for July 8 & 9 has been canceled so ArASL will not be represented there. Hopefully AAIM will take place July 15,16, & 17 in Hot Springs and we do have an ArASL table there for free. Rachel Shankles purchased a small banner that says "Arkansas Association of School Librarians, a Division of Ark Library Association" that will be taped to the front of the table, and there will be candy on the table. If the ArLA table is next to it as planned, Rachel will not need brochures.

ALPS – Stewart Fuell reported that ALPS has transitioned InfoBits to an online format. It will be held on May 15, 2020.

CULD – No report.

Public Libraries – No report.

RISD – No report.

RTSD – No report.

Two-Year Colleges – No report.

Youth Services – No report.

SELA – The joint conference with Georgia is still happening as planned at this time. Proposals are due May 31, 2020. SELA will hold a virtual centennial celebration.

## **VII. Business Items**

- a. Online Membership Cards – This item was carried over from the February 14 meeting. Wild Apricot can provide online membership cards at no additional cost to the Association. Lacy Wolfe made a motion to approve the inclusion of online membership cards as a benefit of ArLA; seconded by Rachel Shankles. The motion passed.
- b. Electronic vote for Board Meeting Minutes – This item was carried over from the February 14 meeting. Jessica Riedmueller asked that board minutes be approved electronically to facilitate timely publishing of the minutes to the membership. Ron Russ made a motion to approve that future minutes be voted on electronically; seconded by Susie Kirk. The motion passed.
- c. Scholarship Fund Payback – Lynn Valetutti would like to move \$5000 from the checking account in order to payback the scholarship fund. Carol Coffey made a motion to approve moving \$5000 from the ArLA checking account into the scholarship fund; seconded by Rebecka Virden. The motion passed.
- d. 2020 Virtual Conference – Philip Shackelford made a motion to change the ArLA annual conference from a face-to-face conference to a virtual conference; seconded by Lynn Valetutti. The motion passed.
- e. Britt Murphy asked if anyone can use the ArLA Zoom account for Board business, such as Division, Roundtable, and other ArLA related meetings. Lynn Valetutti answered that she can host meetings if someone lets her know when they would like one.
- f. A Pandemic Response Ad-Hoc committee was formed.

**VIII. Announcements** – The next meeting will be held June 12, 2020 currently scheduled at the Laman Library at 10:00 AM.

**IX. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Riedmueller