



**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, June 3, 2022, 9:00 AM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Executive Board in attendance (voting members denoted by *): *Kathleen Ashmore, *Carol Coffey, *Crystal Gates, *Janine Miller, *Emily Rozario, *Ron Russ, *Philip Shackelford, President *Rachel Shankles, *Jennifer Wann, Secretary *Janice Weddle, Amber Wilson

- I. **Call to Order** – President Rachel Shankles called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence on Zoom. Philip Shackelford made a motion to accept the minutes of the 4/8/2022 Executive Board meeting as distributed; seconded by Carol Coffey. Motion carried.
- III. **Consent Agenda** – Consent agenda of information-only reports was distributed prior to the meeting. Crystal Gates made a motion to receive the reports on the consent agenda; seconded by Jennifer Wann. Motion carried.
- IV. **President’s Report** – President Rachel Shankles reported meeting with AAAL, AAIM, and advocacy group. President Shankles has also met with the Conference Committee and with other chairs about their groups. President Shankles has also worked on PR messages with the Marketing Committee.

President Shankles invited a guest to join the Board meeting from Everylibrary.org to discuss what that group might be able to do in terms of helping Arkansas libraries in terms of PR, advocacy, and generating support, especially in terms of the funding and intellectual freedom challenges Arkansas libraries are facing. President Shankles is not asking the Board to approve any funding from ArLA at this time but rather to advise her on continuing the conversation with that group.

Discussion ensued. Comments were made about the effectiveness of Everylibrary.org from those who have worked with them in the past and general concerns about the upcoming legislative sessions. AAAL has spoken with Everylibrary.org as well, but AAAL does not have funds available at this time that could be diverted from the lobbyist AAAL hires. The question was raised about what impact a decision to pay Everylibrary.org might have on ArLA’s budget. Kathleen Ashmore responded that the budget has stabilized compared to previous years, but there are not excess funds available to put towards this effort. The question was also raised about the possibility of switching ArLA’s fundraising efforts during the year to a focus on advocacy, if scholarship funds have been restored and are stable. It was reported that ArLA has not yet fully paid back the scholarship funds. It was also pointed out that Everylibrary.org also works to help libraries fundraise through their global networks. A recommendation was also made to invite Megan Cusick, Assistant Director of State Advocacy in ALA’s Public Policy and Advocacy office, to work with ArLA or speak at a future meeting.

- V. **Everylibrary.org** – John Chrastka from Everylibrary.org joined the meeting and addressed the Board at President Shankles’s invitation. John provided an overview of the organization. There are two parts of the organization, one is a 501(c)3 organization that serves as a think tank studying policy and one is a 501(c)4 that serves as a political action committee. As an organization, Everylibrary.org tries to optimize local goals with any group they are working with. In each of their campaigns, they communicate with the public and ask the public to take some type of action to advocate for libraries. The question of funding was raised again. John Chrastka explained that fundraising options include asking their network of followers to donate, seeking corporate donations, and working with local concerns and advocates to build an effective funding structure that doesn’t require money from the organization itself.
- VI. **Financial Report** – Kathleen Ashmore delivered the financial report. ArLA has \$74,012.37 in Edward Jones and \$88,771.45 in the checking account, \$10,000 of which is scholarship money and \$13,762 of which is LEAF funding. The operating cash balance is \$65,009.45. H&R Block filed ArLA’s taxes. Kathleen has also received the annual report from Edward Jones.
- VII. **ALA Councilor Report** – Crystal Gates is working to arrange a dinner for Arkansas attendees at ALA Annual in Washington, D.C. later in June.
- VIII. **SELA Report** – Emily Rozario delivered the SELA report. The SELA Conference will be held October 11-14, 2022 in Meridian, MS. The deadline for submitting proposals is July 15. The theme for the conference will be “Libraries Uncensored.”
- IX. **Committee Reports**
- a. **Awards Committee** – Quanta Wyatt reported that the committee has received two nominations so far and will be moving the deadline back to July 15. Carol Coffey asked where the call for nominations had been published. It has been on the listserv and social media. Members of the Board suggested a weekly reminder sent out on communication channels would be a good idea to encourage more nominations.
 - b. **Budget & Finance Committee** – Kathleen Ashmore reported that the committee has met a few times and is working to formalize the process for reimbursement. The committee is also prioritizing adding information and instructions to the website to make financial information and processes clearer to members.
 - c. **Bylaws & Handbook Committee** – Janice Weddle reported that the committee has been meeting monthly so far this year and will be presenting proposed revisions to the Bylaws during New Business. A substantive change the committee has proposed is to separate the membership year into two categories, one based on a rolling membership year and one based on the fixed calendar year. This proposal was in response to the potential negative impacts on individual members if a switch from a rolling membership year to a fixed calendar year was made since membership had been a rolling year prior to the implementation of the new Bylaws in 2021.
 - d. **Conference Committee** – Carol Coffey reported that the committee continues to plan and prepare for the conference. They have scheduled two keynote speakers, Stony Evans and Steve Hughes. The committee is working to schedule a third keynote speaker. The author lunch has been scheduled with Sabine Schmidt and Don House, authors of *Remote Access: Small Public Libraries in Arkansas*. There will be two preconferences. The committee requested a grant from

the Arkansas State Library and have received word that the State Library has increased the amount of the grant they provide this year. Jennifer Wann reported that the call for program proposals is still open. They expect to have several high-quality sessions but would like a few more proposals. Registration for the 2022 ArLA Conference is open and will close at the end of September when final numbers must be given to the venue.

- e. **Nominating & Elections Committee** – Philip Shackelford shared the final list of nominees, though not every nominee had accepted as of the meeting. Janice Weddle made a motion to accept the list of nominees as distributed; Janine Miller seconded. Motion carried.
- f. **Membership Committee** – Britt Anne Murphy presented the committee’s proposal to restructure institutional memberships. The proposal is the culmination of several years of research from the Membership Committee under multiple chairs. The committee hopes that this proposal will also help remove barriers and increase potential membership from underrepresented groups in ArLA. The proposed dues structure based on the library’s annual operating budget were presented. Janice Weddle reminded the group that the dues structure would be listed in the Handbook if approved by the full ArLA membership.

The question was raised about how this proposal might impact revenue from individual memberships. Since this would be a new approach, the answer remains unknown but the committee doesn’t anticipate a significant negative impact after consulting the Treasurer. The question was raised about whether this proposal would cut off potential leaders and how members would be identified for succession planning. This proposal makes no changes to ArLA’s existing requirements for leadership positions. Any ArLA member can access the full Membership Directory by logging in to the website to see a full list of current ArLA members. The directory is searchable by name and includes filters to look at members of CIs. The question was raised about how individuals who are members through an institutional membership might be included in the Membership Directory. Currently, institutional members are included in the directory as the institution; individual employees at that institution are not included if they are not individual members. Procedures for handling a list of individual employees at libraries with institutional membership would have to be determined. Discussion ensued about ArLA’s membership fees and membership numbers.

X. CI Reports

- a. **Youth Services CI** – President Shankles reported that the CI resubmitted their bylaws for approval.
- b. **RISci** – Shawna Thorup reported on the 2022 Exchange Day held on May 20, which focused on neurodiversity in the library. The Exchange Day was jointly hosted this year by RISci, MArLA, ALPS, and the Public Libraries & Trustees CI. There were 47 attendees. Feedback from attendees was presented. Questions were raised about ArLA’s budget procedures.

XI. Business Items

- a. **Everylibrary Ad Hoc Committee** – President Shankles made a motion to form an ad hoc committee to explore options for a coalition including ArLA to work with Everylibrary; Ron Russ seconded. The comment was made to make sure that this potential action is a coalition of Arkansas library organizations and not a unilateral action from ArLA, due to concerns about the political perception from any public funding bodies. A friendly amendment to the motion was made to specify a coalition including ArLA and AAAL. Motion carried as amended.

- b. **Records Management Committee Chair** – Philip Shackelford made a motion to approve President Shankles’s appointment of Blake Denton as chair of the Records Management Committee; seconded by Crystal Gates. Motion carried.
- c. **Institutional Memberships** – Motion on behalf of the committee; seconded by Crystal Gates. Motion carried.
- d. **ArLA Bylaws** – Motion on behalf of the committee; seconded by Carol Coffey. Motion carried.
- e. **Youth Services Bylaws** – Motion on behalf of the CI; seconded by Jennifer Wann. Motion carried.

XII. Old Business Items

- a. **Zoom account** – Ron Russ announced that the Zoom account licenses have been purchased and should be available before the next scheduled Board meeting.

XIII. Calendar – President Rachel Shankles announced the following calendar items:

- a. **June 3** – ALPS meeting 10:00 AM
- b. **June 6** – AAAL, AAIM and ArLA Advocacy meeting 7:00 PM
- c. **June 8** – Budget & Finance Committee meeting 10:00 AM
- d. **June 23-28** – ALA Annual in Washington, D.C.
- e. **June 24** – RISci Lunch & Learn 1:00 PM

The next Executive Board meeting will be August 12, 2022 via Zoom at 9:00 AM.

XIV. Announcements – President Shankles congratulated Patty Hector and Saline County Library for being one of the winners of the 2022 PR Xchange award.

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.

Jennifer Wann asked if ArLA has ever created a statewide campaign to celebrate National Library Week. If not, she suggested forming an ad hoc committee to work on that in the future.

Janine Miller announced that the Membership Committee needs more submissions for Member Highlights. A link to the nomination form is available on the website.

XV. Public Comments – Gwen Dobbs asked how to go about submitting materials for the upcoming Libraries Transform campaign to be hosted on the ArLA website. The materials should be sent to Ron Russ and the members of the Web Services Committee.

XVI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Weddle