



Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, October 13, 2023, 1:30 PM
Hot Springs Convention Center
Hot Springs, AR
Virtual via Zoom

Executive Board in attendance (voting members denoted by *): *Kathleen Ashmore, President *Carol Coffey, *Crystal Gates, *Jessica Kirk, *Simone Kirk, *John McGraw, *JP Myrick, Secretary *Jessica Riedmueller, Ron Russ, *Rachel Shankles, *Taylor Vanlandingham, *Jennifer Wann, Amber Wilson

- I. **Call to Order** – President Carol Coffey called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM.
- II. **Roll Call & Minutes** – Attendance was recorded via presence in-person and on Zoom. Minutes of the 8/11/23 Executive Board meeting accepted as distributed.
- III. **Consent Agenda** – Consent agenda of information-only reports was distributed prior to the meeting. Rachel Shankles made a motion to receive the reports on the consent agenda; seconded by Crystal Gates. Motion carried.
- IV. **President’s Report** – President Carol Coffey relayed information from ArLA council Ben Seele regarding Crawford County’s request for reconsideration of parts of the injunction. Judge Brooks denied the request noting that there were several small inaccuracies that were immaterial to the reasoning of his opinion. Defendants have 30 days to decide whether to appeal the injunction. The clock for the 30 days started in September.

President Coffey and Treasurer-Elect Ron Russ worked to bring the prospective new webmaster, DeAnna Dillon, up to speed. The board will need to approve the appointment later in this meeting.

President Coffey spoke with Tess Vrbin from the Arkansas Advocate regarding the general atmosphere around libraries in Arkansas, how it is affecting library workers, and the benefits that ALA brings to Arkansas.

Members of the board received a form email questioning ArLA’s relationship with ALA. At this time, the Association is not responding.

- V. **Financial Report** – Treasurer Kathleen Ashmore delivered the financial report. ArLA has \$103,865.26 in Edward Jones—\$86,978.26 of which is scholarship money and \$16,887 of which is LEAF funding—and \$173,552.99 in the checking account. Balances do not reflect conference invoices or refunds which will go out next week after the conference. The call for budget requests will go out Nov. 1, and the process will be handled by Treasurer-Elect Ron Russ as he prepares to take the role of Treasurer. Updates to the process have gone to the Bylaws and Handbook Committee to be incorporated into the Handbook.

- VI. ALA Councilor Report** – LibLearnX will be in Baltimore from January 19-22, 2024, and ALA will be in San Diego, June 27-July 2, 2024. ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall has stepped down after seeing the association through a tumultuous period through the pandemic, the uptick in challenges to intellectual freedom, and a major restructuring of the association.

The NYPL's Book for All initiative will focus on teen engagement. The program includes a Teen Banned Book Club and a Teen Writing Contest asking, "What does the freedom to read mean to you?" Virtual events and author talks will begin on November 28, 2023.

IFLA will not meet in 2024. The bid to host the conference in Dubai has been withdrawn.

The ALA State Legislative Chairs group has been reactivated in anticipation of the 2024 legislative season.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Conference Committee** – The conference has started and is going well. There are 232 registered attendees, 6 guests, and 16 paid vendors. Thank you to the conference committee.
- b. Nominations and Elections** – The committee prepared and sent out the ballots for voting. Candidate profiles and bylaws changes were published in the journal ahead of the vote. Votes were somewhat low but enough to elect. New elected officers are:
 - i. President Elect** – Lynn Valetutti
 - ii. SELA Rep** – J.P. Myrick
 - iii. Members-at-Large** – Jason Byrd, Amy DeVooght, Shannan Hicks, Lacy WolfeAll bylaws changes passed.
- c. Records Management Committee** – Jean Waldrop announced that the committee was able to reduce Dropbox to 1.4 MB down from 2.25 MB by deleting duplicate files. The committee submitted a draft record retention policy and table. The drafts will be sent to the Bylaws and Handbook Committee for review. The committee suggests several best practices including deleting agendas posting of the official meeting minutes, following naming standards for documents, and reviewing member access.
 - i. Question from the floor** – Are [ArLA's] records subject to FOIA.
 - 1.** No, we are not a public agency and only members can attend meetings.

VIII. Business Items

- a. Webmaster approval** – President Carol Coffey asked for a motion to approve DeAnna Dillon as the new ArLA webmaster. Crystal Gates brought the motion; Jenn Wann seconded. Motion carried.
- b. Taskforce to investigate membership management software** – President Carol Coffey asked for a motion to approve a group to investigate membership management software as an alternative to Wild Apricot. Kathleen Ashmore brought the motion; Jenn Wann seconded. Motion carried.
- c. Removing Agendas from Dropbox** – The Records Management Committee moved that they be authorized to remove meeting agendas in Dropbox for meetings where official minutes have been posted. JP Myrick seconded. Motion carried.

IX. Calendar

- a.** The next Executive Board Meeting will take place via Zoom on November 10, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

X. Announcements – No announcements

XI. Public Comments – No public comment

XII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Riedmueller