

Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Friday, Aug. 2, 2013
Arkansas State Library

***President Miller called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM at the Arkansas State Library. Those present were: Trish Miller-President, Jim Robb-Past President, Jamie Melson-Sec/Treas, Erin Shaw, Daniel Fitzroy, Debbie Hall, Carl Coffey, Cathy Toney, Nicole Stroud, Britt Anne Murphy, Ashley Parker-Graves, Chrissy Karafit, Freddy Hudson, Linda Evans, and Lynda Hampel. Joining us by Adobe Connect or by phone was Hadi Dudley-ALA Councilor, Heather Hays, Anne Gresham, and Daniel Page.

***Reports made by the Divisions, Round Tables, and Committees are included in the addendum.

Executive Administrator Report:

***Trish asked everyone to introduce themselves to Terri Ivy, the Association auditor. And, afterwards, had Lynda Hampel give her administrator's report and then turned it over to Terri to explain the financial report. Terri then proceeded to explain new bookkeeping guidelines and procedures that we need to be following along with new IRS guidelines. The Association is ultimately losing money every year no matter the "profit" that is shown.

***Motion to approve the minutes was made by Debbie Hall, second made by Shya Washington. Motion passed.

***During Trish Miller's President's report and Planning Comm. (ad hoc) report, she created an ad hoc committee for the ALA President Barbara Stripling's mission the Declaration for the Right to Libraries. She asked Hadi Dudley to chair this ad hoc committee since it is an ALA issue/project. Hadi agreed. Trish also asked her to find committee members from around the state to serve on the committee as well as approaching WalMart for their support as requested by Barbara Stripling.

Unfinished Business:

***With Daniel Page on the phone, he was asked the status of the MOA from UNT. It was decided since UNT is now offering a new program/class in the Little Rock area that the MOA was a moot point.

***Daniel was then asked about the Emerging Leaders program since that falls under the Scholarship Committee. It was discovered that the deadline was Aug. 2, today.

We believe one candidate had all the necessary paperwork turned in on time. This program may deserve its own ad hoc committee since it is an ALA sponsored program. It was left on the table for the 2014 President to consider.

New Business:

***Institution Membership Fee---This was not ready to be presented to the Board since this would involve writing up another change to the Bylaws in the Membership Dues. As a fix to the problem since most institutions are only wanting the journal, Debbie Hall moved to create a \$75 institutional subscription fee for the journal. Chrissy Karafit made the second. Motion passed.

***With discussion of the journal came a question of individual replacement cost. Ashley Parker Graves moved to change the individual journal cost to \$25. Carol Coffey made the second. Motion passed.

***Britt Anne Murphy reported that the editor's laptop had died again. She thinks her husband can fix it again but Debbie Hall moved to buy a new laptop for the journal editor, if needed. Nicole Stroud made the second. Motion passed. Britt Anne will bring back price estimates if a new one is needed after her husband looks over the old one to see if it can be repaired.

***Jamie Melson presented a Bylaws change for Reimbursement while a travel policy is being drawn up for the manual. The Bylaws and Manual are in slight conflict of each other. They both currently state:

Bylaws

Article V.

Payment of Expenses

Travel expenses shall be dealt with as follows: Maximum amounts for reimbursement shall be determined by the Executive Board. Receipts for transportation, meals, and lodging shall be submitted to the Executive Administrator for reimbursement after approval by the President.

Manual

Conditions for reimbursement:

Officers, committee members, and representatives will be reimbursed as spelled out in Association Bylaws,

Article V. Persons requesting reimbursement are asked to use expense form and submit business-like records.

Proposed merger of the two:

“Payment of Expenses

Travel expenses shall be dealt with as follows: Maximum amounts for reimbursement shall be determined by the Executive Board. Using procedures described in the Arkansas Library Association Manual, receipts for travel expenses shall be submitted to the Executive Administrator for reimbursement after approval by the President.”

Motion was made by Nicole Stroud to accept this as written with a second made by Jim Robb. Motion passed. This issue will be included on the ballot for the entire membership to vote on at the conference.

Other items that were to be presented at this meeting were not quite ready due to the Constitution Comm. chair being ill. Those items will be made ready in time for the Board to review and vote on them by email in the 60 day window as required.

The ALPS bylaws were not voted on by the Constitution Comm. and, therefore, not presented to the Board for the same reason, illness. We did not feel it would be fair to ALPS when their bylaws had not been fully discussed by the committee. The Constitution Comm. would like to meet with their executive officers and bylaws comm. at a later date to review them.

***The next Board meeting will be at the annual conference in Hot Springs from 7-9 PM on Sunday night, Oct. 30.

***Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Note: All Division, Roundtable, and Committee reports are included as an addendum to the minutes for informational purposes. These reports do not require a vote from the Board, but were submitted and/or discussed during the ArLA meeting held on Aug. 2, 2013. Any Division, Roundtable, and Committee information omitted in this addendum did not submit a report for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Melson
Secretary/Treasurer

**Arkansas Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
August 2, 2013
Arkansas State Library, Little Rock, AR**

Addendum to Minutes: Reports

Note: All Division, Roundtable, and Committee reports are included as an addendum to the minutes for informational purposes. These reports do not require a vote from the Board, but were submitted and/or discussed during the ArLA Board meeting, Aug. 2, 2013. Any Division, Roundtable, and Committee information omitted in this addendum did not submit a report for the meeting.

President's Report: Trish Miller

In April I received a resignation letter from President Elect, Holly Mercer. Due to time constraints the Executive Board made electronic nominations. Website Chair Jon Goodell created a voting poll where Devona Pendergrass received the most votes for the position to take place immediately. An electronic screenshot of the results are on file at the Association office. We had to work hard to get everything done in order and on time. Whitney and Britt were kind enough to give us up until the last minute for the journal article.

I'd like to thank ALPS Chair Shya Washington and ArASL Erin Shaw for their invitation to attend their conferences this year. It was an honor and pleasure to speak on behalf of the Association. The ALA Conference was quite an experience. It was work and a lot of exercise getting from one place to another due to the size of the conference. Over 20,000 people were in attendance. ALA Councilor meetings were the most informative in regards to ALA and our Association. I was very impressed with the way the meetings were conducted and of the representation by our ALA Councilor Hadi Dudley. The best program session I attended was the ACRL's Division program, "Standing on Marbles: Ensuring Steady Leadership in Unsteady Times" with Karol M. Wasylyshyn. This program could easily be expanded for a one day workshop. The auditorium speaker list was outstanding. It was difficult to choose which ones to attend. I'd have to say hearing Alice Walker speak and getting to meet her was one of my highlights. Also, congratulations to Devona Pendergrass who was elected SPVS Representative to the AASL Board of Directors at the ALA conference. I was unable to attend the CULD Unconference (sponsored by ArLA's Information Technology Roundtable) at CALS. However, I heard it went well.

Lynda and I will be working with Nicole on the upcoming conference. I'm hoping we can have a conference meeting prior to the conference. I'd like to ask our Chairs and or their committee members to offer help during the conference. Please get with Nicole if you are willing to help. We are looking forward to a great conference.

Bob Razer informed us Leaf had sent a check for \$1000.00 to Nancy Arn for aid to help with the Strong Library disaster. I'd like to thank everyone who worked on the new brochure. It was done in time for the A.A.I.M., ALPS, and ArASL conferences.

Reminders:

1. Please send me your goal or goals you have accomplished this year. I'd like to have them by August 31st.
2. We need volunteers to sit at our ArLA booth. Lynda will pass around a sign up sheet.
3. Bob Razer will be in charge of baskets this year. Let Bob know if your Division and/or Round Table will be donating a basket so he can plan for tables.

ALA Councilor: Hadi Dudley

ALA Councilor Hadi Dudley reported on recent ArLA activities. On June 6th, she attended the American Library Association (ALA) 2013 Virtual Membership meeting via webinar.

Dudley attended the ALA 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, June 28-July 2. During the conference she attended all required and recommended sessions for Councilors. Dudley presented a Resolution Reaffirming ALA's Commitment to Basic Literacy, which Council passed. On behalf of the ArLA Board, she endorsed Stripling's Declaration for Libraries. Dudley was elected by fellow Councilors to serve a two-year term on the Planning and Budget Assembly. During Council sessions, many action items were debated at length and required standing vote counts. Dudley organized a dinner for Arkansas conference attendees at The Italian Village and 24 people attended. More details about national conference are available in the appendix to the Minutes.

Recently, Dudley prepared an article for the fall edition of the *Arkansas Libraries* journal about ALA Conference. Dudley also submitted ArLA's 2013 State of the Chapter survey, a required report for the American Library Association.

2013 ALA Annual Conference Report

The 2013 American Library Association Annual (ALA) Conference was held in Chicago, IL on June 27-July 2. The theme was "Transforming libraries, engaging communities" and 26,362 attendees learned at sessions, attended meetings, visited exhibits and networked with colleagues.

Keynote speakers included Giada De Laurentiis, Alice Walker and Ann Patchett. Additionally, several other notable authors were featured and autographed books for participants such as Khaled Hosseini, Oliver Stone, Peter Kuznick and Jaron Lanier. The closing general session featured Octavia Spencer chatting with 2013-2014 ALA President Barbara Stripling. For more information, see the "annual conference wrap-up" featured in the July/August 2013 *American Libraries* magazine.

As the Arkansas Library Association (ArLA) Chapter Councilor, I attended nine different meetings, sessions and forums. During council sessions, I voted on "hot topic" issues. Additionally, I was elected by council to serve on the Planning and Budget Assembly for

the next two years. I also presented a resolution to council reaffirming ALA's commitment to basic literacy; the resolution originated in the ALA Committee on Literacy. The resolution passed!

Membership Meeting

During the ALA membership meeting, we heard reports from 2012-2013 President Maureen Sullivan, 2013-2014 President-Elect Barbara Stripling and Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels. Of great interest was Stripling's discussion of her planned presidential initiative, "Libraries Transform Lives." This Declaration for the Right to Libraries focuses on three issues: Literacy, Innovation and Community Engagement.

The initiative launches in July with planned events at school libraries and a full media campaign this October in recognition of School Library Week. Libraries of all types will be encouraged to participate in this program by hosting signing celebrations across the United States. The act of physically signing is meaningful and will be important to this program, but digital promotion and electronic signatures will also be incorporated into ALA marketing opportunities. In the spring of 2014, signatures will be "presented at a national summit and ceremony."

According to Stripling, "We are an ecosystem of libraries" and this initiative will be a "vibrant system" of "all libraries working together." Her hope for this campaign is to engage "active voices in support of all libraries." ArLA is forming an ad hoc committee to communicate and coordinate state efforts, so watch for details as we bring this advocacy tool to Arkansas libraries. Refer to the conclusion of this report for a copy of the "Declaration for the Right to Libraries."

At the end of the membership meeting we learned more about the 2012-2013 Special Presidential Task Force on School Libraries. The mission of this group is to "lead a campaign addressing the urgent need for advocacy for school libraries, as well as the impact of the de-professionalization and curtailment of school library instructional programs on students and student achievement."

According to ALA Executive Director Fiels, saving our school libraries and staff is the "battle of our lifetime" and "we must prevail." Fiels proclaimed that "generations of students" depend on cooperative efforts and significant advocacy. Since conference, the National Education Association (NEA) unanimously voted to support school libraries. According to a media release from the American Library Association of School Librarians (AASL), the NEA will assist the AASL with "public support" for its "lobbying efforts with regard to the Strengthening America's School Act."

Council I

A video address from President Barack Obama was presented at the beginning of the Council I session. The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is a federal partner with Medicaid / Medicare to promote the Affordable Care Act. The October 1 launch will be an opportunity for libraries across the United States to provide access to

government information at www.healthcare.gov. According to President Obama, this act provides for quality insurance, allowing every American access to affordable healthcare.

During council meetings, several resolutions were presented with various outcomes. This report briefly outlines a few resolutions that may be of interest. The Declaration for the Right to Libraries resolution passed unanimously. A resolution supporting Edward Snowden as a whistleblower passed by a large margin. Discussion from the floor focused on the National Security Agency (NSA) and protecting library patrons' right to privacy and confidentiality.

Council II

Several committee reports were made during this meeting. The Freedom to Read Foundation encouraged people to join the organization at www.frtrf.org. New Business featured additional resolutions for council consideration.

A resolution recognizing library services to communities in disasters passed with tremendous support. A resolution on divestment in holdings in fossil fuel companies was narrowly defeated by a standing vote count. This resolution was rewritten from the ALA Midwinter Conference.

A resolution on prayer in ALA meetings narrowly passed and required a standing vote count. The resolution was described as a clarification of current policy and states that ALA "refrains from having public prayer during its meetings." This statement reflects our secular, professional institution which represents our membership that is "increasingly diverse religiously." The resolution recognizes that "moments of silence may be observed during meetings."

The Snowden resolution that passed during Council I was reconsidered with a motion to refer it to the Committee on Legislation and Intellectual Freedom Committee. The reconsideration and referral generated additional discussion by councilors. Recognizing that privacy is a deeply held value and a resolution addressing government transparency should involve a more deliberative and policy-driven resolution. ALA's action should be timely, but should also be comprehensive to allow for longevity.

Council III

The meeting began with memorials, tributes and testimonials. The ALA Treasurer Jim Neal presented the FY2014 income estimates and budgetary ceiling which was approved by council. Like many libraries and associations across the country, ALA is experiencing budget challenges. ALA is actively seeking opportunities to continue quality operations with fewer resources. According to the ALA Treasurer's report, "massive changes" in the publishing industry have negatively impacted anticipated revenue from publications. ALA is committed to focusing resources on strategic priorities and continues to reduce expenditures for a balanced budget. Personnel vacancies are intentionally unfilled, approved salary increases have not been implemented and administrative staff have taken voluntary pay cuts. ALA's "member

value and engagement” are the “highest priority.” Membership dues and conference registration are the largest income generators for the association.

The Committee on Legislature presented its report and discussed new advocacy resources at www.ala.org/liberty. Specialized materials covering liberty, privacy and surveillance are featured through useful toolkits. The Civic Engagement materials offer guides for libraries hosting forums and moderated discussions in conjunction with Choose Privacy Week. The Privacy Toolkit features policies and procedures for libraries, as well as marketing materials and legislative advocacy. Links to related issues and legislation provide other avenues for ALA members to get involved.

The Committee on Legislature also presented a resolution to replace the Snowden resolution. According to their report, ALA “cannot know all the implications and facts surrounding the people who have released classified information...; however, we can make a difference by working to reform the laws and practices surrounding surveillance and open government issues.” The resolution was “written to sustain the test of time; mentioning individuals,... is not an appropriate approach....” With this justification in mind, the major tenants of the resolution are listed below.

The resolution on the need for reforms for the intelligence community to support privacy, open government, government transparency, and accountability resolves that the American Library Association:

- “Calls upon the US Congress, President Obama, and the Courts to reform our nation’s climate of secrecy, overclassification, and secret law regarding national security and surveillance;”
- “Urges US Congress and President Obama to provide authentic protections that prevent government intimidation and criminal prosecution of government employees and private contractors who make disclosures of wrong doing in the intelligence community;”
- “Calls upon the public to engage in and our members to lead public dialogues discussing the right to privacy, open government and balancing civil liberties and national security;”
- “Encourages the public to support bills ... that both secure and protect our rights to privacy, free expression ... and promote a more open, transparent government;...”

Councilors who supported the revised resolution believed the document was a better example of ALA policies. The compelling content identified problems and solutions in an appropriate manner. The key principles of concern are addressed in a platform that allows forward movement. Councilors who opposed the revised resolution were critical of the process, skeptical of motives and did not want to set a standard for reconsidering prior resolutions. Councilors again participated in a standing vote count for narrow passage of the revised resolution.

I personally think the reconsidered and revised “resolution on the need for reforms for the intelligence community to support privacy, open government, government transparency, and accountability” was a stronger statement than the “resolution in support of whistleblower Edward Snowden.” The improved resolution was

comprehensive and steeped in ALA core values: privacy, open access and freedom in our civil liberties. I believe it will serve the association's legislative lobbying efforts, now and in the future.

ALA council documents, including full text of the resolutions discussed in this report, are posted on the website at <http://www.ala.org/aboutala/node/567>.

Arkansas Dinner in Chicago

On Sunday evening, June 30, a group of 23 Arkansas folks gathered to visit and enjoyed delicious Italian cuisine at The Village. Attendees: Jennifer Ballard, Cassandra Barnett, Carol Coffey, Connie Cook, Dean Covington, Hadi Dudley, Sarah Ernst, Willow Fitzgibbon, Karen Goodkin-Xiang, Sarah Gowdy, Ashley Graves, Brandi Holt, David Johnson, Donna McDonald, Jamie Melson, Trish Miller, Britt Ann Murphy, Helen Claire Murphy, Matthew Murphy, Paul Murphy, Devona Pendergrass, Marcia Ransom and Mike Sawyer.

Conclusion

A few weeks later now, it's interesting to reflect on council actions, reconsiderations and resolution "do-overs." Some councilors may abstain from voting on particular issues. Unless there is a clear professional conflict of interest, I will vote on every issue. The democratic nature of the American Library Association requires a vote. Even if the vote is to reconsider a prior decision, it's important to exercise this responsibility. My voting method: careful consideration for the given facts, reasonableness and a willingness to change my mind.

ArASL Division: Erin Shaw

ALPS Division: Shya Washington

*Since our last ArLA meeting ALPS had its annual spring conference, Roaring Through the 20's with ALPS, at the Arlington Hotel. We had 124 attendees, 35 first time attendees. We were able to give Conference Awards to three first time attendees. Conference was a success. Face to Face Communications did a phenomenal job as our keynote and all the other presenters were remarkable as well, the Gangster Museum, Roundtables and Speakeasy were also highlights of the conference.

*ALPS is currently accepting nominations for the positions of Chair-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary. If you know of anyone or would like to nominate anyone please do so. The form and all the information is on ALPS' web page or you may contact Latonya Jones at Jonesboro Public Library. Have until August 15th.

*Meeting dates have been changed for the remainder of the year. Several attendees at our July meeting were concerned with the travel, especially with budgets tightening. Our September meeting will be at UAPB and our November meeting and InfoBits will coincide at Garland County Library on November 15th.

*ALPS' Bylaw Committee made some revisions to its Bylaws. We finally came to an agreement on wording and the changes have been passed on to Devonna and ArLA's Constitution Committee.

*Currently working on InfoBits and once our last presenter confirms, we will get brochures and registration information mailed out. We are leaning towards a "How Safe is Your Library" theme.

*We have four new faces to our list of Regional Representatives: Tracy Foster (UALR), Lisa Holiman (Saline County Library), Amber Thomas (Garland County) and Kim Carpenter (SAU Tech).

*Conference 2014 will be at the Holiday Inn Airport Conference Center, Little Rock. The theme is "ALPS Planting New Ideas & Cultivating Change," May 12-14, 2014.

CULD Division: Linda Evans

CULD held its spring business meeting at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, AR, on the 19th of April 2013. Britt Anne Murphy and Daniel Fitzroy presented the 2013 Arkansas Academic Librarians Survey. Discussion followed on:

- o Survey has broadened to focus on libraries and not just librarians
- o 90% response rate; Daniel will email library directors the data from the survey (including overview and the full Excel spreadsheet)
- o The future of the survey involves analyzing trends over time
- o Looking for additional people to be on the survey committee; if interested, contact Britt or Daniel

Ideas for 2013 ARLA Conference programs, sponsored by CULD, were discussed and the 2014 spring meeting will be held at University of Arkansas Fort Smith.

Reports were given by members who had attended the ACRL conference in Indianapolis.

- o Henderson State University poster "Having Fun with ERM: How we got our staff to buy-in and (almost) enjoy it" (Dan Fitzroy)
- o Lacy Wolfe shared about attending instruction sessions

- o Jeff Bailey shared about attending instructions sessions and university-wide initiative to implement iPads campus-wide at ASU Jonesboro

A special thanks to Bob Razer and LEAF for co-sponsoring with Ark-Link, a hearing impaired interpreter for this meeting.

Public Libraries & Trustees Division: Anne Gresham

Reference & Instruction Services Division: Michael Strickland

I have met with Sally Hawkes to make arrangements for her presentation at the ArLA Conference sponsored by the Reference Roundtable. Hawkes will be demonstrating how searching for resources using the Traveler databases are often more reliable and authoritative than using Google.

Government Documents Round Table: Kathy Seymour

\$40 from our Roundtable funds was paid for registration fees for a booth at the Arkansas Genealogical Society Fall Conference. Frances Hager and Karen Russ will be promoting the use of government publications in family history research at this conference which will be held Sept. 20-21 in North Little Rock.

On July 30th, Karen Russ and Kathy Seymour gave a presentation to the Arkansas Association of School Librarians Conference on the U.S. Government kids web portal, kids.gov. Kathy also presented a few items related to State Government Arkansas Secretary of State kids page.

We will be working on our auction basket in September.

Information Technology Round Table: Carol Coffey

The 2013 Collaboration unConference took place on Friday, June 14 at CALS. There were about 32 in attendance total. Ebooks and digital content were the major topic of discussion. We also talked about digital repositories, training, and management issues.

New Members Round Table: Jim Robb

It was reported that we have 63 new members compared to 43 this time last year. Welcome email going out to new members each quarter.

Awards Committee: Cathy Toney

I have sent out requests for nominations through email 3 different times. The nominations continue until August 31, 2013. The committee will receive the nominations

on September 3 and have a week to read and vote. I will send Trish and Lynda the names of the winners before September 19.

Conference Committee: Nicole Stroud

General Session/ Keynote Speakers:

- Maureen Sullivan, ALA Past President
- Joe Raiola, Senior Editor of MAD Magazine
- Pam Sandlian-Smith, Director of the Rangview Library District (CO), the "Anythink Libraries"
- Dave Ehlert, of Branson Superstars, scheduled to do a Mark Twain performance

Breakout Sessions:

- All breakout session slots are filled and speakers have been given confirmations. A draft session schedule is available on the ArLA website.
- Some highlights:
 - Dorothy Ormes (Hannon Library, Southern Oregon University)
Moby Dick or Moby Jane: government e-resources to stimulate critical thinking
 - Nancy Bolt (Former Project Co-Director of Library Support Staff Certification Program)
A New Career Path for Support Staff: The Library Support Staff Certification Program
 - Christie Koontz (FL State University)
iMap Libraries: Geographic Market Determination for Optimizing Services to Potential and Diverse Customer Markets
 - Judy Casey (Rogers Public Library)
PLA's EDGE technology initiative in Arkansas.
 - ArLA Intellectual Freedom committee
Breakout panel with Joe Raiola
 - Ben Bizzle (Jonesboro Public Library)
John Cotton Dana award panel
- There are at least 6 breakout sessions geared toward school librarians. With the conference starting Saturday this year, school librarians / media center specialists who need to be back at school on Monday will still have the opportunity to attend the conference on Saturday/Sunday.

Seeking Conference Ambassadors

- We seek conference "ambassadors" to facilitate breakout sessions. Ambassadors can sign up for breakout sessions they already plan to attend. These volunteers will make sure session speakers are present, contact conference staff if there are technical difficulties or other problems, make sure water is available for speakers, and help answer any questions speakers or attendees may have.

Seeking Vendors

- Vendors have been slow to register this year. We are asking board members and others to reach out to vendors with whom they have personal relationships, and encourage them to attend this year's conference. There are several major events

planned in the exhibit hall this year, guaranteeing lots of traffic. Events include: opening reception (Sunday), lunch with musical entertainment (Monday), vendor bingo with an exciting grand prize drawing (Monday), our yearly basket auction (Sun/Mon), and at least one book signing (Sun/Mon).

Constitution Committee: Devona Pendergrass

The committee will send the proposed changes to President Miller so she can send them to the Executive Board for review, revision and/or other changes that need to be made. (Footnote: Constitution & Bylaws changes were sent out to the Executive Board on the Aug. 7 deadline for review and a vote. This will be officially reported on at the October Executive Board Meeting.)

Intellectual Freedom Committee: Freddy Hudson

We decided to wait until August to begin preparation for our breakout session at the ArLA Conference. Also, I attended an Intellectual Freedom webinar and shared my notes with the committee members.

Legislative Committee: Heather Hays

I was fortunate to attend ALA's National Library Legislative Day (NLLD) on May 7-8, 2013. I was accompanied by Carolyn Ashcraft, State Librarian; Donna MacDonald, Director of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System; and Leisha Callan, former Library Board member. We joined over 350 librarians and other supporters to meet with legislators.

Tuesday morning we attended briefing meetings, focusing on:

- the importance of funding the Library Services and Technology Act
- libraries and the eBook marketplace
- public access to tax payer funded research
- support for the E-rate discount program that benefits libraries in every state
- a presentation from Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, whose research indicates that parents feel that libraries are very important because they foster a love of reading in their children

After the briefing meetings many of us proceeded to appointments with our representatives.

We met with Senators Mark Pryor and John Boozman, and Representatives Steve Womack, Tim Griffin, Tom Cotton, and Eric Crawford. We felt our visits were very productive and the Senators, Representatives and their staffers asked good questions. We presented each office with a folder of important Arkansas library information and pointed out facts relevant to each district.

The American Library Association D.C. office held a reception from 5:30 – 7:30 on Tuesday evening in the Hart Senate Office Building, which had lovely view of the Capitol Dome and a good atmosphere to socialize. The reception was very well attended and we were pleased that Senator Boozman took the time out of his busy schedule to attend this reception.

While we were in DC Carolyn Ashcraft was invited to a very special meeting. She was kind enough to write this report to share her experience:

“At the invitation of Susan Hildreth, Director of IMLS, I joined a group of representatives from the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA), Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the American Library Association (ALA) on Tuesday, May 7, from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Indian Treaty Room of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House grounds, where we participated in a dialogue with White House staff from the Office of Public Engagement and the Domestic Policy Council about the roles of U.S. public libraries in several key policy areas – early learning, immigration, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and health care (Affordable Health Care Act enrollment).

This was a very informative and educational experience and I definitely enjoyed the opportunity to hear the presentations on the creative programs that libraries are providing in delivering access to government information. It was apparent that the White House advisors recognized libraries are a trusted, effective information delivery system that is in place in more than 17,000 communities in the U.S. and have an important role as ‘community centers.’ “

This event was an amazing opportunity and I would like to thank the Board for allowing me to attend for my second year in a row. I am honored to be a part of something so important to libraries and librarians.

Managing Editor-Arkansas Libraries: Whitney Ivy

The laptop has died again, and I would like for Britt's husband to be able to fix it again. (Action was taken in the Board minutes.)

Membership Committee: Jim Robb

Total membership is currently 469, membership last year at this time was 481.

Nominating Committee: Devona Pendergrass

The nominating committee sent out notices via our ArLA list serve as well as other electronic resources and we have secured nominees for the 2013 election. All candidates have agreed to run for office.

President Elect to fill unexpired term: Devona Pendergrass

President/President Elect: Mike Sawyer (Jefferson County Regional Library System)

Dr. Jud Copeland (UCA)

Candidates and their bios will be placed on the ArLA web site for absentee voting no later than August 9th. All absentee ballots must be postmarked by September 10, 2013.

Planning Committee (ad hoc): Trish Miller

Jamie and I visited briefly with ALA President, Barbara Stripling at the ALA Annual conference in July. Barbara said she really wanted to get Walmart on board with the ALA's *Declaration for the Right to Libraries*. We told her she had our support. Upon returning I reached out to our ALA Councilor, Hadi Dudley who agreed to Chair the Ad Hoc Committee. Hadi will remain as Chair of this committee until the project is complete. The committee would then automatically dissolve.

As President, I would suggest having three to five people on the ALA Declaration Committee to cover the East, West, North, South, and Central areas of the state. A report can be given at the Annual business meeting in October on the roll out of the project.

Publications Committee: Chrissy Karafit

The publications committee is discussing the pricing for institutional subscriptions to the Arkansas Libraries Journal and the pricing for ads within the journal. Chrissy is investigating institutional subscription pricing and ad pricing for library journals in surrounding states. When we reach a consensus on pricing, we will present our recommendation to the ArLA board for a vote.

Scholarship Committee: Daniel Page

UNT Scholarship Program

Website Committee: Jon Goodell

Several pages have been updated including the 2013 Annual Conference, Constitution, Organization, Jobline, News & Events, and others.

Please send website updates to jgoodell@uams.edu