

# Florida Library Association Board Meeting

## Minutes

February 18, 2019, 2:00 p.m., Tallahassee, FL

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

(VM=Voting Member)

#### FLA Staff:

Lisa O'Donnell, Executive Director

Karen Layton, Membership/Events Manager

#### Voting Members:

Sarah J. Hammill, President (VM)

Eric Head, Vice President, President Elect (VM)

Donna Vazquez, Treasurer (VM)

Tina Neville, Secretary (VM)

Jorge Perez, Region 1 Director (VM)

Matt Selby, Region 2 Director (VM)

Phyllis Gorshe, Region 4 Director (VM) (via phone)

Heather Sostrom, Region 5 Director (VM)

Renaine Julian, Region 6 Director (VM)

#### Non-voting Members:

Amy Johnson, State Library of Florida

#### Guests:

Kathi Kromer, ALA Washington Office

Sandy Newell

Charlie Parker

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Robin Shader, Past President (VM)

Anne Marie Casey, Region 3 Director (VM)

Sara Gonzalez, ALA Councilor (VM)

### **1. Quorum and Agenda Review**

- A. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Sarah Hammill at 2:00 p.m.
- B. Establishment of quorum: Secretary Tina Neville confirmed that a quorum was present.

### **2. President's remarks (Sarah Hammill)**

- Sarah reviewed the new officers and Board of Directors for FLA 2019:
  - President: Eric Head
  - Vice President/President Elect: Laura Spears

- Secretary: Sarah Divine
- Treasurer: Donna Vazquez
- Region 1 Director: Ava Brillat
- Region 2 Director: Matt Selby
- Region 3 Director: Christine Patten
- Region 4 Director: Cheryl Wolfe
- Region 5 Director: Heather Sostrom
- Region 6 Director: Renaine Julian
- Sarah offered her thanks to Renaine, the librarians at FSU, and the staff of the FSU I-School for their work and sponsorship of the tour and reception.
- Another thank you to the FLA staff for the wonderful organization of the 2-day Library Day events
- FSU and USF LIS students will be joining Florida librarians for Library Day. The students have been paired with mentors.

### 3. Consent Agenda

The minutes of January 19, 2019, the Executive Director's report, and the Membership report were combined for consent agenda approval. Eric moved to accept the consent agenda as submitted. Renaine seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

### 4. Financial report (Donna Vazquez)

- Donna presented the financial report as of January 31, 2019. 80% of the membership dues have been collected. 48% of the budget has been collected and 5% of the budget has been expended. The balance sheet indicates that both the reserves and the operating budget are in great shape.
- Tina moved to approve the financial report. Jorge seconded. No additional discussion. Motion passed.

### 5. Business (New/Old)

#### A. Guest Speaker presentation (Kathi Kromer, ALA Washington Office)

- Ms. Kromer reported on legislative events at the federal level. On the positive side, five bills relating to libraries were signed into law last year and IMLS was funded.
- ALA is narrowing their focus. They are looking for a strong pipeline of advocates and champions on the hill.
- The office has issued tools to help with year-round advocacy, including updates to the advocacy website, a Congressional calendar, and new videos including one on media advocacy. Feel free to send additional ideas or tools. Librarians are encouraged to customize the tools to their local area. Sample handouts were distributed to board members.
- An early version of the budget is expected in early March. The ALA office encourages widespread participation—we need both quality and quantity in messaging to the legislators.
- Next week there will be a focused fly-in to meet with key people in DC. Lisa and Sarah will be representing Florida.

- There are lots of important issues expected this year including more on net neutrality, continued funding for IMLS and LTSA, issues relating to higher education, and possibly some copyright issues.
- B. Hurricane Michael relief efforts (Sarah J. Hammill)
- More than \$6000 was raised. A task force was created to develop a formula to disburse the funds. Three libraries applied for funding (Gadsden County, Calhoun County and Parker Library/Bay County) and all three will receive funds.
- C. Investing in Strategic Planning and Certification (Sarah J. Hammill)
- Sarah commented that it is time to start thinking about the new strategic plan. In addition, a group continues to work on the paraprofessional certification program that should bring in some new funding. Lisa and Sarah are beginning discussions on hiring experts that can help with both of these strategic initiatives.

## 6. Committee Reports

- Awards (Tina Neville)
  - The awards nomination deadline was extended to February 15 because of the small number of submissions. The final number of submissions was not available at the time of the board meeting.
- Advocacy & Legislative (Eric Head)
  - Eric commended Lisa and the FLA team for their work on Library Day. The materials are great, there are lots of activities planned, and there are at least 24 confirmed appointments with legislators. Having the LIS students present will have a tremendous impact. Even if you don't have a confirmed appointment for tomorrow, knock on the door of your legislators and give the staff a Library Day packet. Legislators become more aware of library issues through these materials and thank you letters. Library Day t-shirts were distributed and board members were encouraged to wear them.
  - Lisa provided a heads up on a bill HB855 that was filed last Friday which deals with instructional materials. FAME and Gray Robinson are aware of it.
- Conference Committee (Karen Layton)
  - The conference registration site has been launched and 76 people have registered so far.
  - All of the major sponsorships have been filled.
  - Sarah encouraged everyone to sign up for laughter yoga.
- Continuing Education (Matt Selby)
  - The committee sponsored a webinar last week.
  - 42 poster proposals were submitted and the committee has voted on them.
  - Conversations that Matter will be a panel session on diversity.
- Finance Committee
  - See above
- Public Library Standards Certification (Phyllis Gorshe)
  - The committee will be meeting next week. They are researching ways to update the standards compared to other states and are making sure that the standards are obtainable for small and rural libraries.
- Fundraising Committee (Sarah for Donna Vazquez)

- Working on the silent auction.
- HR Committee (Eric Head)
  - Election results were announced at the beginning of the meeting
- Intellectual Freedom (Renaine Julian)
  - They are watching the few bills that they have heard about so far. The committee has only met once with minimal attendance.
- Leadership Development (Sarah Hammill)
  - Reminder that the One Book One State is “The Thing.” There will be a discussion at conference.
  - The committee has been collaborating with SEFLIN on their Outside the Box speaker series. There will be a program on civility on February 26<sup>th</sup> and they are hoping to have additional speakers throughout the state.
- Library Career Development (Heather Sostrom)
  - The committee is working on the conference career and mentorship programs.
- Membership & Marketing Committee (Heather Sostrom)
  - The committee continues to work on updating the Face of Florida campaign.
  - They have contacted lapsed members about renewal.
- Planning no report
- Scholarship (Jorge Perez)
  - Silent auction items are beginning to come in.
  - The committee has selected 3 scholarship winners:
    - FSU: Deanna Evans
    - Bernadette Stork USF: Bridget Bihm-Manuel
    - Minority: Karen Paola Garcia
  - Tina moved to approve the scholarship candidates. Eric seconded. No additional discussion. Motion approved.

**7. Regional director reports**      none

**8. Other Reports**      none

State Library (Amy Johnson)

- The State Library staff are excited about sponsoring the opening session at conference
- There is lots of activity at the Capital right now and they are looking forward to Library Day.
- The initial Governor’s budget is not particularly strong for libraries but there is still time to educate them about our role in disaster relief, youth literacy, etc. It is very important to tell our story this year with the new legislators. There will be a lot of competition for funding this year and there are several construction requests as well as the hope that the career online high school will receive additional funding.
- Please join the State Library staff at the RA Gray Building tomorrow and also visit the 7<sup>th</sup> floor Capitol branch.

**9. Announcements/Member Comments**

- Jorge expressed concern over the recent trend towards small government which could reduce funding for libraries. Everyone needs to be aware of all of the legislative actions that can affect librarians even those that may not be so obvious on the survey. There is a need for advocacy and remaining proactive.
- Phyllis attended the FAME meeting earlier this month. It was very interesting to see the similarities and differences between the two organizations.

#### **10. Executive Session**

#### **11. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Next regularly scheduled Board meeting is March 15, 2019, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**