



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
WYOMING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022; 4:00 PM  
ZOOM

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85163435682?pwd=eXplM2h3ODFkdjFBREpYNjR1RjFhZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 6343 5682

Passcode: 077698

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
  - a. President – Conrado Saldivar
  - b. Vice President – <vacant>
  - c. Past President – Katrina Brown
  - d. ALA Councilor – Lisa Scroggins
  - e. MPLA Representative – Judi Boyce
  - f. Interest Group Representative – Johanna Tuttle
  - g. Member-at-Large – Michelle Boule
  - h. Member-at-Large – Susan Parkins
  - i. WLLI Advisor – Elaine Hayes
  - j. Conference Committee Chair (ex officio) – Elizabeth Albin
  - k. Legislative Committee Chair (ex officio) – Caitlin White
  - l. Communications Advisor (ex officio) – Elizabeth Thorson
  - m. Library Management Group (ex officio) – Kristin Evans (Amigos)
  - n. State Librarian (ex officio) – Jamie Markus, State Librarian
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes for January 11, 2022
4. Reports
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Past President
  - d. Amigos
  - e. ALA Councilor
  - f. MPLA Representative
  - g. Interest Group Representative
  - h. Member-at-Large
  - i. Member-at-Large
  - j. WLLI Advisor
  - k. Conference Committee Chair
  - l. Legislative Committee Chair
  - m. Awards/Grants Committee Chair
  - n. Communications Advisor
  - o. Membership Ad-hoc Committee

- p. EDI Ad-hoc Committee
- q. State Librarian
- r. Intellectual Freedom Ad-hoc Committee

5. New Business

6. Old Business

a. Vacancies

- i. Vice President (Nominating Committee)
- ii. Secretary-Treasurer (Nominating Committee)
- iii. Legislative Committee – To be appointed:
  - 1. Kip Roberson
  - 2. Lindsey Travis
  - 3. Brittany Morton
  - 4. Darcy Acord
- iv. Awards/Grants Committee
- v. Financial Auditing Advisor
- vi. Annual Conference

b. Advocacy

- i. Campaign

7. Date of next meeting: TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022, 4:00 PM

8. Adjourn

Wyoming Library Association  
Executive Board Minutes  
January 11, 2022

**Call to order**

President Jeff Collins called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**Roll Call**

Board members present:

Jeff Collins, President  
Conrado Saldivar, Vice President  
Katrina Brown, Past President (vacant until end of meeting)  
Judi Boyce, MPLA Representative  
Johanna Tuttle, Interest Group Representative  
Michelle Boule, Member-at-Large  
Susan Parkins, Member-at-Large  
Elaine Hayes, WLLI Advisor  
Elizabeth Albin, Conference Committee Chair  
Caitlin White, Legislative Committee Chair  
Elizabeth Thorson, Communications Advisor  
Kristin Evans, Amigos  
Jamie Markus, State Librarian

Absent:

Lisa Scroggins, ALA Councilor

Also present:

Abby Beaver  
Darcy Acord

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Agenda**

Michelle motioned to approve the consent agenda, Susan seconded. Motion passed.

**President Report**

Jeff reviewed his report, noting that the contract with EveryLibrary has been signed.

**Vice President Report**

Conrado will attend the ALA Chapter Leaders conference Friday. He received a letter to WLA from the IRS, but according to the accountant, there is no need to respond. He noted that Kate Mutch, who was previously listed as the contact for conference presenters is passing those contacts on to Conrado.

**Past President**

Position was vacant at the time of reports.

### **Amigos Report**

Kristin explained the large decrease in membership on the report was due to switching from annual memberships to rolling memberships. Per WLA's instructions, expired memberships are automatically invoiced, though people can disregard them if they don't plan to renew. Kristin noted that any pending invoices don't show as active. She also mentioned that automatically invoicing people, while convenient, does not take them to the page to update their salary information, and likely means some are underpaying. A discussion occurred over whether to continue to invoice or to go back to requiring people to register through the website. Suggestions were made to send reminders to people to update their information on the site.

### **Executive Board Member Reports**

#### **ALA Councilor's Report –**

Lisa was absent.

#### **MPLA Representative –**

Judi has an MPLA board meeting tomorrow morning and will report on that next month.

#### **Interest Groups –**

SLIG book awards are now open. Johanna encouraged people to nominate books for the Wyoming book awards soon to allow members time to read the nominees.

LEAD's mentorship program registration has ended, and participants have been notified. The group aims to have a start date of February 1.

YSIG will be meeting in Buffalo May 5-6.

#### **Members-at-Large –**

Michelle shared that Western Wyoming Community College has hired Chris Murry as the new library director.

Susan reported that the Whova contract has been signed and is ready to go for the 2022 conference. She has the login information from 2021 and can provide stats from that, which Jeff requested that she gather.

#### **WLLI Report –**

Elaine reported that she just finished meeting with the group and is working on dates and locations for the grad retreat, which will likely take place in June.

#### **Conference Committee Chair -**

Elizabeth Albin reported that paperwork has been signed for the 2022 conference with the Clarion in Casper. The conference is scheduled for September 28-30, 2022. Jeff asked Elizabeth Thorson to post the dates to the website.

#### **Legislative Committee –**

Caitlin reported that the Legislative Reception will be held Thursday, February 17, at 5 pm. Lobbyist Sheralyn Kaiser will provide an update before legislators arrive at 5:30. As usual, this is a potluck, so please bring food and as many staff and board members and library supporters as possible to have plenty of people to visit with legislators. Sheralyn should be there the entire

time, barring unforeseen legislative issues requiring her attention. The Legislative Committee will meet that day as well. Once the session begins in February, Caitlin will send introductory and weekly email updates. She will be specific about whether action is needed or not.

The reception will feature a display on Humanities Council funded programs. There will also be a Carnegie Libraries display on hand and we will be listed as an official partner for the year on their website.

**Awards/Grants committee –**

No report

**Communications Advisor –**

Elizabeth Thorson had nothing to report.

**Membership Ad-hoc committee –**

No update

**EDI Ad-hoc committee –**

Conrado sent a reminder to WLA members about the upcoming EDI discussions. Sarah from Casper College is looking for information on the presenters who recently shared on the topic of pronouns at a Casper College event. Conrado also let the EDI committee know that the WLA presidency is taking more time, and asked committee members to consider volunteering for the chair or cochair position.

**State Librarian –**

Jamie reported that 47 bills have been posted to the legislative website. He anticipates another 450. So far there are no issues with the ones that have been posted. He will have Conrado set up a spreadsheet to track bills. A few other states have concerning bills that include provision for fines and jail time for librarians with illicit material on the shelf (Indiana). Another state has a potential for the head librarian to be fired if contested materials aren't removed from shelves promptly. While no similar bills have been presented in Wyoming, the potential is there given recent protests in Campbell, Laramie and Natrona Counties. Jamie praised Natrona County students for speaking up against censorship at a recent meeting, including Lisa Scroggins daughter.

**Intellectual Freedom Ad-hoc Committee –**

Lisa is heading an Intellectual Freedom Ad Hoc committee, which has around a dozen members from WLA working to develop trainings. The committee's work will dovetail with EveryLibrary. The contract with EveryLibrary has been signed and executed this morning. Next steps will likely be to have the committee sent information out to WLA members and to get the institutional memberships paid.

**New Business –**

**Approve Conrado Saldivar as WLA President**

Susan made the motion to approve the succession of Conrado Saldivar as WLA President effective at the end of this meeting. Judi seconded. Motion passed.

### **Approve Katrina Brown as WLA Past President**

Johanna motioned to approve the appointment of Katrina Brown as WLA Past President. Michelle seconded. Motion passed.

### **Old Business –**

#### **Vacancies –**

- Vice President – A nominating committee will need to be formed and solicit the membership for nominees. Katrina reported that she and Kate Mutch had some discussions on this but wanted to wait until Katrina was officially appointed to move forward.
- Secretary-Treasurer – A nominating committee will need to be formed and solicit the membership for nominees.
- Legislative Committee – has an opening for two public librarians. Katrina will be stepping down from this committee to fill the role of Past President. Chris Murry will take her place on the committee.
- Awards/grants committee – needs up to two members.
- Financial Auditing Advisor
- Annual conference committee – needs one more member. Elizabeth reported that they have a good team but have reached out to libraries on the west side of the state for representation.

### **WLA 2022 Budget –**

Kristin noted that she updated the institutional membership to allow for an EveryLibrary add-on with a recommended amount of \$3,000. Libraries can also choose to pay more or less.

Institutional membership still requires the payment of the \$150 membership fee. Elizabeth Thorson questioned whether this would require a bylaws change. Jamie responded that since it is an add-on and not a membership fee change, it does not require changing the bylaws. This covers a 13-month agreement with EveryLibrary, which can be renewed if the board chooses to do so.

Other changes were made as well. A refund from the conference hotel was removed as that applied to 2021. Sponsorships dropped from \$7,000 to \$1,000, and the \$600 income tax expense was removed. The state library income was removed. Jamie pointed out that there will likely be money from the state library but he didn't have an amount at this time. Elizabeth Albin also noted that Visit Casper is giving a \$1,000 grant toward the conference as well. Judi moved to approve the budget as amended. Johanna seconded. The motion passed.

### **Date of Next Meeting –**

The next meeting will be on February 8, 2022, at 4 pm.

### **Adjourned –**

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Boyce  
MPLA Representative



HOME ABOUT US LATEST NEWS

GET INVOLVED TIP LINE

RESOURCES CONTACT

DONATE

# Library Book Controversy Spreads to Other Wyoming Counties

**Some residents say children should not  
have access to certain books while  
others decry censorship**

**Jan. 31, 2022**





"We fully support the right of every parent to guide their children's reading, and always encourage parents and children to talk together about the materials that they are reading," says Conrado Saldivar, executive board president of the Wyoming Library Association. "We do not believe, however, that a parent's right to guide their child's reading includes a right to restrict what other children read or limit the materials available to other students." (Photo by John Cover for the Teton Truth)

*By Shen Wu Tan*

*Special to the Teton Truth*

The library book controversy that started in Campbell County last summer has surfaced in other parts of Wyoming and could gain even more traction, according to the president of the state's library association.

The clash between censorship and the appropriateness of books for children and teens has migrated to at least two other counties, Laramie County and Natrona County, where people have complained publicly about certain library books. Another county, Teton County, has beefed up its book reconsideration process, a procedure for people to lodge formal complaints about materials.

"We anticipate it appearing in other libraries across the state," said Conrado Saldivar, executive board president of the Wyoming Library Association in Cheyenne. "We believe that parents know their children best. We fully support the right of every parent to guide their children's reading, and always encourage parents and children to talk together about the materials that they are reading. We do not believe, however, that a parent's right to guide their child's reading includes a right to restrict what other children read or limit the materials available to other students."

Multiple students in the Natrona County School District publicly defended books under scrutiny, such as "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe, at the latest board meeting on Jan. 10.

Student Allie Scroggins spoke about the importance of diversity and allowing different viewpoints and experiences to be shared through the books so they can understand the world as it is and not a censored version.

"In the library, there should be something for everyone that interests them and something that is not for everyone," Scroggins said. "Diversity in libraries is important for sharing experiences of

others and expanding that diversity. So, let's not silence that and let's continue to embrace the beautiful differences in our world."

English

R.J. Schoen, a Kelly Walsh High School graduate, said she read the book "Gender Queer" when she was a high school senior and felt the novel conveyed her feelings as a transgender person.

"If we ban this book, we are showing every transgender and nonbinary student that they do not belong in our district," Schoen said. "We tell them their stories must be removed in order to protect other students from knowledge of their very existence. The truth is when we remove novels that reflect students' experiences from circulation, we send a very clear message that those students' stories, experiences, thoughts and dreams also do not belong in our education system."

Catherine Morris, a parent with two children attending Natrona County schools, said at the Jan. 10 meeting that "Gender Queer" does not belong on the shelf because it is an illustrated graphic novel with what she described as pornographic images throughout the book. She suggested the school district find a different book that appeals to the same audience.

"The Natrona County School District welcomes all public comments and stakeholders to bring forward their perspectives," Tanya Southerland, a spokesperson for the school district, told the *Teton Truth*. "The Natrona County School District is committed to a collaborative environment dedicated to serving the best interest of all students and staff."

The Natrona County School District administration reached out to individuals who expressed their concerns over some library books during a Dec. 13 board of trustees meeting to get more information about the books facing criticism, according to Southerland. She added officials also shared details on how to submit a request for review of materials. Yet, as of Jan. 24, she said the school district has not received a request for a review process for any books.

Meanwhile, Laramie County School District No. 1 parents have spoken out against at least a handful of books in school libraries, including "Grown" by Tiffany Jackson, which details a young girl's journey to try to become a famous singer, and "Monday's Not Coming," also by Jackson, a novel about the mysterious disappearance of a teenage girl, and "Crank" by Ellen Hopkins, which recounts the relationship between a high school student and crystal meth.

Shannon Ashby, a parent who has spoken at multiple board meetings, said the book "Grown" contains content about sexual abuse, opioid addiction and kidnapping and is available to middle school and high school students. She also criticized "Crank," noting the book contains details about rape.

"Why are these books still in the library?" Ashby asked the school district's board of trustees members at a Dec. 6 meeting. "I don't want my 12-year-old daughter reading this garbage."

Hopkins, the author of "Crank," told the *Teton Truth* that she has faced book challenges often from parents concerned about her books' content. However, she noted many challenges are now coming from people who don't have children in school or who haven't read her books. Another book of hers, "Traffick," a story about five victims of sex trafficking, has come under fire as well.

"How I feel about them wanting my books removed is how I've always felt," she said. "I write young adult [books] to encourage teens to make better choices. The best way I know to do that is

to provide a picture of where a single bad choice can lead. Yes, they're fiction, grounded in real life. I've raised three generations of kids, and am intimately aware of the challenges they face in their daily lives. My goal is to create a better future through shaping generations of informed, curious, critical thinkers."

Nathan Winters, executive director of the Family Policy Alliance of Wyoming, a Christ-centered organization based in Cheyenne that advocates for policies and "biblical citizenship," said there are a number of parents who have been concerned with what appears like an "overt effort to put age-inappropriate content in the hands of increasingly younger children."

"Parents are obviously concerned with that," said Winters. "I think our society in general recognizes that not all content is age appropriate, and that's why we even have MPAA [Motion Picture Association of America] ratings when it comes to movies. We recognize that with certain ages, some content would not be appropriate but would be better held off at a later time."

James Fraley, Laramie County School District No. 1's assistant superintendent of instruction, said the school system has not received any formal, written requests to remove books through their book review process from their libraries in more than a year and a half, although some parents at board meetings voiced their concerns about certain books.

Nathan Winters, executive director of the Family Policy Alliance of Wyoming in Cheyenne, says there are a number of parents who have been concerned with what appears like an "overt effort to put age-inappropriate content in the hands of increasingly younger children."  
(Courtesy photo)

"We have a board policy to ensure that parents have the right to provide input into the books their children may want to check out in our libraries," Fraley said. "We have a process for a book challenge in our board policy that parents may request."

At the Dec. 6 board meeting, Fraley noted parents can opt out of mature content for library checkouts and that the district is working with its vendor to identify books with adult themes. Students whose parents have completed the opt-out process will not be allowed to check out certain books, he said.

Fraley also mentioned the school system is in the process of identifying age-appropriate materials for elementary and junior high school libraries and improving its purchasing regulations for libraries across the district.

Laramie County School District No. 1 board of trustees members Alicia Smith and Christy Klaasen also suggested adopting an opt-in option rather than opt-out for parents when it comes to library materials, meaning parents would be automatically set up to exclude mature content when their children check out material.

"I understand there is an audience for those types of materials because they are popular, but we're a family-friendly district," Klaasen said during the Dec. 6 meeting. "We want to protect our district."

While the Teton County Library Board has not received a formal complaint about any books in its collection, the board decided at its Dec. 16 meeting to approve a new intellectual freedom policy as part of its book reconsideration process, where community members can contest library materials, according to Kip Roberson, director of library services.

The new intellectual freedom policy is a separate policy that explicitly states the Teton County Library's firm belief in the First Amendment, which protects freedom of expression, Roberson said. He said the previous policy outlined how parents can submit complaints about materials but did not specifically address the importance of intellectual freedom. The updated policy became effective Jan. 1.

The intellectual freedom policy asserts that the selection of library materials is "made on the patron's right to read, listen, or view, free from censorship by others." It says anyone is free to reject books and other materials but cannot "restrict the freedom of others" and that the library upholds the rights of individuals to secure content even if they are "controversial, unorthodox or unacceptable to some."

"Our intellectual freedom policy has been put into place in order to ensure that the library is a welcoming place for readers to discover and learn about the world in its great diversity," Roberson said. "The library takes seriously its commitment to help all people, including those from marginalized communities, find and use books that speak to their individual needs. This policy helps clarify the importance of balancing community and individual needs with the constitutional right to free speech and access to information.

"What's happening in Campbell County and in too many other jurisdictions across the country is not only sad, but it is undemocratic and a blatant attempt to strip citizens of their constitutional rights," he added. "Individuals have the freedom to read and the freedom to choose what they read, and no one else should be allowed to abridge those rights."

Sometime this year, the board also will review the library's materials selection policy, which guides library staff about how they select materials for their collections, according to Roberson.

Kip Roberson is director of library services at the Teton County Library, where the board recently added an intellectual freedom policy to ensure that its books and other materials are not censored. "What's happening in Campbell County and in too many other jurisdictions across the country is not only sad, but it is undemocratic and a blatant attempt to strip citizens of their constitutional rights," Roberson says. (Photo by Jim Turley for the Teton Truth)

In Campbell County, where the controversy began in June, the library received 5 requests for reconsideration forms, from 17 individuals against 29 books, according to the library's director. Many of the books contained content about sex and LGBTQ topics.

Gillette residents Hugh and Susan Bennett filed a complaint to the Campbell County sheriff against the library for carrying books accessible to children about sex and LGBTQ topics such as "Sex is a Funny Word" by Cory Silverberg and Fiona Smyth, and "Doing It" by Hannah Witton. A county prosecutor announced Oct. 27 that he would not pursue charges.

Since the summer, several other county residents have launched complaints about many books in the library's collection, such as "This Book is Gay" by Juno Dawson, and requested books be moved out of the children's section.

"We have ratings to restrict access of some materials to age-appropriate audiences," said Scott Clem, a Central Baptist Church pastor and former state legislator who has been vocal about the library book controversy in the county. "For instance, many theaters will not allow juvenile access to rated R movies without parental consent. That type of restricted access is censorship.

"The issue is the library has different sections for different materials," he said. "By way of having a children's section, the library is affirming that, in its judgment, the materials in the children's collection are appropriate for children. It's the judgment of those in charge at the library that is being questioned by the public, and rightly so."

Lesley, the library director, told the *Teton Truth* that the Campbell County Public Library has responded to all 57 complaints, and that the last time they received a book complaint was Nov. 8.

*The Teton Truth is a nonpartisan nonprofit watchdog organization whose mission is to fight injustices, help the community and protect the rights of local citizens. To sign up for a free subscription, or to make a donation, please go to [www.tetontruth.com](http://www.tetontruth.com). Other media outlets are free to run this article as long as they credit the "Teton Truth" and link to our website, [tetontruth.com](http://tetontruth.com). If you have any tips about this issue or others, or for more information about the Teton Truth, contact us at [info@tetontruth.com](mailto:info@tetontruth.com).*

