

Wyoming Library Association
Executive Board Minutes
February 8, 2022

Call to order

President Conrado Saldivar called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Roll Call

Board members present:

Conrado Saldivar, President
Lisa Scroggins, ALA Councilor
Judi Boyce, MPLA Representative
Johanna Tuttle, Interest Group Representative
Susan Parkins, Member-at-Large
Elizabeth Albin, Conference Committee Chair
Elizabeth Thorson, Communications Advisor
Kristin Evans, Amigos
Jamie Markus, State Librarian

Absent:

Vice President (vacant)
Katrina Brown, Past President
Michelle Boule, Member-at-Large
Elaine Hayes, WLLI Advisor
Caitlin White, Legislative Committee Chair

Also present:

Darcy Acord, YSIG

A quorum was determined to be present.

Agenda

Lisa motioned to approve the agenda; Susan seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes

Susan moved to approve the minutes; Johanna seconded. Motion passed.

President Report

Conrado noted that he responded to a media inquiry from Teton Truth. He provided a similar response to what he sent to Campbell County. The resulting article was well done and pulled in other groups for comments as well. Conrado noted that he updated the WLA information on the ALA Chapter Directory to reflect the recent board changes we've had and to list our conference dates. He talked with Katrina about board openings. He sent an email sent this morning detailing the options we have with Amigos for more in-depth reports, and selected the fields he thought would be most beneficial. Conrado said Megan Bratton from Natrona County offered to create a better logo for WLA, which is now available. He also attended the conference committee

meeting. There is currently no Vice President available to chair the conference program planning subcommittee, so he will fill in for now. The only vacancy on that committee is from the Programming Interest Group. All other slots are filled. YSIG requested Conrado's attendance at their May meeting in Buffalo, which he plans to attend.

Vice President Report

Vacant, no report.

Past President

Katrina was absent. No report.

Amigos Report

Kristin reported that Amigos has received requests from other library groups to include more information on their reports, so they have updated options on what can be requested. She provided the options to Conrado. Kristin has been working with conference committee chair Elizabeth Albin to get information on past vendors, examples of prior paperwork and other conference details. She has also been investigating renewal options for memberships which she will cover later.

Executive Board Member Reports

ALA Councilor's Report –

Lisa attended an ALA orientation zoom. She also attended the LibLearnX conference, which is the new alternative to the midwinter meeting. She voted on what she felt prepared for and abstained from other issues. She attended sessions to learn the background on the issues she was unclear about. Lisa reported that despite extended sessions, they were unable to cover all the topics that needed to be covered, so another meeting will be held in March. After that meeting, she will submit a single report detailing everything. She sent an email to all WLA members on the resolutions so everyone can be aware and comment if they like. She has received some feedback and is taking it into consideration and will vote according to Wyoming values. Lisa also reported that she sent an email to all school librarians in Laramie County telling them "Your organization (WLA) supports you." She hoped that maybe some of them would join because of that, but even if they don't, they know they have support. The email was to provide help with presenting some support/info. She also plans on emailing information on intellectual freedom to school librarians soon.

Prior to Jeff leaving, he appointed Lisa to chair an ad hoc committee for Intellectual Freedom. She reported that the committee came together quickly, with several people willing to serve and they have already been working on their goals of providing policies and procedural information for intellectual freedom, and coming up with training opportunities for staff, boards, local officials, etc. on the topic, as well as a "what to do if you're challenged" roadmap. She has divided the group into two subgroups, one working on policies and procedures, and the other focusing on training modules.

MPLA Representative –

Judi reported that she is working on updating the MPLA member list and getting correct email addresses for the board. She is also looking for recommendations for the MPLA Board Choice

free membership. She also noted that the monthly Chew and Chat will be at noon on March 23. It is open to non-members. Anyone wanting the link should let Judi know.

Interest Groups –
SLIG – no updates

LEAD – no update. Johanna noted that she has spoken to some members of the mentorship program and things appear to be going well.

YSIG is gearing up for their meeting in May. Becky Prella is looking for people who could speak on intellectual freedom, as well as presenters to speak on the topic of burnout. They're hoping to find a dynamic, in-person presenter. If anyone has suggestions for speakers, please email that information to Johanna.

PIG- Johanna hasn't heard from anyone in this newly formed group yet but will update when she does.

Members-at-Large –
Michelle was absent

Susan sent a report on Whova conference stats to Conrado who shared it with the board. She noted there were areas of the app she is hoping we will use more in the future. She has been working with the conference planning committee to get the app set up for the upcoming conference, adding administrators to the app, and so on.

WLLI Report –
Elaine was not present.

Conference Committee Chair -

Elizabeth Albin – Reminded the board that the conference is scheduled for September 28-30, with the “Stronger Together” theme focused on returning to meeting in person, as well as supporting one another with intellectual freedom, etc. She has been working on the details of the Whova app with Susan. The committee is hoping to have a virtual side in addition to the in-person conference. She is hoping this will include at least a few speakers and other things for people who are uninterested in meeting in person or can't attend. The committee is also working on creating a timeline for when vendor information, registration, and other details will be out.

Legislative Committee –

Caitlin was absent. Conrado noted that the Legislative Reception is next Thursday, at 5 pm for an update with lobbyist Sheralyn Kaiser, and 5:30 with Legislators.

Awards/Grants committee –
No report

Communications Advisor –

Elizabeth Thorson reminded everyone that things that need to be posted to the website should be sent to her a few days ahead of time so they can get posted in time. Staff shortages make it hard for her to post things last-minute.

Membership Ad-hoc committee –

Elizabeth Thorson noted Jeff was working on sending out a notice about making bylaws changes before he left. If anyone is aware of what changes are needed, please let her know. Conrado noted that the issues he was aware of were related to the ad hoc committees. The EDI committee and Intellectual Freedom committee are both currently ad hoc committees, and there was discussion on whether to make those into standing committees instead. Later in the meeting, Lisa suggested considering leaving the committees ad hoc rather than switching to standing committees because if interest wanes and people aren't able/willing to serve on the committees, it would send a negative message to have to dissolve those committees. Conrado asked everyone to be considering that. Elizabeth Albin noted that conference committee suggested adding a code of conduct for events, which would likely need to go through the bylaws change as well.

EDI Ad-hoc committee –

Conrado reported that the January Open Conversation went well with 15 people attending, and several staying afterward to continue with follow-up discussions. He noted that there was a lot of resource sharing that also was sent out to WLA and WYLD list. The next Open Conversations meeting is February 15. He sent out information on the upcoming meeting to the WLA membership today and 13 people are already registered. He also reported that he had visited with Judi about submitting an article about the Open Conversations to the MPLA newsletter. The EDI Committee will be meeting next week and get something together for that. The group is also working on input for ALA's Cultural Proficiencies for Racial Equity Framework. There will be an update on what that is and how to do it. The project has a tight timeline with final feedback due March 2.

State Librarian –

Jamie reported that he is busy preparing for the legislative session. He has read through 140 bills, and said there is nothing egregious at this point. He anticipates another email from Caitlin on Monday, and then updates as needed. This is a budget session – 20 working days - so all proposed legislation must be on the books by Friday to be considered. He noted that he is not sure what the legislative reception will bring this next week. In the past few years, legislator participation has been minimal, which he attributes to the remodel that required the capital to be shut down, shifting meetings farther away, and last year's coronavirus impact, which prevented the reception from taking place. Adjustments may need to be made for the future, but it might take a couple of years to see how things adjust after these disruptions. Other than that, Jamie is watching legislation and particularly other states who are facing major issues. He is surprised that there hasn't been more potentially limiting legislation proposed here, given the challenges that have come up recently and the fact that it's been a hot topic in many other states.

Intellectual Freedom Ad-hoc Committee –

Lisa noted that the committee is working to have something by the end of March to submit to Elizabeth Thorson for the website. Darcy serves on one of the committees and reported that

they're working on early March as a deadline for drafts, and then refining the information by the end of the month. Lisa noted that they aren't starting from scratch or trying to reinvent the wheel. Instead, they are using documents that already exist and tweaking them to be Wyoming relevant.

New Business –

None

Old Business –

Vacancies –

- Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer – Katrina and Kate Mutch have visited about the vacancies for Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer position.
- Legislative Committee – positions filled - Caitlin was able to recruit four new members – Kip Roberson, Lindsey Travis, Brittany Morton and Darcy Acord. The committee met last week.
- Awards/grants committee – a couple of people have expressed interest and these positions will likely be filled soon
- Financial Auditing Advisor – focusing on other committees first
- Annual conference committee – has a potential lead

Advocacy-

EveryLibrary – Conrado is working on sending information and shifting his focus to this project. He was able to connect EveryLibrary and Campbell County Director Terri Lesley so she can work with them to meet the needs of their library. Regarding the financial component, an overview of what was in the agreement was sent to public and academic directors. Part of the agreement requirements is a three-day in-person meeting with EveryLibrary representatives to lay out plans and figure out how to progress. Early April is the target date listed in the agreement, but it will depend on schedules.

Membership Auto-Renewal –

Kristin reminded everyone of the issues that automatically invoicing people presents. With members not being prompted to update their salary information, they are potentially paying less than they would owe as the invoice would reflect the amount they paid the previous year. Kristin reported that she researched the changes that could make it possible to provide a prompt or link for people to update their information. She noted that there is also an issue with the timing of the notices. Wild Apricot does not allow membership to start on the day of payment so users could potentially have shorter memberships depending on when they pay. She suggested sending the renewal notice a week before the membership expiration. There is no penalty for paying late. Lapsed members currently are not getting notices after they don't pay by the end of their membership. Kristin requested having someone appointed to work with her on the details of this. Conrado suggested Elizabeth Thorson, who agreed.

Date of Next Meeting –

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

Adjourned –

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judi Boyce
MPLA Representative