

Wyoming Library Association  
Executive Board Minutes  
January 14, 2021

**Call to order**

President Jacob Mickelsen called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

**Roll Call**

Board members present:

Jacob Mickelsen, President  
Jeff Collins, Vice President  
Abby Beaver, Past President  
Caitlin White, Legislative Committee Chair  
Elizabeth Thorson, Communications Advisor  
Jamie Markus, State Librarian  
Janice Grover-Roosa, ALA Coordinator  
Johanna Tuttle, Interest Groups Representative  
Judi Boyce, Member-at-Large  
Katrina Brown, MPLA Representative  
Michelle Boule, Member-at-Large

Also present:

Kristin Evans, Amigos Library Management Group

Board members absent:

none

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Agenda**

Abby motioned to approve the agenda, with a change in order to allow Anna to give her report after the approval of the minutes. Johanna seconded. The motion passed.

**Approval of December Minutes**

Katrina noted a typing error under the WLLI section of the December minutes. With that change, Michelle motioned to approve the minutes, Johanna seconded. The motion passed.

**WLLI Report**

Anna reported that after receiving numerous nominations for outstanding librarian last year, the WLA Awards/Grants Committee was inspired to create an award to recognize people who have been in this field of work for a while and have accomplished extraordinary things. Instructions and criteria will be created and posted on the WLA website later this year.

LEAD has also completed partnering mentors and protégés together for the WLA mentorship program and these individuals will be notified soon. There will also be two online meet-ups as they start the program: one for mentors and one for protégés.

## **President Report**

Jake had nothing to add apart from items that would be discussed later in the agenda, and added his information as each topic was discussed.

## **Amigos Report**

Kristin reported that Amigos is working on closing out the December budget, due to delays in receiving some items over the holidays. W-9's are being completed and 1099 prep is in progress to be sent to the accountant soon. They are also still working on renewals, and setting up a billpay option to allow Amigos to pay bills directly. The ALA membership was renewed, and Jake mentioned the need to change the contact information to Amigos rather than Laura Grott.

## **Vice President Report/Conference**

Jeff's vice president report was combined with the conference report. Jake asked that a decision be made regarding whether to hold the 2021 conference in person or virtually. He mentioned receiving input from several people in support of a virtual conference, and no contact from anyone preferring in-person. Jake also said he felt that a virtual conference was the more responsible choice, particularly with budget concerns and travel freezes. Jamie mentioned the need to consider finances if the conference is virtual, as the conference provides a large portion of WLA's funding. Several ideas were mentioned, including a possible fundraising committee. Also discussed was the need to cancel any existing hotel and food contracts. Judi was added to the committee and Jamie will add a person from the State Library as well. Jeff motioned to move the 2021 conference to an online platform. Abby seconded. The motion passed.

## **Governing Board Member Reports**

### **Past President –**

Abby had nothing new to report.

### **MPLA –**

Katrina reported that the MPLA conference will be online this year as well. They are currently looking for proposals for lightning talks and she will send that information out to members on the email list.

### **Interest Groups –**

Johanna reported that the Youth Services interest group is working on a Spring Conference. The Wyoming School Library Interest Group's signature was added to the letter sent to President-Elect Biden by AASL/ALA. They are also hoping that a new State Book Award coordinator can be found so that members of those committees can get going on their nominations process this month.

### **Members-at-Large –**

Judi had nothing to report. Michelle is working on creating a discussion group for Wyoming librarians on Discord, which she will moderate.

### **Legislative Committee –**

Caitlin reported that the legislative session began with a one-day meeting Tuesday, January 12, and will continue with a modified schedule running through March. They are hoping to be back

to meeting in person in March. Lobbyist Sherlyn Kaiser is keeping up with everything that relates to the libraries. So far things look good, but she is paying close attention to the recalibration discussion. She also mentioned that an email was sent out to the library directors asking them to reach out to their representatives to help them understand the role of libraries in their communities. Caitlin also mentioned that the joint appropriations committee put money into the budget to cover the Talking Books program. Jake reported that he signed the contract with Sherlyn Kaiser, which was approved at the December meeting.

#### **State Librarian –**

Jamie reported that legislative tracking is available to view online, and mentioned that state legislation can be read by anyone, encouraging members to look for any issues they might be concerned about. The state budget is scheduled to be discussed March 15 - April 2, which will allow time for the new presidential administration to potentially provide money through more Cares Act funding that might cushion the need for deeper cuts. No cuts to the State Library budget have been made at this time.

Last week library directors were informed that an additional \$750,000 was being spent to provide additional e-book resources. This brings the total e-book purchases by the State Library to \$1,000,000 since July 1, 2020. Trustee training, which was discussed at the December meeting, launched last Tuesday. Jamie added that the state library is happy to support the conference, but can't commit to a financial amount until they have final budget numbers.

#### **Communications Advisor –**

Elizabeth asked that anyone with event dates, planning sessions, etc. send the information directly to her so that she can get it posted faster. Her email is ethorson@lclsonline.org.

#### **ALA Councilor –**

Janice had nothing new to add, but reminded everyone about the upcoming ALA Midwinter conference. She will be attending the board meetings and have more to report next month.

#### **Other Business –**

##### **2021 Budget**

The budget as presented shows a \$6,500 deficit. Jamie pointed out that every year starts with a deficit budget because there is no way to know how much the conference will bring in. He is not concerned with where it is at this point and group discussion also pointed out that many of the proposed expenses will be less with the conference being online. For instance, the legislative reception will not happen, saving \$1,000. Abby suggested bumping up the conference speaker budget. Adjustments were made. Jeff motioned to approve the adjusted budget. Judi seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Tax Accountant –**

Abby motioned and Jeff seconded to approve a \$480 contract with Beard, Boehmer & Associates to do the 990 for WLA's 2020 taxes. Kristin said this is a group Amigos has worked with before. The group has done taxes for other library associations, and Amigos has been happy with the work. The motion passed.

**Member Registration Subcommittee –**

Because the membership page is confusing and the fee structure is difficult to understand, Kristin suggested having a few people review and update the site. She also suggested reaching out to students to take advantage of the ALA/WLA partnership. She reported that there are a lot of pending memberships that have not been paid yet. Elizabeth and Johanna volunteered to work on the project. Jake appointed Elizabeth to be the lead. Johanna reported that she has many of the old email messages which could be helpful in deciphering the fee structure.

**Legislative Committee Appointment –**

Jake reported that he has appointed Melissa Snyder to serve on the Legislative Committee

**Date of Next Meeting –**

The next meeting will be February 11, 2021 at 10 am.

**Adjourned –**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Boyce  
Member-at-Large