

Wyoming Library Association  
Executive Board Minutes  
April 8, 2021

**Call to order**

President Jacob Mickelsen called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**Roll Call**

Board members present:

Jacob Mickelsen, President  
Jeff Collins, Vice President  
Caitlin White, Legislative Committee Chair  
Elizabeth Thorson, Communications Advisor  
Jamie Markus, State Librarian  
Johanna Tuttle, Interest Groups Representative  
Judi Boyce, Member-at-Large  
Michelle Boule, Member-at-Large  
Katrina Brown, MPLA Representative  
Abby Beaver, Past President  
Janice Grover-Roosa, ALA Coordinator (arrived at 10:22)

Also present:

Kristin Evans, Amigos Library Management Group  
Conrado Saldivar, DEI committee

Board members absent:

Anna Street

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Agenda**

Jeff motioned to approve the agenda, second by Abby. Motion passed.

**Approval of December Minutes**

Jeff motioned to approve the minutes, Abby seconded. The motion passed. Judi abstained.

**President Report**

Jake reported that he appointed Melissa Brumstead Snider to be the book award advisor. Other volunteer leads didn't work out, but Kate Mutch might know others who would be able to help. Jake expressed his appreciation to Natrona County Library for supplying volunteers.

**Amigos Report**

Kristin reported they are still having issues with US Bank not communicating what they need. The bank had blocked the account and there were issues with getting it unblocked. It is unblocked as of this morning, but this caused issues with checks that were unable to be cashed in

the meantime. Those should be able to be cashed by mid-April. There is a new debit card now associated with the account. Membership is looking good with new members still applying. As of this morning, there are 175 current active members, which is an increase over last year.

Abby mentioned the Bank of the West account is still active if needed. Michelle asked how many librarians there are in the state to give context to the membership number. Jamie reported there are about 650 public and academic librarians, with another 300 school library workers who are mostly paraprofessionals giving a total of just under 1000.

### **Vice President Report/Conference**

Jeff reported that the program committee is making good progress, with a meeting coming up next week. He has shared a software recommendation with Jake. The committee is making progress evaluating speakers, developing publicity for a call for program proposals, and working on evaluation criteria. Program proposals will be accepted through May 31. The group also plans to create all of these items in a format that can be used each year so future committees don't have to start from scratch. The group is meeting every two weeks, with the next meeting on Monday, April 12. Jake said he will join that meeting.

Jeff is also working on the ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) task force

### **Governing Board Member Reports**

#### **Past President –**

Abby had nothing to add apart from comments on the bylaws which she shared later in the meeting.

#### **MPLA –**

Katrina had nothing to report.

#### **WLLI Report -**

Anna was absent, so Johanna reported that WLLI is still scheduled to take place in June in Pinedale and everyone is excited to be able to meet in person. WLLI will provide individual rooms for the attendees, paid with grant money. The speaker is set and the budget is ready.

#### **Interest Groups –**

Johanna said LEAD will meet soon, and plans to help with the programming committee. They want to do another program on the mentorship program.

The school library interest group is very concerned about the budget. Even though school librarians aren't specifically targeted by legislation, local budgets are up to the local school districts. She expressed hope that they will reach out to WLA for help with their districts to get support for the local school librarians.

The youth services interest group has been meeting and working on summer reading supports. A couple more meetings are scheduled before summer reading kicks off.

#### **Members-at-Large –**

Michelle works with the DEI committee and had nothing to add apart from what Conrado will report later.

Judi serves on the conference program planning committee and said everything was covered in Jeff's report.

### **Legislative Committee –**

Caitlin reported that HB173, the school budget bill died last night. It began as a proposed \$100 million loss of funding for schools. They will follow the current funding model for this year, but there will still be a shortfall in the future. School districts will be receiving \$172 million from ARPA and local districts will decide what to do from there. Districts will still have difficult decisions to make as next year's budget will be short. The legislature will have a special session the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>. The committee will look into whether we need a lobbyist for that session.

Caitlin also reported that ALA started a fundraising campaign and is asking library associations to pass along 2 letters they would like WLA to sign and send to our three legislators. They want it done by April 15. They have a list of the representatives that have signed on to support it, but none of Wyoming's have. Caitlin will be meeting with ALA and visiting with Cynthia Lummis. She asked Jake if sending letters would be of interest to WLA. Jake agreed. Nobody opposed.

### **State Librarian –**

Jamie added to Caitlin's report that it was interesting that not too many bills affected libraries. School funding was not cut and they will be receiving nearly \$300 million in additional funds this year. There are rumors that July's meeting might bring cuts. The legislators were reportedly not happy about the schools having extra money. He believes the legislature will try to adjust so that the money the schools get from federal funding will offset the money they would have gotten from the state. He reported that the July meeting of the legislature will focus on ARPA. He said the State Library ARPA funds will not be included in that. Jamie is having meetings to determine how to spend the ARPA money, which will be spent asap once they decide what to do with it. Jamie also plans to meet with smaller groups to spend funds on specific things. He is meeting with school librarians to determine how the funds will be used for school libraries. The Legislative Committee did deliver cookies, which were very well received. Caitlin had many opportunities to visit with legislators. There are pictures on the WLA website. Jamie also reported that he is very upset that ALA didn't contact state librarians regarding the letter. He's already visited with Lummis and would have appreciated the opportunity to share information before the group sent out letters.

Jamie reported that the state library has had another retirement, which makes 3 so far this year. This is 15% of their staff so far. He anticipates upwards of 40-50% by end of 2022. He commented that each time someone leaves, all their years of expertise walks out the door as well.

He added that ARPA funding has created an opportunity to support WLA. The level hasn't been determined yet, but they plan to overwrite a significant portion of the conference speakers' cost among other possible things.

### **ALA Councilor's Report –**

Janice attended a chapter update about Build America funding. That funding should roll into Biden's infrastructure plan. She reported that 40-50% of America's public libraries are still operating out of their Carnegie buildings. That was the last major funding for library facilities. ALA has developed a campaign to get the money appropriated for investing in facilities. She reported that form letters are a portion of that. She said in the past, legislators have indicated that they don't like form letters. So she recommended to the legislative committee that a more personalized letter would be preferable.

ALA had several questions they would like to know. Specifically, they asked if our state has a needs assessment for space and infrastructure of libraries, whether our libraries are listed in the state infrastructure plan, and whether state, local, or system assessments have occurred. They are also wanting to hear success and horror stories related to renovation and whether those renovations increased use. They also wonder how this relates to libraries in need. ALA is compiling that info so they will have a well-rounded report of need. Janice said that she reported that to the legislative committee. She recommended writing a letter based on our needs.

#### **Communications Advisor –**

Elizabeth had nothing new to report.

#### **DEI Ad-hoc Committee –**

Conrado reported that the committee now has 7 members, consisting of 2 academic and 5 public librarians. The committee is meeting consistently on the second Monday of each month at 1 pm. A survey went out to guide the committee on what members are looking for on EDI. It will be open until April 14. So far they have received 30 responses, with most of them coming within a few hours of sending it out. Early comments have shown that chat sessions and conversations are things individuals are interested in. The survey was sent to WLA and WYLD listservs. Some responses have asked for regular monthly communications which they plan to do.

#### **Other Business –**

##### **Bylaws changes -**

Abby reported having trouble scheduling a time when everyone on the bylaws committee could meet to discuss the proposed changes. Some changes have been made but still needing updates. Abby had previously reported that she would like changes to be made right away as her name is still on everything, but has realized that a new person won't be elected until the conference in October anyway, which means there is time for the committee to work on the bylaws changes without being rushed.

#### **Insurance –**

Jake received a notice from Keith at Amigos that WLA's insurance has been canceled. Jake asked for an explanation. Abby explained that we did have insurance but it wasn't useful to our group as it didn't cover things we needed to be covered. She had to purchase temporary insurance to cover the legislative reception because the old insurance didn't cover events with alcohol. Jamie added that it was directors and operators insurance in case someone steals money, but it doesn't cover alcohol at legislative reception. One reason it was decided to drop it is that the state library is responsible for most of WLA's money anyway, so there is already oversight

and protection in place. Jake asked Kristin to have Amigos look into insurance options that would better suit the needs of WLA.

**Date of Next Meeting –**

The next meeting will be on May 13, 2021, at 10 am.

**Adjourned –**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Boyce  
Member-at-Large

DRAFT