

Georgia Library Association

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Morrow, Georgia

Friday, December 5, 2008

Present:

Elizabeth Bagley, Gordon Baker, Heidi Benford, Ray Calvert, Jim Cooper, Jack Fisher, Bob Fox, Carolyn Fuller, Ann Hamilton, Jeff Heck, Chris Huff, Cathy Jeffrey, Wallace Koehler, Lori Lester, Karen Manning, Tessa Minchew, Susan Morris, Bill Nelson, Joan Osborne, Betty Paulk, Barbara Petersohn, Bill Richards, Shelley Rogers, Michael Seigler, Carol Stanley, Sarah Steiner, Tim Wojcik

Call to Order and Welcome – Cooper

At 2:20 p.m., Jim Cooper called the meeting to order and requested that members introduce themselves to others on the board.

He distributed a list of names and email addresses for the executive board members and requested corrections.

Approval of Minutes – Heck

Liz Bagley presented the minutes of the October 15, 2008, meeting. Shelley Rogers moved to approve the minutes and Carol Stanley seconded. The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report - Calvert

Ray Calvert distributed a report covering January 1 – December 3, 2008. Income was \$61,053.62; expenses were \$47,772.26, with a net income of \$13,281.36. Current checking balance is \$65,596.96. Morgan Stanley balances: Scholarship Fund, \$80,903.75; savings account, \$40,962.47.

Membership Report - Richards

Bill Richards noted that GLA currently has 750 members. His committee recommends that the membership list be distributed by email via PDF attachment. The process will include an initial email message sent to let members know the list will be distributed, with an opt-out period available for one-to-two weeks. He also wishes to contact members not currently on the email list to announce the mailing, giving these members the option to receive the directory. No second was needed, as this is a recommendation from the committee. There was no discussion.

VOTE - the recommendation was unanimously approved.

Gordon asked that Bill send him the instructions.

Bill mentioned possible projects for this year to increase memberships, including an effort to see if they've overlooked some library groups that might like to gain membership.

The committee also is updating the membership brochure.

Jim Cooper asked about the possible development of a password-protected web site. Bill said the committee will ask in a survey in the second mailing if members would like us to go the online route, password-protected. Cooper mentioned that the Georgia Public Library System (GPLS) maintains the website; a representative from that group will investigate options for password protection.

Gordon reminded everyone that when looking at membership totals, membership renewals are staggered throughout the year, producing ups and downs in totals.

Bill said his committee also discussed online registration and payment of fees. He will explore this option and report further.

Administrative Services Report - Baker

Gordon Baker reminded the board that its members can request targeted lists of members, such as new members. Administrative Services can provide mail addresses or email addresses. He also reminded members who are up for renewal to send in their forms and funds.

GLQ Editor's Report - Heck for Cooley

Jeff Heck reported for Susan Cooley that the next issue is currently in layout.

ALA Councilor's Report - Hamilton

Camila Alire, incoming president 2008/2009 for ALA, will attend our next COMO in October, 2009.

Ann is serving on a Presidential Task Force on ALA Elections, including guidelines on what can be done. It has been approved by the Executive Board of ALA, and she has details for anyone who would like to learn more.

Division Reports

Academic Library Division - Jeffrey for Ruffin

Cathy reported that Eva Lautemann agreed to be in charge of academic papers at the next COMO. Cathy requested a review of how proposals for programs are routed to the division chairs, as one sponsored program last year did not make it into COMO. Liz Bagley suggested that the list of approved programs could be posted to the web site, as it used to be, so division chairs could review it. Gordon and Bob will help with tracking.

School Library Division - Wojcik

Tim noted a surprisingly successful turnout at the K-16 meeting. Lots of names were gathered, so he's hopeful of boosting membership. He volunteered to lead the division for a third, final, year before turning to other roles in GLA.

New Members Round Table - Rogers

Shelley Rogers reported the group's success at COMO this year. The program to review résumés was a big hit with new members. The group's meeting today had six attendees. The next Atlanta Emerging Librarians meeting will be held Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 6 p.m., at Manuel's Tavern in Atlanta. (602 N. Highland Ave, NE) Shelley requested \$200 to defray costs for this event, expected to draw 40 people.

VOTE - unanimously in favor of the recommendation.

Jim Cooper asked how many participated in the résumé review. Sarah, former NMRT chair, replied that nine emailed résumés prior to the event, three have done so since the event, and 13 stopped by during the event.

Paraprofessional Division - Benford

Heidi Benford feels we can increase our paraprofessional membership because some staff employees are not aware they can be members of GLA. She asks that we spread the word in our libraries.

Trustees and Friends - Koehler

Wally Koehler noted a steep drop from 30 to 11 shown on membership numbers, and he discussed methods for improving the count. The group wishes to support a program at COMO, or following, to promote more participation. He is considering a restructure of dues for people who are not library professionals but not making a motion at this time. The group also would like to sponsor a session at COMO or after on foundations and their relationship to friends and systems. Jim asked if the reconsideration of dues would be government committee issue to handle; Gordon felt it would be an Executive Board issue.

Interest Group Council Report - Osborne

Joan Osborne praised Susan Morris for her work this past year in keeping the interest group council active and the chairs filled.

Committee Reports

Awards - Lester

Lori Lester reported that Cathy Jeffrey helped the committee to understand how it should work for the year. She will follow up with Lorene Flanders. Lori is sure they will have difficult decisions to make in selecting the winners.

COMO Store – Benford for Boozer

Heidi said that several attended the committee meeting today, and that ideas were collected for the store. One idea is to do socks again that went with night shirts; another is travel mugs; the group may do \$2 bookmarks, for which they have contacted a vendor. Another possibility is a cat pin with moving eyeballs. They are interested in dog themes and asked for related ideas. The committee also wanted to know about a budget for the store. Gordon replied that the president makes that decision. Heidi asked that all board members email Rhonda with suggestions.

Constitution/bylaws - Seigler

Mike learned more about the members of his group, which has no issues to resolve at this time.

Conference - Cooper

Jim Cooper noted that it was not yet time for this group to meet. It should meet sometime later this month to wrap up COMO activities from October, and again soon in the new year with GAIT and GLMA to plan the next conference. Next year's COMO will be held October 7-9, 2009, in Columbus. GLA has sent a letter of intent to the conference center and contacted the Hilton across the street to lock in a block of rooms early.

Government Relations - Huff

Chris Huff reported that eight GLA members participated in today's meeting. The group discussed the functions of the committee and ideas for the upcoming library legislative day, to continue its successes. The group will continue to meet via email and he will forward information.

Handbook - Heck

Jeff reported that the meeting produced a number of concrete new ideas. As a result of suggestions by Kara Mullen and discussion by the group, the committee will: review and

improve the uniformity of each group's information in the handbook; distribute a letter asking for suggested changes to the handbook from all chairs; break the existing PDF file into multiple files for ease of use; propose to add three new documents to the handbook, including a list of committee members in GLA, committee descriptions, and external websites.

Nominating - Bagley

Since this committee's work is concentrated in the late spring, Liz Bagley will check with GLQ on its summer publication deadline and with Administrative Services on the preferred timing of ballot mailings.

Public Relations - Steiner

Sarah Steiner says her group is considering a new GLA logo. The committee will create a Facebook page for GLA, and it will make and distribute a template for press releases. For COMO, the group seeks to have the incoming ALA president speak, or they will provide a program on how to do press releases. They also want to provide a GLA website page titled "So, You Want to be a Librarian" to draw new members. Sarah will check on the possibility of either streaming COMO programs on the Internet or recording them for later viewing. Sarah is considering a suggestion that the web site be redesigned, and she will ask for volunteers from her committee. She requested we send thank you emails to all who participated in the GLA Midwinter Conference meetings today. Jim expressed his appreciation for all the new attendees.

Scholarship - Petersohn

Barbara Petersohn says that by January, 2009, she should post information about scholarships. The committee is considering a virtual meeting to select the winners, but the number of documents involved could make this problematic. She will decide by May if it can be done. There is a large quantity of paperwork to transmit and review. Liz Bagley reported that the raffle income was down (\$4,248 in 2008 vs. a record of \$5,409 in 2007) but still sufficient to cover the scholarships. We've had \$125 in contributions since the past board meeting. She thanked the group for all its support.

Student Assistants – Benford for Baker

Heidi Benford reported only one person in attendance at this committee meeting. They reviewed the intent of the committee and she hopes they will meet soon.

Student Media Festival Committee – Benford for Baker

Heidi Benford provided an update and asked, if any board members are interested, that they serve as judges. The event is held on the second Friday of May. Most projects won't come in until March. Gordon Baker added that we had 1000 projects from 5000 students, so this impacts many students across the state, and we should be proud of working with this project. Liz asked what was presented – video? Gordon answered that it included most media types, including video, powerpoint slides, and podcasts. The group is looking for photograph judges but they seem unwilling to donate the time. Shelley Rogers said she may be able to recruit a photographer. GAIT and GLA are partners in this, and it is cosponsored with Georgia Public Broadcasting.

NEW Business

1. Mike Siegler is running for vice-president / president elect of SELA, unopposed. Jim said we will need a new SELA representative; he spoke with Dr. Nelson, who would serve. Jim requested approval of the appointment for the rest of Mike's term.

VOTE - unanimously in favor.

2. GLA has endorsed the Read Across America (RAA) program before, but this year RAA asks for financial support. They seek to place brochures into the community. Jim Cooper recommended at least a token donation of \$100-\$150. As there's no budget set yet, it shouldn't pose problem with that. Gordon Baker explained that RAA started 9-10 years ago to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. It involves mostly K-12, but there is some participation in higher education libraries. The program involves celebrities in reading to students, and it's coordinated through the National Education Association. Shelley Rogers moved to participate for \$100. The motion was seconded.

VOTE - unanimously in favor.

3. Carol Stanley reported conversing with Ann Hamilton about a recommended Orientation for Chapter Leaders workshop at ALA this year. Ann said there normally would be about \$60 in support from GLA for travel. Given the economy, and the subsequent likelihood that her library will not be able to fund the full cost, Carol seeks \$200 or so for expenses. The workshop is offered at both the winter and summer conference, though the program varies slightly each time. Ray Calvert moved to support at \$200; Cooper modified to \$300; Lori Lester seconded.

VOTE - unanimously in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m. Jeff Heck, Secretary