

Georgia Library Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Dublin, Georgia
Friday, April 17, 2009

Present: Gordon Baker, Heidi Benford, Ray Calvert, Susan Cooley, Jim Cooper, Ann Hamilton, Jeff Heck, Tessa Minchew, Joan Osborne, Betty Paulk, Bill Richards, Shelley Rogers, Carol Stanley, Sarah Steiner, Tim Wojcik

Call to Order and Welcome – Cooper

This meeting, held in Laurens County, accommodates GLA board members in the southern portion of the state in our rotation of meeting locations.

Approval of Minutes – Heck

Ray Calvert moved to approve as distributed; Ann Hamilton seconded; the vote was all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Calvert

\$15,585.50 income; \$15,150.92 net income; \$434.58 total expenses; \$85,011.37 in the scholarship fund with \$3,289.00 estimated income from the scholarship fund; \$41,633.55 in the savings account with an estimated income of \$21.

Jim Cooper asked if the cash flow sheet reflected income from the conference. Ray replied that it did.

Motion – Ann Hamilton moved to accept, seconded by Shelley Rogers

Vote – all in favor

Membership Report – Richards

Bill reported that plans are proceeding based on the recommendations from the past meeting.

Administrative Services – Baker

Administrative Services emailed a member list for the New Members Roundtable, it processed scholarship registrations, and Kara Mullen purged the listserve of members who expired in 2006 or 2007. There currently are 802 members on the list. Susan Cooley requested that Gordon ask about mailing labels for the GLQ.

GLQ Editor's Report - Cooley

Susan handed out the most recent GLQ issue, which had not yet been mailed. Her report provides 2008 totals as well as 2009, since she was not able to attend the most recent meeting. The only known cost so far for the most recent issue is the layout charge. Sarah Steiner is the new advertising manager, a difficult position to do well in these tight economic times.

The GLQ Board will hold its annual meeting June 5, probably at Georgia State. The construction issue was popular again this year, and that special edition will be continued. Tim Wojcik asked about the book reviews. Susan replied that there has been difficulty with publishers not providing review copies. She has changed the process, so the book is no longer required in hand. We had no reviewers this issue.

ALA Councilor's Report – Hamilton

ALA Connect, a new program currently in beta, looks promising. The site will allow communication on the web, allowing all librarians to see and interact with conferences. ALA has done wiki work for a time that's effective, also.

Ann expressed a need for the board to find a GLA representative to handle biweekly conference calls, as she's not in a position to do them. She asked if the author of the AARPA article from GLQ might do it, or someone else from the public library sector, as they already deal with the issues involved. Minutes of the biweekly calls are distributed. A copy of the email describing this need was included with the agenda.

Ann added that Diana J. Very was recommended for this task. Jim Cooper will check with her to see if she's willing. Susan Cooley noted that she may not have time, as she's in library school.

The Presidential Task Force convened to review the process of running for ALA president now has a new assignment, to look at the issue of the expense and time required in running for the office. The group currently considers a proposal that people stand for office instead of campaigning for office. ALA currently gives candidates \$1000 for web sites promoting their candidacy, so the change could save ALA that money.

American Libraries had a photo of Georgia Southern's library in the April issue.

SELA Representative - Nelson

No report, but Jim Cooper noted that we are considering a SELA meeting during the next COMO conference.

Division Reports

Academic Library Division - Ruffin

Gene was not in attendance, but his report is attached in the packet distributed and reviewed by Jim Cooper.

The Nominating Committee has submitted a ballot of officers, including president, vice - president, and secretary/treasurer.

Ordinarily different groups have luncheons; this year we may have a conference-wide luncheon.

Public Library Division – Fuller

Carolyn was not in attendance, but she sent a list of authors for the reception which was included in the meeting packet. Barnes and Noble is sponsoring the reception, for which the authors have already been contacted.

School Library Division – Wojcik

Tim reviewed the current relationship among the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), the School Library Division (SLD), the Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA), and the Georgia Independent Schools Association (GISA), noting that it is difficult to gain participation and new members for the SLD because of the perception that the other groups represent school librarians. He suggested a change in focus for the division, with a change in name to emphasize information literacy. Tim has spoken with Gordon Baker about a membership drive. One possibility, if the potential member is attached to Sylvan, etc, they could be made members of the SLD for \$30 dollars per year.

Discussion -

Carol Stanley asked if our relationship with GLMA is good. Tim felt the answer was yes, that they liked his outreach to them. Jim Cooper reminded the group of the organizing of the group in the 1980s.

Shelley Rogers noted that the names of other divisions immediately convey their purpose, but that a division named Information Literacy might not do so. She asked if we should have an Information Literacy Committee instead of its remaining a division.

Jim Cooper remarked that our link with AASL is a reason for keeping division status for the group. He wondered if there was sufficient interest to keep the group at division level. Susan Cooley suggested Gordon Baker might know how many of our members are school members.

Ann Hamilton felt the proposed name isn't as clear. In ALA, the corresponding group is named School and Children; she asked if we could change our name to appeal to school librarians? Tim felt that could work. Jim also supported the idea, as children's librarians do turn out for events. Carol Stanley added that public libraries already have representation. Ann Hamilton felt we could have two sections under the division. Tim will learn what the AASL requires.

Carol Stanley inquired about GLMA's relation to AASL, as this is something we need to know to deal with the issue. We do not wish to exclude GLMA without communication.

Ann Hamilton noted that COMO has been talked about as single organization for 17 years. GLMA was not in favor of the change we are considering in the past, but we may want to bring up again.

Jim relayed his discussion about adding GAETC (Georgia Educational Technology Conference) to the groups sponsoring COMO. GAETC has a technology focus.

Gordon added that in the early '60s, the GLA School and Children's Division created the School Library Division, who affiliated with the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE).

Our state is the only one with two AASL affiliates. SLD has served as an alternative group for school media specialists who are not as politically minded, because the GLMA is politically active. Our members usually are not members of GLMA, though some of our school library media division members have been president of GLMA. If we change our constitution it's uncertain how it will change our affiliation with AASL. Kara Mullen in Administrative Services supplied numbers: there are a total of 68 members in the school division, and school media coordinators are 17 in number. There are 284 members in the academic library division, by contrast. Tim asked for Gordon to provide him with a list of our constituents.

Gordon recalled that it has been suggested before that the Georgia Library Association serve as the blanket organization, merging in GLMA and the Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT), but GLMA is the group that resists. They have about 600 members, with a previous high of more than 1100 members before they raised dues. GAIT has about 200 members, mostly school media specialists. Tim suggested information be placed on the GLA web site to provide access in a timely fashion. Cooper

added that we will encourage membership and leadership. Gordon will send a list of school division members to Tim Wojcik and Jim Cooper.

New Members Round Table – Rogers

At a previous GLA Executive Board meeting, the group approved \$200 for refreshments at an NMRT meeting. Sarah Steiner reported the event went well and it was popular, but that the venue was not large enough for the attendees. The Mingle With the Administrators event drew 24 attendees, including students and recent graduates, and 12 administrators.

At the next COMO, NMRT will sponsor two sessions. The first will be a résumé review with interviewing techniques, and the second will provide information about our Georgia library organizations, their history, etc.

Shelley noted a conflict produced by how “new members” are categorized that prevented them from attending some sessions they might find of interest. She asked if the NMRT should be changed to a committee, or folded into the general membership to avoid the conflict in scheduling.

Carol Stanley asked how this would affect GLA’s relationship with ALA since the latter organization has a parallel group. Ann replied that ALA has a strong NMRT group and that changing the status of our NMRT would not be as productive as changing our NMRT’s meeting time to the same slot as committees at COMO. The board concurred. Carol will schedule NMRT to meet during the committee meeting slot, and she’ll publicize that doing so is at the request of the GLA Executive Board.

Gordon noted that Kara Mullen has created a list of new members to GLA, and Shelley will send them a welcome soon.

Paraprofessional Division – Benford

Heidi reported the division plans to have an in-person meeting to finalize their agenda for the rest of year. They will have two COMO proposals; a morning program will provide paraprofessional library staff with continuing education/development, perhaps a library certification program, and it will touch on the MLS program at Valdosta. A second proposal will focus on entertainment, providing a game show oriented “are you smarter than a parapro?” session.

The membership committee of the paraprofessional division continues to develop ideas toward an increase in membership. When Heidi was chair of the committee, she led a “100 members in 100 days” campaign, drawing 42 new members. Jim Cooper asked how the campaign was announced. Heidi replied that it was through a listserv and included a drawing for partial payment toward COMO attendance. Rewards also included \$25 dollar gas cards.

Rhonda Boozer, the division’s chair for providing mini-grants requests the approval of funding to provide five \$250 grants for COMO, totaling \$1250. Since this is a recommendation from the committee, no motion is needed.

Vote - all ayes. Money approved.

Heidi requested funds to provide \$75 dollars for prizes, etc. at COMO, including prizes for the game show session.

Vote – all ayes

Trustees and Friends – Koehler

There was no report from the division, but Gordon Baker noted that Wally needed to be contacted to find a representative to the affiliate assembly for ALTAF and FLGIA at the ALA conference. He felt Wally might wish to handle this, since he normally attends ALA. Jim Cooper will check.

Interest Group Council Report – Osborne/Minchew

Joan reported that all the interest groups except for collection development met during the midwinter GLA meeting. She will encourage all the groups to make presentations at the next COMO. Jim Cooper noted that presentations are needed. Joan introduced Tessa Minchew as the vice-chair of the council.

Committee Reports

Awards – Lester

Lori was not able to attend but she emailed her report and encouraged submissions from GLA members for the awards.

Conference – Cooper

Jim said the group has met numerous times and they wrapped up last year's COMO in late January. The conference brought in about \$22,000 for GLA. Ray Calvert will be treasurer of COMO this year, and Jim will be the chair of the conference this year as part of his three-year rotation. Programming responsibility will be handled by GLMA, and they are assigning the rooms. An emphasis this year is to arrange tracks so attendees won't have multiple sessions from the same track at the same time.

The Friday speaker will be Tony Buzzio, the last keynote speaker, with a focus on school librarians. We are still looking for the Thursday keynote speaker. Steven Bell from Ohio will speak on technology.

The conference is in Columbus, Ga., this year, October 7-9. The venue hotel is across the street, and we have contracted with two other hotels, including the Doubletree and the Holiday Inn, both at the airport. There are three bed and breakfasts within walking distance of the venue. Other hotels were not selected because they would hold the GLA liable for no-shows, damage, etc. We currently have 350 rooms and need a total of 400-500. The call for proposals will be going out before the end of April, with a proposals deadline at the end of May.

Gordon added that GLMA will not be the only group considering proposals. He also noted that presenters can't be reimbursed by GLA for travel costs. Those proposals including a request for travel reimbursement are separated out and generally are not approved because there is no money to fund travel. Jim Cooper noted an incentive for presenters of a 10-dollar rebate that was done last year. He acknowledged that budgets are tight for librarians this year.

GLA is committed to Athens as the venue the following year, probably the second week in October, 2010. Gordon also noted that we have an agreement with SELA for a joint meeting in 2012. He will go to Augusta to look at a new conference center large enough to allow all parts of the event to be held under one roof.

Gordon noted that Alabama librarians are excited that this year's event will be in Columbus. We may offer member rates for Alabamians as an incentive to attend. Gordon mentioned that we may have a SELA leadership conference at COMO as well.

COMO Store – Boozer

Gordon reported for Rhonda. The group has met remotely, using Skype. They collected suggestions, researched prices, and will send information to the membership of GLA.

Constitution/Bylaws – Seigler

There was no report for this meeting.

Governmental Relations – Huff

Chris was not in attendance, but he sent a report, asking the GLA Executive Board for their reactions to the selection of date for the past Legislative Day and whether or not it should be retained. Susan Cooley noted a letter to the editor about library day in the current GLQ from a former chair for Legislative Day, Deborah Manget. The letter suggested refocusing the day on our library trustees and friends, rather than filling the morning with speeches from library professionals to library professionals. Jim Cooper added that this is something we've tried to change but that it is difficult considering all the groups involved. Susan added that trustees feel their time would be more effectively spent speaking with legislators and noted the relatively small number of legislators in attendance. Jim replied that the legislators were able to see their representatives and that more money was gained this year, so it was an effective event. There usually are around 400 people; this year there were only 300, which was fortunate as the event was bumped to a smaller room by venue management. The change was to our benefit as the venue returned \$1000 as compensation.

Gordon mentioned that some attendees requested an opportunity to have their photos taken on the capitol steps. Jim said he would review this. Carol Stanley added that the fortune cookie idea worked well, delivering the message "libraries bring good fortune to Georgians."

Handbook – Heck

Jeff presented two items for a vote. The first added a list of committee membership to the handbook, and the second added a brief description for each committee.

Vote – all ayes for both items 1 and 2

He also reviewed changes and additions approved at prior meetings.

Membership – Richards

Bill reported that his committee is investigating online membership renewal, and they are working on a brochure update to broaden its appeal, to be distributed in Adobe PDF format.

Nominating – Bagley

Liz noted the distribution to the GLA list of a request for candidates for offices. She asked the board for nominations.

Public Relations – Steiner

Sarah reported three projects from the committee.

A Flickr page with photos from student meetings has been created, which can feed to Facebook and other social media. The board expressed approval for the page.

Sarah also reported that the GLA web page is in redevelopment, using Drupal, since the group currently working on the pages are not as familiar with CSS development and prefer a more WYSIWYG environment.

She also provided two groups of new logos for the GLA, with different themes. Following discussion of the options and suggestions for possible tweaks (including the use of diamonds as an element and the possible removal of the swoosh in one set), Jim suggested that more choices will be distributed, with a vote by email soon or at the next meeting in July.

Scholarship – Petersohn

Barbara reported that her group is working toward the use of Google Groups to scan and upload scholarship information. The group has distributed information to 14 schools in the area. They have received six applications to date and are reviewing them. Shelley asked how much money the scholarship provides. Gordon replied that the Hubbard scholarship provides more than \$3000 over two years; the Beard provides \$1000.

Student Assistants – Baker

The group sent out notices of a \$1000 scholarship but had no applicants. Gordon noted there's a lot going on in public high schools this year and the group will try again.

Student Media Festival – Baker

The festival will be held May 1 in Atlanta at the Georgia Public Broadcasting offices, involving 1200 projects from 3000 students. The committee needs volunteers to judge and help with food service. There usually are three judges per group, and there were 52 judging stations last year. Breakfast and lunch are provided, and it will be at 14th street next to the GCAT building (directions are on the GPB web site). This is the 33rd year; GLA and GAIT are in partnership with GPB to sponsor the event.

Old Business

None

New Business

Adoption of 2009 Budget

Jim Cooper referred to the proposed budget, published in the packet. It's based on last year's budget, but the amount related to the COMO conference is actual. Bob Fox did get information from Ray Calvert about actual expenditures last year before preparing this.

Carol Stanley asked if flexibility in the budget for next year was needed following her approval for funding to attend ALA. Ann Hamilton replied that we always do that charge as a separate item, not a line item. Carol asked if it needed to be put in as a line item. Jim suggested removing \$500 from the president's line and adding it under *Other-travel*.

Motion – Ray Calvert moved that the budget be approved; Gordon Baker seconded.

Vote – all ayes. The budget is approved.

Next Meeting- Friday, July 17, 2009, at the West Georgia Regional Library in Carrollton, Ga.

Adjournment at 1:02 p.m.