

*RHODE ISLAND COALITION OF LIBRARY ADVOCATES  
BOARD MEETING*

*Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 5:30 P.M.  
NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 1 NEW ENGLAND TECH BLVD, EAST GREENWICH  
LIBRARY, LEARN LAB S105J*

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:40, after introductions. Present were Lisa Ashe, Cheryl Banick (ARIHSL and SLA), Howard Boksenbaum (chair), Gale Eaton (secretary), Hil Herbst, Cheryl McCarthy (vice chair / chair elect), Ida McGhee (Cornucopia RI), Lauren Mandel (GSLIS), Patricia Raskin, and Sue Warthman (CRIARL).

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes of the September 6 minutes were approved, and will be made available at [www.colari.org](http://www.colari.org). (Look for archives under "About COLA.")

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Neeltje Henneman was unable to attend, but sent word that our financial situation has not changed since the last meeting.

**OLIS proposal for joint OLIS/RILA/COLA program:** OLIS has proposed a workshop, "Community Building and Community Engagement: Partnerships at Work," to be led by Deb Hoadley. Formerly of the Massachusetts Library System and a past president of NELA, Hoadley is an experienced speaker and presented such a workshop to the NH Library Trustees Association recently. The OLIS Continuing Education committee isn't sure if we would want a full day workshop (like the NHLTA affair), but suggests considering a daytime or evening event after the election; November 14, 16, 17, or 18 might be appropriate dates, and RILA is also interested.

Gale moved that the Board authorize an expenditure in support of the event, matching RILA's contribution but not to exceed \$500. Seconded by Cheryl McCarthy, the motion passed.

**Annual Meeting:** Howard has reserved our usual meeting space in the State House for April 13, and reports that Joan will invite Carla Hayden (first) or Emily Sheketoff (if Dr. Hayden is unavailable). Gale proposed two more local speaker possibilities to add to the RI poet laureate; Patricia agreed that Steven R. Porter, founder of the Association of RI Authors (ARIA), would be a fine speaker.

**Speakers' Bureau Committee:** Patricia reported that the committee has met twice since our last meeting and is making progress. Howard noted that Tom Viall is looking into a program

developed for a modeling agency and compatible with WordPress (the platform for our website); Marcus Mitchell is looking up Toastmaster standards that might apply to the project.

### **Updates from Organizational Representatives:**

ARIHSL (Association of RI Health Science Libraries): Cheryl Banick said the group is working on solutions to fill the gap left by HELIN, which most can no longer afford. Howard's questioning brought out an even darker reality: ARIHSL is losing members, as Sue told us at our last meeting. As health services librarians retire or move away, they are not being replaced. Hospital standards no longer mandate the same kind of library support, and administrators are replacing books with online resources and librarians with volunteers (if anything). "Am I the only one who thinks this is a crisis?" asked Howard. Passionate discussion ensued. Consensus: COLA will sign on to ARIHSL advocacy letters to editors, etc., and Gale and Howard will feature the issue in our October newsletter, pestering Cheryl and Sue for needed material.

CORI (Cornucopia of RI): Ida thanked COLA members who attended the group's delightful tenth anniversary celebration on September 15, noting that our new vice-chair, Cheryl McCarthy, was a special honoree at the event. Their annual meeting is scheduled for October 18.

CRIARL (Consortium of RI Academic and Research Libraries): Susan Warthman reported that the group has an upcoming meeting.

GSLIS (Graduate School of Library and Information Studies): Lauren Mandel, our new GSLIS representative, reported progress on the faculty search, the absorption of new faculty, and a good crop of new students. Challenges include the search for a faculty member to be appointed jointly to GSLIS (for a 9-month academic year) and the URI Libraries (for a 12-month year), and the re-emergence of the Information and Library Science Department at Southern Connecticut State University (which, although still unaccredited, is once more accepting students).

SLA (Special Libraries Association): Cheryl Banick reported that the group's last meeting was at the new Steamship Historical Society at Post Road.

**Adjournment** was moved at 6:45 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for November 1 at NEIT.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale Eaton, Secretary