

RHODE ISLAND COALITION OF LIBRARY ADVOCATES BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 5:30 P.M.

BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY, Senior Center Studio, 281 COUNTY ROAD, BARRINGTON, RI 02806

The COLA Board convened at 5:35; present were Lisa Ashe, Howard Boksenbaum (Chair), Monica Brennan, Eileen Dyer (RILA), Gale Eaton (Secretary), Neeltje Henneman (Treasurer), Cheryl McCarthy (Vice-Chair), Ida McGhee (CORI), Pnina Pressburger, Joan Ress Reeves, Rose Ellen Reynolds, and Tom Viall.

Chair's report: In February, Howard wrote to Ken Wagner, RI Commissioner of Education, Dean Ruth Sullivan, and the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Planning Team, urging them on behalf of COLA to include school libraries in RIDE's ESSA plan—all the more important in light of the proposed S 106 that would require RIDE to incorporate media literacy education into the basic education program (BEP).

Secretary's report: Minutes of the February 7 meeting were approved; friendly amendments will be accepted. The newsletter had been sent to the printers and expected to appear in mailboxes soon.

Treasurer's report: When Neeltje drew up her report, \$150.00 in dues and \$0.08 in interest had brought our total funds to \$8,573.40. Since then she had collected another \$350 in dues from the mailbox.

Committees

Membership: New committee chair Lisa Ashe has reviewed and updated Gale's Excel membership lists and is collating them with Tom Viall's MailChimp records; Gale used her work to mail out the newsletter.

Nominating: Our slate was nearly complete, with three officers (Chair, Cheryl McCarthy; Secretary, Gale Eaton; Treasurer, Neeltje Henneman); three board members for 2017 – 2020 (Howard Boksenbaum, Monica Brennan, John Bucci, Ron Heroux, and Stephen Porter); and a 2017 – 2018 nominating committee (Gale Eaton, Emilie Benoit, and Patricia Raskin). We still need a Vice-Chair/Chair Elect.

Updates from organizational reps

There were no reports from ARIHSL, CRIARL, and SLRI.

Cornucopia of RI (CORI): Ida discussed the group's current activities and their planning for next fall's conference. Proposed topic: Library services to immigrants.

Rhode Island Library Association (RILA): Eileen reported that RILA is about to send out RFPs for a strategic plan. The association is watching S 106 (see chair's report, above) and H 5093. (The latter, a "Public Safety and Protection Act" introduced in January, would mandate state and local government cooperation with the United States Department of Homeland Security; although it is not explicitly related to libraries, and is unlikely to garner Assembly support, it needs to be watched because of its implications for patron confidentiality.) RILA will be preparing letters in support of NEA, NEH, NPR, and other federal agencies.

Office of Library & Information Services (OLIS): Tom said he would not presume to deliver an OLIS report, but urges people to accept a widely disseminated invitation to participate in a focus group on the OLIS strategic plan. (The meetings are scheduled at Cranston's William Hall Library on March 14 and

at the North Kingstown Public Library on March 17; an online survey is also open until March 17. For more information see <http://www.olis.ri.gov/news/2017/invitation.php>.)

The Library Board of RI did not meet last month because of the weather.

Library Advocacy Video: Howard showed a two-minute video developed to publicize the Columbus (Ohio) Public Library. RILA leaders plan to meet on March 13 with videographer Stephanie Ewens and discuss a proposal for a similar video to use in RI library advocacy efforts; Howard and Cheryl will attend on behalf of COLA. The Board discussed how such a video would be used; there was a general sense that (as RILA's Jack Martin put it in e-mail to Howard) "the impact could be pretty tremendous!" RILA hopes COLA can help with funding. The estimated \$4500 - \$5500 cost is clearly beyond us but Gale handed Neeltje a check that should secure us a "with support from" line if we can't go so far as "co-sponsored by." Cheryl moved and the Board voted that Howard should be empowered to negotiate for our priorities at the meeting.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting: Arrangements for the meeting seem to be in place; Tiana Page of the Innovation Office will represent Governor Raimondo.

Dates and Locations of Future COLA Meetings: Cheryl's polling revealed that Tuesdays in Cranston are still the popular favorite, and has booked Board meetings June 6 and September 5 at the William Hall Library and October 3, November 7, and December 5 at Sockanosset Crossroads. It is too soon to book space for 2018, but if we continue to favor Tuesdays the dates will be January 9, February 6, March 6, May 8, and June 5 in Cranston, with the Annual Meeting at the State House the week of April 8.

RILA Joint Membership Form: Incoming RILA president Kieran Ayton developed a proposal for a RILA online form that would allow members to join (or renew) COLA and/or Cornucopia at the same time. In 2018, RILA will be paying \$840 for the Wild Apricot Membership Database; COLA would contribute \$100 for its annual share of this, and Cornucopia (which is smaller) would pay \$50. If this results in such a spate of new memberships that RILA has to pay for a higher level of Wild Apricot (\$1560 a year), we will rejigger the amounts. As Tom points out, it will be worth it. The Board voted to accept.

Legislation: We had already discussed the 2018 budget and S-0106 under other headings.

Future meeting dates and locations: Cheryl undertook to identify available sites and survey the Board on preferences for day of the week, time, and place for next year's meetings.

New Business: The Board voted to subsidize Rose Ellen as our representative to National Library Legislative Day 2017; Neeltje will make her a check for \$500.

Adjournment: We adjourned at 7:00 p.m. and all began talking at once about what to do next and how to do it. What a treat for the business-like people meeting in the next room!

Respectfully submitted,

Gale Eaton,

Secretary