

**South Carolina State Library Board
Meeting Notes
December 10, 2008
10:30-12:00**

All members of the State Library Board were present except Betsy Crawford and Maria Macaulay. Sarah McMaster represented the Association of Public Library Administrators. As the academic semester was over, the Library and Information Science Student Association (LISSA) was not represented. David Goble took notes.

Chair, BG Stephens called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the September 24, 2008 meeting were accepted.

Reports:

Directors Report

✓ **Budget Update - Notification**

1. The Library Staff and Board Members are being notified as quickly as possible regarding the budget cuts. Staff are being notified by e-mail and via staff meetings. The best approach is absolute honesty and openness.
2. Given the affect of budget cuts on State Aid to Public Libraries, public library directors are also being kept abreast of breaking news through the Publibdir listserv and the SCAPLA listserv.

✓ **Budget Update – Current Situation**

1. The budget was cut 2.5% prior to our ever receiving our budget July 1. We reduced State Aid and DISCUS.
2. In November we took a 13.1% cut – We reduced State Aid, DISCUS, gave up 2 positions. State Aid stands at \$1.78 compared to 2.25 a year ago.
3. The Board of Economic Advisors meets 12/10 to consider further cuts based on November's tax receipts. The Budget and Control Board meets 12/11 to discuss further actions. Budget reductions of 2, 4 or 6% are expected. A 10 day mandatory furlough (4% cut) was mandated for all staff in anticipation of expected cuts.
4. We have received a request from the Budget and Control Board to prepare a budget for next year which is 30.1% less than the budget we had a year ago.

✓ **D. Concerns**

1. The public library directors have been very gracious regarding continued reductions to State Aid. At what point do we lose the support of Library Directors/Legislators?
2. The current issues are based on an ill-conceived tax structure. The effects of the economy and the meltdown of the financial industry have not been entirely felt yet.
3. Staff morale is as good as can be expected under existing conditions.
4. Are LSTA funds in jeopardy based on bail out and stimulus packages being drafted at the federal level?

✓ **Game Changers**

1. We are looking at integrating functions with other agencies (Arts, Museum, Archives). This could lead to consolidation of functions here at the State Library or at one of the other agencies.

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2. We are in conversations with SC First Steps about the possibility of their relocating to the 1430 building. This could result in significant rent reductions.
3. I have been in conversations with the USC library school regarding rent for the space they occupy in the 1500 building.
4. The potential savings associated with E-Board Meetings is potential \$3,600 per year.

✓ **Reorganization**

1. Lost positions – The following position have been given up or frozen.
 - a. Division Director: Discovery & Delivery
 - b. Library Development: 2 positions
 - c. Library Services Manager
 - d. Two part-time positions
2. Re-engineer core services
 - a. We have surveyed public library directors asking their opinion of what should remain in a re-engineered and much smaller State Library.
 - b. We are setting up focus groups for the purpose of exploring new ideas regarding a much smaller State Library.

✓ **Audit**

1. Financial Audit – Good audit with no substantial recommendations.
2. Personnel Audit - Good audit with no substantial recommendations.

✓ **Good News**

1. Faith Keller was awarded Paraprofessional of the year by SCLA.
2. Curtis Rogers stepped down as President of SCLA and won the John G. Lorenz award from the Institute of Museums and Library Service for getting our statewide statistics completed in a timely manner.
3. We doubled our number of givers and the amount given to the United Way Campaign.
4. Sam Hastings director of the School of Library and Information Science won the Watson Davis Award from the American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) which recognizes an individual member of the Society who has shown continuous dedicated service to the membership through active participation in and support of ASIS&T programs, chapters, SIGs, committees, and publications.
5. The Friends of South Carolina Libraries (FOSCL) had Governor Sanford declare the week of October 19-25 Friend of the Library Week in South Carolina.
6. Paula James our Finance Director gave birth to Maddock Miller James on October 26, 2008
7. The State Library has had some excellent press coverage since our last meeting we were on television twice (IM reference and budget cuts) and TBS has had two very fine articles in the State Newspaper. Articles on the State Library are much more common in papers, websites, blogs etc. over the last few months than they have been in the past.

✓ **Other Actions**

1. Evergreen Project – An open-source integrated library system project has been kicked off in earnest with Laura Sponhour being assigned as project manager.

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2. Podcast – The State Library has kicked off a new podcast series available on the website and called the Lions Roar
3. SC Connections Academy – The State Library has opened the computer training center to the SC Connections Academy which is one of the proprietary charter schools.
4. Job audit, updating of job descriptions – we have engaged the service of a USC graduate student earning her degree in Human Resources to help us perform a job audit which will serve to update our job descriptions and assist with reorganizing our State Library.
5. TBS attended the Ophthalmology conference in Hilton Head – This is a first time in a long time we have attended this conference and believe it will help expand the service.
6. Adults Connect – David Goble has been asked to join the Adults Connect Committee which is an excellent opportunity to engage the State Library in economic development and an excellent networking opportunity for the library. Connect Adults is a function of the Education and Economic Development Act.

APLA Report

- ✓ The counties will probably not see the full effects of the budget/economic decline in this fiscal year. Next year will probably be when it all hits the counties.
- ✓ The libraries are doing their best to sustain services in light of State Aid reductions but it is becoming increasingly difficult in light of the increased demand for services. Libraries are experiencing significant increases in circulation, computer use, etc.
- ✓ The public library directors are behind the idea of the \$60K minimum safety net. As the State Aid is cut, it becomes a bottom line for many more libraries.
- ✓ Public Library Appreciation Day is February 14th. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by:

David S. Goble
State Library Director