

Wyoming Library Association  
Executive Board Minutes  
December 14, 2021

**Call to order**

President Jeff Collins called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

**Roll Call**

Board members present:

Jeff Collins, President  
Conrado Saldivar, Vice President  
Jacob Mickelsen, Past President  
Elizabeth Thorson, Communications Advisor  
Jamie Markus, State Librarian  
Johanna Tuttle, Interest Groups Representative  
Susan Parkins, Member-at-Large  
Judi Boyce, MPLA Representative

Absent:

Lisa Scroggins, ALA Coordinator  
Michelle Boule, Member-at-Large  
Caitlin White, Legislative Committee Chair, ex officio  
Amigos Library Management Group

Also present:

Elizabeth Albin, conference committee chair  
Darcy Acord

A quorum was determined to be present.

**Agenda**

Susan Parkins moved to approve the agenda, adding discussion of Whova under new business. Second by Jake. Motion passed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Jake motioned to approve the November minutes with a grammatical correction noted by Susan. Conrado second. Motion passed.

**President Report**

Jeff reviewed his report and introduced Elizabeth Albin as the conference committee chair. The theme of next year's conference will be Stronger Together. He is waiting on an MOU from EveryLibrary and reported that the updated bylaws are now posted online.

**Vice President Report**

Conrado noted to Elizabeth Albin that he has some conference supplies to pass on to her.

**Past President –**

Jake is moving out of state Jan 3. He reported that he canceled the higher level of Zoom that was needed for the conference. He will send information to Jeff on how to gather stats from WhoVa.

**Amigos Report**

Amigos sent their reports but didn't have a representative present as Kristin is out on maternity leave. Jeff reviewed the reports and reported that Lisa had ordered the gift card for Kristin.

**Executive Board Member Reports****ALA Councilor's Report –**

Lisa was absent. Jeff shared that she was able to connect with Janice to get helpful information on the ALA Councilor position.

**MPLA Representative –**

Judi will be attending the next MPLA meeting in January and had nothing new to report.

**Interest Groups –**

Johanna reported that LEAD's mentorship program deadline is. She said they have a lot of protégé applications, but she will likely be looking for mentors. SLIG met in December to work on the topic of book challenges in schools. The issue came up at a recent Laramie County school board meeting, as well as in Casper. They are looking for help on their panel. YSIG had a collaborative event using EventBrite but experienced several technical issues, so she encouraged the group not to use them for the WLA conference. The Spring meeting will be in Buffalo May 5-6, 2022. WLLI is working on a Grad Retreat for 2022. They are also searching for a representative for the WLA board and need a programming committee chair.

**Members-at-Large –**

Michelle was absent.

Susan will share her info during conference committee section.

**WLLI Report –**

vacant

**Conference Committee Chair -**

Elizabeth Albin reported that the date for the next WLA conference, which will be at the Clarion in Casper is tentatively scheduled for September 28-30, 2021. The committee is waiting on confirmation from hotel. They have also scheduled the 2023 conference for October 4-6, 2023.

**Legislative Committee –**

No update

**Awards committee –**

Jake noted that the remaining awards were mailed.

**Communications Advisor –**

Elizabeth Thorson had nothing to report.

**Membership Ad-hoc committee –**

No update

**EDI ad hoc committee –**

Conrado reported that dates and topics have been confirmed for open conversations 2.0: January 18 – Microaggressions, February 15 – Critical Race Theory, March 15 – Pronouns. The group will send out links to materials for people to review prior to the dates and the meetings will begin with a video overview before opening the discussion.

**State Librarian –**

Jamie reported that the school districts in Laramie County and Natrona County are facing book challenges. Jamie said he has received several calls on the topic. He spoke with Lisa, who recommends forming an ad hoc group to come up with ideas for rapid response. Jeff will follow up with Lisa on how to move forward.

Budget talks for the State Library look good so far. Jamie thanked Jeff and everyone that came over for Library of the Year award. He also noted that all libraries will be receiving a box of goodies from the State library to celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**New Business -****Whova -**

Elizabeth Albin noted that using Whova for our in-person conference would be helpful. It would allow for real-time updates and believed the value would be there. Susan reported that her first exposure to Whova was at an in-person conference for ARSL. She is the Whova coordinator for ABOS. She contacted Whova regarding the offers they have extended. The current quote requires a commitment by Dec 21. Susan said using Whova for the in-person conference would move us forward with technology and provide a better experience for attendees by promoting connections and interaction. The community board and meetups would encourage attendees to get together for job specific meetings. She said the app normally stays live for 3 months. Announcements, maps, meeting room maps, etc. are all available, and personal agendas can be set up. It would also help save on paper usage. The app can be used on a computer or a mobile device. Announcements can be sent immediately. Speaker info can be set up by speakers rather than committee members. People can interact with speakers at any time – even after conference. The app also features gamification in the form of photo contest and other challenges, and WLLI raffle baskets could be featured on the app. The app features many options for interacting through tech. The bare bones quote is \$1279 but would exclude the exhibitor package and feedback. All session feedback could be through Survey monkey rather than this. Susan reported that Visit Casper said they would give \$1000 toward the event we have conference in Casper, so that could be used. Jamie said state library will pay for it this year. He noted that it's a good test run for using an app and it's a good cost. Susan offered to be the app coordinator.

Jeff asked Jake for feedback from his experience working with Whova this year. Jake said it's a valuable tool that could really play a good roll in an in-person event.

Susan noted that this package does not include exhibitor package, which would be another \$500 fee. She said the sponsor exhibitor package is \$500 for 10 exhibitors, or \$800 for unlimited exhibitors. If we decide we need more later the fees go up significantly. Jamie offered that the State Library would cover the exhibitor package as well. Jake moved to approve the Whova app purchase, not to exceed \$2500 for the 2022 conference. Judi second. Motion passed.

### **Old Business –**

#### **Vacancies –**

- Secretary –A nominating committee will need to be formed and solicit the membership for nominees. As past president, Jake would have been in charge of that committee, but since he is leaving, his replacement will need to handle this.
- Past president – Jeff sent an email to the four most recent past presidents to see if they would be willing to take over for Jake. Two of them are potentially willing. Jeff will follow up.
- Legislative Committee - public library representative- opening for two public librarians
- Awards/grants committee – needs 2-3 members
- WLLI advisor
- Financial Auditing Advisor
- Annual conference committee – needs one more member

#### **Advocacy –**

Jeff and Conrado met with EveryLibrary and are waiting to see the MOU. Jeff said he didn't feel comfortable moving forward until the details were clear but reported that he would rather not put it off, given the challenges to the school boards, and asked Jamie to reach out as well.

**WLA Strategic Plan** – no update.

**WLA 2022 Budget** – Jeff sent a draft budget. He said it was challenging because it doesn't sync up with the categories Amigos uses. He will add the Whova app to the budget. Judi asked about budget for MPLA conference attendance. Jeff will check and make sure it's included. There will be a significant increase in expenses due to EveryLibrary, but increased revenue as well. Having an in-person conference will provide more revenue and sponsorship as well.

#### **Date of Next Meeting –**

The next meeting will be on January 11, 2021, at 4 pm.

#### **Adjourned –**

The meeting adjourned at 4:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Boyce  
MPLA Representative