

West Virginia Library Commission

November 15, 2019

The West Virginia Library Commission met at Library Commission Headquarters in Charleston, West Virginia, at 10:00 am on Friday, November 15, 2019. Members present were Betty Gunnoe, Dennis Taylor, Debra Sullivan, Katy White, and Charles Julian. Also, present, Karen Goff, Secretary.

The agenda was:

1. Call to Order – Betty Gunnoe, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2019
3. Public Comments
4. Financial Report – Provided by Karen Goff
5. Secretary's Report – Karen Goff
 - YALSA Project – Lisa Hechesky
 - Highlights of COSLA Fall Meeting
 - Update on Network Services Transfer
 - Update on Broadband RFP
 - Update on Cooperative Project
 - Status of Personnel Vacancies
 - Announcements on:
 - Family Read Week
 - New Directors Academy
 - Meeting with Service Centers and Designates
 - Stat and Annual Report
 - Major Financial Gift to Special Services
 - Weekly Report
6. Old Business
 - Resolution for David Nalker
 - Discussion on Executive Secretary salary
7. New Business
 - Approve Draft of the 2020 WVLC Calendar
8. Announcements
9. Adjourn

Call to Order

Chairman Gunnoe called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Julian moved to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Sullivan seconded. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

None

Financial Report

Secretary Goff pointed out that, as promised, the financial report is much smaller than the one presented at the August meeting. It was pulled on November 1st, and on page 11 is the summary report by funds, and pages 12-13 cover General Revenue. Secretary Goff next discussed page 15, the Lottery Fund. She explained that the first 9 lines were salaries and Benefits for the Network Services staff that was transferred to the Office of Technology (OT) October 28. According to Appendix B of the MOU transferring the staff from the Library Commission to the Office of Technology, the Library Commission will be billed for these expenditures through FY 2021. She mentioned that Office of Technology Director Josh Spence has said that his office will absorb travel costs for the techs. This will free up some Library Commission funds that will probably go to WVNET for additional server maintenance services.

Commissioner Julian started a discussion on budget cuts for 2020, and the potential effects.

Commissioner Julian started discussion on the move of Network Techs and billing from the Office of Technology.

Secretary Goff provided P-Card reports for the months of July 2019 through September 2019. Commissioner Julian moved that the financial report be filed for audit, including confirmation of the P-Card register. Commissioner White seconded, and the motion was approved.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Goff asked Ms. Lisa Hechesky, Youth Services Consultant, to report on a grant the Library Commission received from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA). YALSA is a division of the American Library Association (ALA). The grant was for Ms. Hechesky and Denise Norris from the South Charleston Public Library to attend "Transforming Teen Services" training. As part of the grant, they will do 15 hours of training for front line librarians to develop better teen services. Ms. Hechesky spoke about how libraries have no issues with early literacy and kids, but have issues reaching teens. Ms.

Hechesky discussed the training on content, understanding and delivering information to teens, and the computational thinking aspects of the programming. Ms. Hechesky went on to say how she is excited about this program.

Commission Julian asked how Ms. Hechesky would roll the program out in West Virginia. Ms. Hechesky stated that her plan is to do training sessions with the librarians at the service centers, or by region, and then these librarians would train others, and went over her goals for this project. Commission Sullivan discussed including schools.

Secretary Goff reported on the "COSLA", Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, meeting she had attended in Hartford, CT. Secretary Goff went over a report on the project "Importance of Rural Libraries to the Social Wellbeing of Their Communities" that is studying the importance of rural libraries to their communities. As part of this project the State Librarian of New Mexico visited the Helvetia (WV) Public Library and was very impressed with the librarian, local history, and local connections. Secretary Goff also reported on a conversation between a group of State Librarians and John Sargent, Chief Executive Officer of Macmillan Publishing. The conversation concerned Macmillan's new e-book pricing plan that will restrict library access to new e-books. At the end of the 90-minute conversation, there was no change in Mr. Sargent's belief that sales to libraries were adversely affecting Macmillan's bottom line. Libraries across the United States, including the West Virginia Reads Overdrive Consortium and the Library Commission, are boycotting Macmillan e-books.

Commissioner Julian started on a discussion on McMillian Books and his suggestion on how solve this issue.

Secretary Goff discussed the agency organization chart and the positions that are still unfilled.

Commission Julian started a discussion on the positions that are vacant and what we are doing to fill them.

Commissioner Sullivan said she had applications for the Director for Kanawha Co. PL and that they may not be suited for that job but could be for the Director of Finance for the Library Commission.

Secretary Goff provided an update on a session at the West Virginia Library Association Annual Conference on the transfer of the Network Services technicians. Chairman Gunnoe was also present at the session. Many librarians expressed their deep concern about this move. Secretary Goff received an email from State Senator Baldwin (Greenbrier County) echoing that concern.

Updating the Commissioners on progress with the Broadband Request for Proposal (RFP), Secretary Goff stated that the Purchasing Division agreed with the plan to write the requirements so vendors would have to bid by speed per library site, not by the average for the county, or city. Secretary Goff continued that the agency wants to have it completed so that it can be reported to the Legislators and keep with the timeline with E-rate. The assistance of Justin McAllister and John Toomey of the Office of Technology has been very helpful in the RFP process.

Commissioner Sullivan started discussion about Senator Baldwin, along with concerns from Commissioner Julian.

Commissioner Taylor continued the discussion of Delegate Linville and how he could also assist in the Broadband RFP.

Secretary Goff moved onto a discussion on The Library Cooperative name, The West Central Library Cooperative, and the libraries associated with this Co-op have signed the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). Secretary Goff stated the group will hold a joint Continuing Education Day. Secretary Goff continued with how Doddridge County PL has contracted with Ritchie County Public Library to do their finances. Visits and conversations with the three remaining Clarksburg Service Center Affiliates, Lowe, Nutter Fort, and Southern Area are in progress. These libraries will be assigned to the Co-Op on July 1st, 2020.

Secretary Goff next talked about Family Read Week that starts on Sunday, with a kick-off event in the WVLC Reading Room on Monday with students from Kanawha City Elementary. The First Lady reading to a school group in Beckley on Thursday.

Secretary Goff followed up on the New Directors Academy and the combined Service Center/Designate Meeting.

Secretary Goff spoke about the 2019 Statistical Report and the 2019 Annual Report that have been completed and ready to go to the printers. Secretary Goff mentioned that these reports are posted on the State Report Website.

Secretary Goff discussed the bequest to Special Services. Secretary Goff went on to say that Donna Calvert (the Special Services Director), and Jasmyne Lewis-Combs had some really good ideas for expanding programming and services, thanks to this bequest.

Commissioner Julian discussed his concerns on the document from WVLA for Legislative Day. It looks like it's from WVLC and does not specify it is from WVLA. Secretary Goff stated that the Logo was disliked by Megan Tarbett of Putnam County but was never replaced. Cabell County Public Library printed the flyers at their expense.

Commissioner Sullivan indicated that she would be interested in knowing the specifics related to public library operating hours around the state. Secretary Goff indicated that operating hours for individual libraries are reported to the Commission.

Commissioner Sullivan continued the discussion and asked about security in the libraries, especially connected to opioids, and about the incident at the Cabell County Library about 4 or 5 months ago.

Old Business

Chairman Gunnoe discussed and read the Resolution for David Nalker. Commissioner Julian moved the adoption of the Resolution and Commissioner White seconded. Resolution was adopted. Chairman Gunnoe mentioned a reception would be held at the Greenbrier County Public Library on December 5th, 2019.

Chairman Gunnoe next discussed that they were looking at options for the Executive Secretary salary, specifically trying to get the pay rate adjusted. The Commission consensus is to approach the other agencies to join in on adjusting the section of the West Virginia Code.

New Business

To approve the draft of the 2020 WVLC Calendar, Commissioner Julian moved to approve the proposed calendar, Commissioner Sullivan seconded. Commissioner Gunnoe mentioned that dates are still subject to change, as needed.

Next Meeting

Chairman Gunnoe announced the next meeting will be held at 3:30pm Monday February 10, 2020, at WVLC offices.

Adjourn

Commissioner Gunnoe adjourned meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Goff, Secretary

Betty Gunnoe, Chairman



Resolution
Commending the Leadership and Library Advocacy
of David Louis Nalker

WHEREAS, David Louis Nalker and his wife Susan, both transplanted Hoosiers, have resided in Lewisburg, West Virginia for the past 45 years; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Nalker operated as a successful businessperson, respected community leader, person of faith (St. James Episcopal Church), and devoted parent; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Greenbrier County and surrounding regions have greatly benefitted from Mr. Nalker’s dedication to higher education through his active leadership on the Board of Governors of the New River Community and Technical College (from 2003–2016); and,

WHEREAS, David has been an active member of the West Virginia Library Association for the past 13 years and was recognized this year as the 2019 recipient of the Association’s Certificate of Merit for his outstanding service to libraries throughout the state; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Nalker has served on the Greenbrier County Public Library Board of Trustees (in numerous leadership positions) where he is known as a role model, mentor; prodigious cocktail party fundraiser, and the “ideal, the gold standard of trustees,” and,

WHEREAS, David is known by friends and colleagues for his charm, wit, personal spark, and other qualities that result in “Dave ...leaving ...a little bit of himself in each of us” and,

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2016 Mr. Nalker accepted a gubernatorial appointment to the West Virginia Library Commission and has served actively in that position through November 2019; and,

WHEREAS, as a Library Trustee, library patron, and state Commissioner, David Nalker has embodied steadfast support for libraries and dynamic advocacy for the written word, and,

WHEREAS, David and Susan find it necessary to relocate from West Virginia to Bridgewater Retirement Community in Bridgewater, Virginia resulting in his resignation from the West Virginia Library Commission (effective November 16, 2019);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the West Virginia Library Commissioners, meeting in regular session on the 15th day of November 2019, do thank and commend David Louis Nalker for his outstanding service to libraries and education in West Virginia and wish him and Susan a continued retirement filled with family, friends, books, and joy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That copies of this resolution be provided to the Greenbrier County Public Library Board, the West Virginia Library Association, and be preserved in the annals of the West Virginia Library Commission.

Betty B. Gunnoe, Chair