

**STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 27, 2017
Baton Rouge, La
6 pm**

CALL TO ORDER

The State Library Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Chair, Georgia Brown. Additional members in attendance included Evelyn Valore, Louis Covington, Argiro Morgan, David Johnson. Absent from the meeting were James Lee and Patricia Preis. Rebecca Hamilton was present as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Georgia Brown called for a motion to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was offered by David Johnson and seconded by Evelyn Valore and unanimously carried.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by David Johnson and seconded by Evelyn Valore, the minutes were approved.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Hamilton directed members to the departmental quarterly reports which highlighted key events and initiatives of each department. Hamilton reported that usage of the State Library in virtually every department is steadily increasing. Additionally, calls for help and requests for information coming from the public libraries as well as parish elected officials has almost doubled, which means staff are providing more support for clients than almost ever before while staffing is at an all-time low. We are currently at 39 employees doing the work of 78 positions. On top of this staff all play a role in the implementation of the Louisiana Book Festival. Hamilton noted that board members would be reminded the following day about what a massive undertaking the book festival is. It is important to note that we are one of the best book festivals in the nation and are considered the best practice for a state to follow when establishing a state book festival, yet we implement our festival with fewer staff and less funding than any other book festival in the nation.

While State Library staff are keeping up with the overall workload as best as they can so that we won't get behind, new ideas and initiatives cannot be considered at all. Also potential partnerships with other agencies and organizations cannot move forward until the State Library gets more staff and restored funding.

Brown expressed concern that decision makers do not understand the role of libraries in a modern world in general or what the State Library does behind the scenes that only a librarian can do and that feeds into every function of a public library at the local level. She

noted it was important for decision makers to focus on statistics that accurately reflect the work of the library and that impact their constituents on a daily basis as opposed to focusing on an outdated library service model where the number of books checked out and the number of people who entered the library reflected the service provided. In today's library where many services are provided through electronic resources, through email, on the telephone and off site from the library, visitation and books checked out only reflect about 10% of what libraries do.

NO OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Hamilton provided the Book Festival program to the members. Board members commented on the excellent content and programming and about the feedback they have received from constituents regarding the book festival calling it the Crown Jewel of CRT. Brown asked about which programs the Lt. Governor would speaking at during the festival and Hamilton reported that he could not attend due to an event in his home parish. A discussion was held regarding the importance of the Lt. Governor being in attendance at the largest event that CRT hosts and noted that in the 15 years of the festival, the Lt. Governor at the time has always attended and presented the Louisiana Writer Award.

ADJOURNMENT

Georgia Brown made motion to adjourn and Evelyn Valore approved. There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary
State Library Board of Commissioners

Georgia Brown, Chair
State Library Board of Commissioners