

**STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**April 27, 2017
Baton Rouge, La
10:00 am**

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 and Dr. Argiro Morgan. Absent from the meeting was 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 Louis Covington and seconded by Evelyn Valore and unanimously carried.

Chair Brown asked everyone how things were in their respective parishes and parish library systems. Valore reported that her brother remains on the DeSoto Parish Library Board and the library system is thriving but does feel the loss of State Aid from the State Library. Covington reported that his hometown library in Bossier Parish was also busier than usual due to so many people needing the Internet to access federal, state and local information that was once provided by other agencies. Morgan reported that the St. Tammany Library System was doing well and the St. Tammany Library Foundation which she chairs has helped to supplement library programs that the State Library once partially funded.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Louis Covington and seconded by James Lee, minutes were approved.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Hamilton directed members to the departmental quarterly reports which revealed the amount of work current staff have accomplished even as the State Library is operating with a nearly 50% reduction in overall staff. At the current time the State Library has 41 employees doing the work of 78 positions. The workload overall has increased due to the increased need of the general public and of the 340 public libraries. Library usage is up overall statewide.

Board members inquired about the 16 State Library staff members who lost everything in the August flood. Hamilton reported that many were still not in their homes but that everyone returned to work as soon as they could.

Hamilton reported that the State Library, along with all CRT agencies, took another 3% budget cut, but even still she was very pleased with the efforts of Lt. Governor Billy

Nungesser and his entire team who were working very hard on behalf of the State Library. She further reported that everyone at the State Library and in the Lt. Governor's office were working closely together as a team to do all that they could to ensure that the State Library remained as fully funded and staffed as possible during these times. She noted that even with the flood and more budget cuts, staff morale seemed to be up as staff could see everyone working together as a team and felt the new administration was really looking out for the State Library.

NO OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Hamilton shared the date of the upcoming Louisiana Book Festival: Saturday, October 28, 2017. She shared the names of a few of the authors who have already committed to present at the festival. A general discussion was held about the book festival and about the positive feedback Hamilton herself received the day of the festival from festival goers coming up to her to tell her how much they enjoy the festival as a family. She pointed out two areas that remain at the top of her priority list regarding the festival: diversity in attendance and more attendance from other parts of the state.

NEXT MEETING DATE

September 21, 2017 at 10 a.m.
Second Floor Board Room, State Library of Louisiana

ADJOURNMENT

Georgia Brown made motion to adjourn and Evelyn Valore approved. There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary
State Library Board of Commissioners

Georgia Brown, Chair
State Library Board of Commissioners