

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

**May 7, 2020  
Baton Rouge, La  
6:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The State Library Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Chair Georgia Brown. Additional members in attendance included Louis Covington, James Lee, Evelyn Valore, and Gail Waters. Rebecca Hamilton was present as Executive Secretary. State Library staff members JD Lovelace, Riley Bordelon and Tracy LeDoux were also on the call for technical support using Zoom

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Brown called for a motion to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. Motion was offered by Covington, seconded by Lee and unanimously carried.

**MINUTES**

On a motion offered by Waters and seconded by Covington, the minutes were approved as written.

**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Hamilton noted for the record that this quarter's meeting was held virtually due to the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020. This was also the first time for several members to participate in a virtual meeting of any kind.

Hamilton reported on the status of the State Library staff as well as the status of all of the public libraries statewide as of the end of the last quarter (January-March 2020). She went over the different ways that public libraries were continuing to operate even while closed; and she informed the board of one staff member who had contracted Covid-19 while in New Orleans for Mardi Gras.

Due to a question from Brown, a discussion was held regarding the State Library's current issues and concerns. Hamilton reported that the two biggest issues facing the State Library were staffing and marketing and promotion. The State Library has 42 staff members doing the work of 72 positions. Staffing it at an all time low while usage is now at an all time high. Staff members are overloaded but doing a great job. Also due to not being able to fill the Public Information Director position that was restored to the State Library by the legislature, 3 staff members are having to take on these additional duties as well. The PID position that is allocated to the State Library performs all communications functions for the State Library as well as communications support for the 340 public libraries so the public libraries are really suffering in this area because of our inability to fill this position. This is visually

important in the current environment due to children, young adults, and college students having to do schoolwork virtually as well as citizens across the board using virtual electronic resources for a myriad of things. Brown suggested having a meeting with the Lt. Governor to go over these concerns.

Hamilton reviewed some highlights from full Quarterly Report for January-March 2020 and asked that the board review it closely to see just how heavy the workload is for the State Library staff but also just how much the staff accomplishes regardless of being short staffed and underfunded.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The next meeting will be held September 17, 2020 either in person or virtually depending on which Phase Louisiana is in at that time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Brown made the motion to adjourn and Valore approved. There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary  
State Library Board of Commissioners

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Georgia Brown, Chair  
State Library Board of Commissioners