

**STATE LIBRARY OF LOUISIANA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
July 21, 2022  
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 Louis Covington, David Johnson, James Lee and Evelyn Valore. Rebecca Hamilton was present as Executive Secretary. Absent from the meeting was Dr. Argiro Morgan and Gail Waters.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

On a motion offered by Brown, the minutes were approved by Covington and Lee.

**QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Hamilton directed the board to the quarterly report highlighting the work of the State Library staff. She noted that the quarterly reports provide a good overview of the quantity and quality of work of performed by each department within the State Library and they show the extraordinary amount of effort and customer support provided by State Library staff. Hamilton said that it was important to note that the State Library staff are always willing to go above and beyond what is expected of them without complaint. She gave examples of the extra duties given to staff on top of their already expanded duties like work on the LLA conference, the Louisiana Book Festival and the evaluation and drafting of the State Library's 5-year strategic plan to show how staff are routinely asked to work on large projects each year that are not specifically mentioned in their job descriptions and that are in addition to their expanded duties. While this willingness to serve in any capacity that is needed is incredibly appreciated, Hamilton said that she does worry about staff burnout and overload.

Brown again inquired about salaries for staff for taking on new duties that have become permanent. Hamilton explained the regular process for updating job descriptions which provides the opportunity to include new or expanded job duties which may also trigger position upgrades.

A discussion was held among the board members regarding what they could do as board members to highlight the successes of the State Library and the tireless efforts of staff. They discussed meeting with the Lt. Governor regarding staffing and funding for the State Library and also calling members of the legislature and providing information about the services provided by the State Library and public libraries.

Hamilton reported on some trends that State Library staff are seeing across the state as they visit public libraries. Hamilton noted one trend is that of organized groups challenging library materials and library book displays at different libraries. She explained that this is a nationwide trend and that Louisiana has not seen challenges to a large degree like other states. Four libraries in Louisiana have had what could be considered a significant challenge to either books in their collection or to a library book display in one of their libraries.

Hamilton also brought the board's attention to their fellow board member James Lee who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana Juneteenth Association at their State Gala, "A Night of Celebration." She explained that Lee's picture from the event as well as the program would be added to the Louisiana Digital Library as part of the permanent collection of the State Library.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Hamilton gave an update on the Louisiana Book Festival to be held October 29<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Hamilton informed the board that Johnson, Lee and Valore's terms expired in June and she has asked the Lt. Governor to renew them.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to discuss and Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lee; and Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 10:56am.

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