

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

**September 25, 2014
10:00 a.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The State Library Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr. Argiro Morgan. Additional members in attendance included Evelyn Valore, Georgia Brown, and Louis Covington. Absentees from the meeting were Tony Clesi, Patricia Preis and Paulette Holahan. Rebecca Hamilton was present as Executive Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Argiro Morgan called for a motion to approve and adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was offered by Georgia Brown and seconded by Evelyn Valore and unanimously carried.

MINUTES

On a motion offered by Evelyn Valore and seconded by Louis Covington the minutes were approved.

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Hamilton reported that the State Aid to Public Libraries discussed in the last board meeting would be mailed out to the public libraries within the week. She reiterated again that 1.4 million may seem like a lot, but it is not when it is divided up amongst the 340 libraries. Hamilton shared the State Library's budget request for next fiscal year where she requested \$3 million in State Aid which would put the State Library closer to the national average for State Aid to Libraries.

Hamilton shared the possibility of a mid-year budget cut and her concerns should this occur. With a bare bones budget and staff, future cuts could mean layoffs of much needed State Library staff or elimination of core services.

Hamilton reported that all staff members are heavily involved in the planning of the Louisiana Book Festival to be held November 1st. She updated the board on an expanded relationship with LEH this year. She explained how the Fall issue of Cultural Vistas Magazine will be fully dedicated to the Louisiana Book Festival and the cover art would also be the cover of the Book Festival program. Hamilton explained that one of the Festival's biggest supporters was George Rodrique and his wife Wendy. When George recently passed away Hamilton made the decision to use a piece of his artwork, Louisiana Legends, which includes George himself, as the official artwork of the festival. All merchandise for sale will be blue in honor of his blue dog.

A discussion was held about the authors who have been invited to this year's festival and about the value added activities that will be held the day of the festival.

Hamilton reported that the LSU School of Library and Information Science is still in search of a Director. Hamilton sits on the search committee which has been unable to find a replacement for Dr. Beth Paskoff who recently retired.

Hamilton again commended her staff for the hard work they are doing in difficult financial times. Library Development and the IT departments in particular are still providing face to face assistance to the libraries out in the field as much as our budget will allow. Nineteen (19) parishes were visited this quarter and State Library staff provided 31 webinars serving 456 library staff—all with continued staff shortages and unreliable state vehicles that continually break down but that cannot be replaced.

As Hamilton and the board reviewed departmental reports, Hamilton expressed once more how she felt she had the best team in state government at the State Library with a staff of 48 doing the work of 78 positions—and doing excellent work.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

October 31, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Board Room, State Library of Louisiana

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.
Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Hamilton, Secretary
State Library Board of Commissioners

Dr. Argiro Morgan, Chair
State Library Board of Commissioners