

**SOUTHEASTERN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – ONLINE  
MINUTES  
May 31, 2011  
11:04 a.m. – 12:39 p.m.**

Present: Michael Seigler (President); Gordon Baker (President-Elect); Camille McCutcheon (Secretary/Planning Committee Chair); Bev James (Treasurer); Perry Bratcher (*SELn* Editor); Sheila Cork (Special Libraries Section Chair); Peter Dean (Reference & Adult Services Section Chair); Tim Dodge (Alabama Rep/Government Documents Round Table Chair); Deana Groves (University & College Libraries Section Chair); Mary Kaye Hooker (Resources & Technical Services Section Chair); Michael Hooper (Web Site Committee Co-Chair); Kathleen Imhoff (Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee Chair); Sue Knoche (Paraprofessional Round Table Chair); Deborah Lee (Mississippi Rep); Sandy McAninch (Constitution & Handbook Committee Co-Chair); Hal Mendelsohn (Membership and Mentoring Committee Co-Chair); Evelyn Merk (Constitution & Handbook Committee Co-Chair); Katherine Ott (Awards Committee Chair-Elect); and Laura Slavin (Continuing Education & Staff Development Co-Chair).

**Call to Order**

**Roll Call (Check off sheet)**

President-Elect Gordon Baker called the roll at 11:04 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

He turned the meeting over to President Michael Seigler, who thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Kathleen Imhoff made a motion to approve the minutes. Katherine Ott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

President-Elect Baker reported the totals as of May 6<sup>th</sup>, when he turned over the books to Treasurer Bev James.

He noted SELA's beginning balance on January 1, 2011 was \$4,744.75, and the ending balance on May 6, 2011 was \$14,895.52.

Treasurer James provided some information regarding some additional expenditures since May 6<sup>th</sup>. Due to these expenditures, the ending balance on May 31, 2011 was \$11,322.97.

She reported that the savings account balance was \$11,622.42. Therefore, SELA's total assets as

of May 31, 2011 were \$22,945.39.

Tim Dodge made a motion to approve the amended report. Sandy McAninch seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **President's Report**

President Seigler announced that there were several issues that the board would discuss during the New Business section of the meeting.

He noted that the Southeast region has recently been hit hard by several storms, and, consequently, it has been a bad time for libraries. He suggested that SELA partner with American Mensa on Project Inkslinger. Project Inkslinger was founded to provide assistance to libraries that suffered a disaster. Over the past ten years they have provided thousands of materials to libraries. Some of these materials were very helpful in restoring depleted collections, while others created unnecessary storage and disposal problems.

President Seigler mentioned that Project Inkslinger's biggest problems have been communication problems. The project does not have a system in place for identifying libraries that have suffered a disaster; for communicating with library staff; or for determining what materials are needed. He suggested that SELA stands in an ideal position to be the intermediary using SELA state representatives to identify libraries that need assistance, communicating with the library staff to find out their needs, and utilizing SELA's and Mensa's networks to publicize the libraries' requests for assistance.

President Seigler also announced that there would be two speakers during the SELA Summer Conference, author Patricia Sprinkle and Dr. Louis A. Pitschmann, University of Alabama Dean of Libraries.

### **Administrative Officer's Reports**

Gordon Baker announced that he has been working on planning the SELA Summer Conference. Two hotels near the conference site will offer special rates to attendees. DoubleTree Hotel is offering a rate of \$99.00 plus tax per night, and the Hotel Highlands at Five Points South is offering a rate of \$109.00 plus tax per night.

He hopes that a tentative conference schedule will be sent out soon and that registration information should be sent out by next week. He is also working on updating the SELA Leadership Directory.

The conference is scheduled for August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. It will begin on Friday around 1:00 p.m. and end on Saturday around noon.

Gordon sent out SELA membership totals by state. As of May 6<sup>th</sup>, SELA has 182 members.

## **Reports**

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Continuing Education Committee**

Laura Slavin reported that the committee is currently working on the Frankenthaler Scholarship, which will be awarded this year in July. Soon she will send copies of the applications to the committee members for review. A former winner of the Frankenthaler Scholarship, who is graduating from library school and has accepted a position outside of the southeast, has contacted her. Scholarship rules state winners must return the awarded money if they do not work in the Southeast. Gordon and Laura are considering options on how to handle this issue.

She stated that she will soon propose to the Continuing Education Committee that it hold an online professional development training session for SELA members.

#### **Membership & Mentoring Committee**

Hal reported on some projects the committee will be working on during this biennium. The committee plans to develop a program/list of responsibilities on how it can mentor new SELA members and develop ideas on how it can incorporate Social Media tools (Facebook; Tweeter; mobile applications) on the SELA web site and /or membership page. The committee is also working on methods it can use to communicate with SELA members about these tools. He mentioned the committee is creating questions for a survey. When an individual completes his/her membership form as either a new member or as a renewing member through the SELA web site, a questionnaire will pop up. This questionnaire will be a short survey that will take two to three minutes to fill out.

In addition to these projects, the committee will also be working on improving the mentoring program, developing a poster session, creating a conference program in conjunction with or without another group, and developing additional items relating to the “benefits” of joining SELA.

#### **Website Committee**

Michael Hooper reported that the Domain name selaonline.org was renewed for another year through GoDaddy.com. The renewal cost for one year was \$10.69. The committee is in the process of adding content and making improvements to the website based on requests from the SELA Executive Committee and the Membership Committee.

He has found a way to use JavaScript to make a pop-up window appear when certain web pages are visited. It will ask users to complete the annual membership survey. This feature will be deployed on the website for a time period designated by the Membership Committee.

## **Section/Round Table Reports**

### **GODORT**

Tim Dodge announced that he was appointed SELA GODORT Chair in March 2011. Currently, there are only five total SELA GODORT members, so he has only been able to get one other person to serve as an officer: Christine Fletcher from Mississippi State University, who has volunteered to serve as Secretary/Treasurer and thus also ex officio as Membership Committee Chair. Still vacant are the positions of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect (ex officio Program Committee Chair) and Information Clearinghouse Committee Chair.

He reported that in March news went out that the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate Appropriations Committees were planning on cutting the \$2,900,000 needed to fund the Statistical Compendia Branch of the U.S. Census Bureau which meant, among other things, the forthcoming demise of *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*. Following suggestions made on the Govdoc-L listserv, he drafted a letter expressing concern and opposition to this budget cut. He received the approval of both Christine Fletcher and SELA President Mike Seigler to send this letter to the following: all members of the House Appropriations Committee and all members of the Senate Appropriations Committee plus all twenty-four Senators representing the twelve SELA states. So far, he has received twenty-five replies (mostly e-mail) with only a few directly addressing his concern.

Finally, looking ahead to the 2012 joint conference with the Georgia Library Association, Tim has contacted Liya Deng, Chair of the Government Information Interest Group of the Georgia Library Association, to see if he/she might be interested in co-sponsoring a Government Documents-related program. He also sent a copy of the inquiry to Chris Sharpe, Chair-Elect. He has heard back from Liya Deng, who notified him that he/she will be leaving his/her position to enter a Ph.D. program in South Carolina but that he/she has "communicated with" Chris Sharpe and with Haillie Pritchett, the Regional Depository Coordinator. Both Chris and Haillie appear to be interested in a jointly-sponsored program.

### **Paraprofessional Round Table**

Sue Knoche reported that since this roundtable has not been active for awhile, and with only four people (including herself) expressing an interest, this roundtable may need to be disbanded. She has agreed to research the pros and cons and to see if there is an interest in the other states to encourage support staff to join SELA and have this roundtable grow. Sue mentioned that, in her experience, most support staff members don't see an importance in joining a professional library group on the regional, national or state level. Staff members are generally not allowed to participate on committees; are not able to go to conferences due to having to maintain the libraries; and may not have the support of their librarians/directors to take the time off or to receive any funding to attend conferences. She stated that she may be able to provide some preliminary findings during the next board meeting.

### **Reference and Adult Services Section**

Peter Dean reported that the section now has six members, and he is in the process of writing a charge for the section.

### **Special Libraries Section**

Sheila Cork reported that she had e-mailed all the special libraries on the list given to her by Gordon and has received no response.

She has contacted Hal and has asked him if he is agreeable to a collaboration with the Mississippi Library Association and SELA mentoring/internship program. He said that he was.

She is continuing to work on the Internship program which is a collaboration with the Mississippi Library Association and hopes to have something to present at the MLA conference in the fall. She noted that if she can get a program accepted during a SELA meeting/conference, she will present there too.

### **State Reports**

#### **Alabama State Report**

Tim Dodge gave the report.

He set up and maintained a SELA display table at the recent annual convention of the Alabama Library Association held in Orange Beach April 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the June 10<sup>th</sup> Alabama Library Association Executive Council meeting, he plans to bring forward as an agenda item to see if ALA would be interested in co-sponsoring a joint annual conference with SELA in one of the following years: 2013, 2014, or 2015.

#### **Mississippi State Report**

Deborah Lee gave the report. The annual conference is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> in Jackson Mississippi this year. To help promote the visibility of SELA, she has submitted a program proposal for the MLA conference that will be a SELA-sponsored program. The topic will be e-books, and the goal is to have a panel composed of academic, school, and public librarians, reflecting SELA's diversity. SELA membership will also be promoted during the session. Lee reported on a conflict with the proposed August SELA summer conference. Two longstanding workshops are scheduled for August 11 and 12th at Mississippi State University, which may divert some attendance from Mississippi at the SELA event in Birmingham.

### **Old Business**

#### **Arkansas Membership Experiment**

President Seigler reported he emailed the Arkansas state rep this morning but has not received a response. He also has been in contact with the Arkansas Library Association's Executive Office but has not heard anything yet.

## **New Business**

### **Membership**

Hal Mendelsohn had nothing to report.

### ***The Southeastern Librarian***

Perry Bratcher gave the following report. Training has taken place regarding the load of *The Southeastern Librarian* issues into the Kennesaw State University institutional repository. Implementation will soon be underway.

The deadline for the summer issue will be July 1. He welcomes any committee reports for the summer issue.

Discussion ensued regarding the viability of a print issue. This issue will be discussed in more detail at the August SELA Executive Board meeting. In the meantime, Perry will check on pricing from other printers and gather opinions from the Editorial Board and former article authors.

### **West Virginia Library Association Conference**

There will not be a joint conference with WVLA this fall, but WVLA has invited SELA to have a presence at its fall conference, October 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>.

President Seigler has announced that if anyone would like to develop a program for the conference, to please email him and Gordon Baker so, when the program proposal form becomes available, it can be sent to those who are interested.

### **Emergency Relief for Libraries -- Facebook**

President Seigler discussed his proposal regarding Project Inkslinger in more detail. He answered questions from the board members about the proposal and noted that lots of libraries in the Southeast will need assistance in the near future to reassemble their collections.

### **SELA Constitution & By-Laws Revision**

Evelyn Merk provided an update. She has printed out the *SELA Handbook* from the web site and is in the process of reformatting the document. Later today, she will send out the reformatted document to the Constitution & Handbook Committee members, who, in turn, will forward their suggestions and changes to her and Sandy McAninch.

### **Awards and Scholarships Reports (Chair), New Awards**

President Seigler noted he had unintentionally appointed two committee chairs. It has been worked out so that Joi Phillips will be committee chair, and Katherine Ott will be chair-elect.

He has requested that the committee investigate two new awards. One would be given annually and would recording a library in the Southeast. The other would recognize a library project that has created an impact on its community. He would also like the committee to investigate what

awards other state library associations are giving or are not giving.

### **Continuing Education**

Laura Slavin has already given her report. President Seigler announced if anyone is aware of an online continuing education program, to please let everyone else know by sending an announcement to the listserv and posting a message on the Facebook page.

### **Misc.**

President Seigler asked the board members to send him ideas, suggestions, and proposals. He stated that he is look forward to a face-to-face meeting in Alabama.

Bev James asked who in SELA is invited to the August conference. Gordon Baker stated that it is open to everyone, but he and Michael are not expecting the entire membership to attend.

Information about the conference will be posted on the Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi state library association listservs.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Camille McCutcheon  
SELA Secretary