



General Membership Meeting
Wilmington Hilton Riverside
Wilmington, North Carolina
March 12, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mark Pumphrey at 1:10 p.m.

Mark Pumphrey thanked Harry Tuchmayer and the New Hanover staff for the reception last night and for the welcome bags. We were welcomed to Wilmington by Harry.

Minutes were approved from the December 4th meeting following a motion by Louise Humphrey and a second by Robert Busko.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Tom Dillard and Robert Busko. As of 11/28/08, our total available balance was \$38,750.07. Our total receipts were \$72,147.00. Our expenditures were \$257.13, leaving a total of \$110,639.94 as of 2/28/09. It was noted that we will need \$15,000 for our Legislative effort and we will need \$85,000 to cover the cost of Ancestry.com, but have only received \$72,000 to date. The report was accepted as presented.

The new Directors pinned were: Tina Stepp, Robeson County; and Roman Leary, Edgecombe County.

Mark Pumphrey reported on decisions made at the Executive Committee Meeting regarding budget issues due to keeping the lobbyist on board. First, at the December meeting: we will forego the evening banquet and will explore the possibility of a luncheon in the afternoon instead; the awards showcase will still be held on Thursday afternoon; and it is possible that we may be staying in one hotel and having our meeting at a library or some other place that is convenient. Next, it was decided that the President be allowed to proceed with obtaining the speakers for the August meeting. Finally, it was decided that the President and the Legislative Chairman have the authority to make decisions regarding the legislative initiative.

The program "Advocacy, Literacy and Libraries: ALA President's Leadership Initiative" was presented by Dr. Dale Lipschultz, ALA Literacy Officer and Anne Marie Elkins, Chair of the NCLA Literacy Round Table. Anne Marie Elkins began by describing efforts of the new NCLA Literacy Round Table. She distributed a handout listing the officers and the goals for the group. The website address is <http://www.nclaonline.org/literacy/index.html> and the blog is <http://nclaliteracyroundtable.blogspot.com>. She also distributed a handout listing the programs affiliated with the N.C. Literacy Association. The website address is <http://NCLiteracy.org>. Anne Marie requested that directors let her know about the literacy programs that are available in your libraries.

Dr. Lipschultz shared themes and trends that run through all libraries especially in regards to the economy. The economy sets the tone for all we do and in the last year, lots of things have changed--locally, nationally, and with ALA. People appreciate libraries more, people need libraries more, and people use libraries more and they expect more from libraries. This is a good thing and an important thing; however, it puts libraries in a very challenging position! From her perspective, libraries are all about literacy; and the goal for all types of libraries is to develop and inspire a nation of readers. Dr. Lipschultz talked about adult literacy by sharing statistics which were released in 2005 from the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL). For example, statistics show that 90 million adults read at, or below, the basic level. She shared her "Ten Tips for Adding Literacy Services at Your Library" which are available at <http://buildliteracy.org/tools/index.html>. She also suggested we try the Literacy Readiness Inventory (LRI) online at the same website. Dr. Lipschultz explained that ALA President-Elect Camila Alire has embraced literacy and advocacy as her initiative: "Libraries-the heart of all communities". She mentioned a virtual summit called "Literacy for All: Advocacy, Libraries, and Literacy" to be held on April 7, 2009 and archived at <http://buildliteracy.org> which will be a kickoff for more local literacy summits. Also on the website, you will find The Librarian's Guide to Gaming: An Online Toolkit For Building Gaming @ Your Library. She mentioned that ten grants in the amount of \$5000 will be awarded for gaming initiatives that include literacy activities for 10 to 18 year-olds, with emphasis going to small, rural libraries showing innovation and collaboration. Also on the website there is information about the literacy initiative called The American Dream Starts @ Your Library which focuses on programs for adults who are learning to speak English. She can be reached by email at dlipschultz@ala.org. Mark Pumphrey stated that he and Anne Marie are both on the NCLA Literacy Roundtable and they currently do not have a good understanding of what NC public libraries are doing in the area of literacy activities so they plan to survey library directors regarding literacy activities. Dr. Lipschultz will help with the NC survey and if it is good, she will put it out nationally.

Ed Sheary thanked the other members of the Hospitality Committee for their contributions: Jane Rustin, Linda Hadden, Mary Sizemore, Margaret Marshall, and Jody Risacher.

Ed Sheary reported for the Youth Services Advisory Committee (YSAC) and described a survey that was done several years ago that looked at continuing education and the state of training for youth services librarians. The findings showed that one-fifth to one-fourth of staff who responded to the survey did not have a Bachelor's Degree and that there were significant differences in what youth services staff were comfortable in doing based on their education level. The findings lead to the need for "Competencies" that would put together a picture of what a youth services librarian should look like, both on the children's and on the young adult levels. It was noted that there are similarities between these documents and those used in Ohio as well as those from YALSA and ALA. The next step will be a "census" done by directors that will list everybody in the state who provides youth services in the public libraries. The "census" will be followed by a survey of the youth services staff which will include more in-depth information. The final step will be to develop a mentoring process and learning resources for youth services staff. It was noted that the competencies are available on the Youth Services Wiki on the State Library website. Lynn Thompson made a motion that we endorse the competencies as presented. The motion was seconded by M.J. Carbo and passed unanimously.

Ed Sheary, Kem Ellis, and Ruth Hoyle reported on the North Carolina State Library Commission. Ed will be completing his three-year term on the State Library Commission this year. He began by stating that it is a statutory commission composed of half practitioners and half non-librarians who are politically appointed and who act as an advisory board to the State Library. Kem mentioned that the lay people are very astute and expect the directors on the committee to be experts on all library topics. Ruth stated that it will be interesting to see what develops now that we have a new administration and felt that it will be helpful to us during these trying times to have people with political connections fighting for libraries. The Chairman of the State Library Commission is Horace Stacy from Lumberton. The commission meets

twice yearly; there are four nominees to fill Ed's vacancy; and the voting will be held tomorrow. Statements of interest are available for each nominee.

Financial Strategy Committee-Tom Dillard reported that as Treasurer you become very aware of the large amount of money that runs through the organization. We are a professional association and not a non-profit—even though BB&T treats us as though we are a non-profit. Tom suggested that we review our legal situation as it applies to the tax laws of North Carolina. The committee could use the pro bono help of an accountant/tax attorney. It was suggested that NCLA and/or the Institute of Government might be able to help in this situation. Other members of this committee include Mike Taylor, Ed Sheary, and Robert Busko.

NCPLDA Summit Planning Committee-This committee is Co-Chaired by Charles Brown and Robert Busko and also includes Mary Boone, John Pritchard, and Ruth Hoyle. Robert reported that the idea for a planning summit/strategic planning process has evolved into a statewide needs assessment as a possible LSTA leadership grant project. Once the needs assessment has been completed, then a planning summit can be held.

Legislative Committee-Greg Needham reported that Theresa continued to work with us during our time of greatest need and that Mary Boone helped at every opportunity. The meeting with Secretary Carlisle was very encouraging because she understands the value of libraries. Her Job Search initiative is getting national recognition and she kept our State Aid from being cut an additional two per cent for March. He reported on the successful Library Legislative Day and on the meeting that was held with the Governor's staff. Senator Rand has drafted legislation to hold our funding where it was last year including the one million in non-recurring funds. Carol Wilson thanked those who participated in Library Legislative Day and mentioned some comments that she received about the day. She and Mark reminded the group that Theresa's connections and networking abilities contributed greatly to the day's success. Sharon Stack was thanked for drafting the press release at such short notice. Theresa reminded us that lobbying is a huge sales job and that this year it is an accomplishment just to keep our budget from being cut. Then she updated us on the budget process by stating that there will be lots of cuts to be made and people will be looking at the Governor's budget on Tuesday to see what she will cut. Directors were asked to collect stories and track numbers regarding job assistance we provide to our customers.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Callison