

Approved at board meeting April 24, 2014

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from the February 2014 board meeting.**

Motion made by Michelle Miller, seconded by MaryAnn Karre. *Motion carried.*



SECTION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

**SSL Board Meeting**

**February 8-9, 2014**

Radisson, Utica

**In Attendance:** Jill Leinung, Pauline Herr, Ellen Frank, Carole Kupelian, Nina Levine, Katie St. Laurent, Anne Paulson, Kathy Jarvis, Joanne Shawhan, Mary Beth Farr, Sue Bartle, Mickey Schied, Sara Kelly Johns, Rebecca Buerkett, Michelle Miller, Beth Davis, Jane Herbst, Dawn Pressimone, Lisa Perkowski, Penny Meskos, Sue Kowalski, Tara Edmonds, Kim Donius, Tina Laramie, Karen Sperrazza, Susan Polos, MaryAnn Karre, Mary Ann Sheets.

**ADMINISTRATION** – Karen Sperrazza, President

Approval of Agenda - Karen Sperrazza, President

**MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.**

Motion made by Anne Paulson, seconded by Jane Herbst. *Motion carried.*

Approval of Minutes – Rebecca Buerkett, Secretary

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from the September board meeting AS CORRECTED.**

Motion made by Anne Paulson, seconded by Pauline Herr. *Motion carried.*

Online voting review – Rebecca Buerkett, Secretary

**MOTION: To approve NYLA's endorsement of AQE's agenda.**

Motion made by Karen Sperrazza, no second required. *Motion carried.*

**MOTION: To approve the Awards Committees selections for NYLA-SSL awards.**

Motion made by Karen Sperrazza, no second required. *Motion carried.*

## **Finances - Patty Martire, Treasurer; Tina Laramie, Treasurer Intern**

2013-2014 Treasurer's Report- we are 50% through membership year, and our total revenue is \$34,818.34. This is about half what was budgeted which is about right for being halfway through the year. Revenue is down, partly due to membership dues being down. Our leadership institute income is less than last year's due to fewer allotted attendees.

2013-2014 Budget and Approval- Karen Sperrazza, 7/1 to 6/30 budget year  
The proposed 2013-14 budget of revenue is \$68,262.00, which is lower than last year. Decrease is due to the Leadership Institute being capped at a lower number than past years. Equipment budget is higher because we need to buy a computer this year for finance treasurer. Expenses are slightly less than expected revenue.

**MOTION: To approve the budget as written.**

Motion made by Jane Herbst, seconded by Sue Kowalski. *Motion passed.*

### Funding Approval for Specific Items

**MOTION: To approve \$1,000 deposit to Cornell for Leadership Institute space, pending clarifications of contract, for August 2-5, 2014.**

Motion made by Jane Herbst, seconded by Beth Davis. *Motion passed.*

**MOTION: To approve the purchase of Tiffany crystal Knickerbocker Award at a cost of \$700.**

Motion made by Mary Ann Sheets, seconded by Jill Leuning. *Motion passed.*

**MOTION: To donate \$350 from SSL legislative budget to NYLA in support of Advocacy Day**

Motion made by Jill Leining, seconded by Sue Polos. *Motion passed.*

Advocacy Day is February 26. \$350 is approximately \$0.50 per member, which is lower than the \$500 sent in the past when we had more members. The extra money will be used to print advocacy brochures for each representative and to keep at exhibits boards.

### **President's update – Karen Sperrazza**

- Joint events held at NYLA, ALA MidWinter, AASL in support of membership and advocacy.
- Membership and Advocacy – membership is holding at 640, which is low, so think of how ADVOCACY leads to MEMBERSHIP. Attract new members and volunteers by asking for help on small projects. Advocacy is everyone's job.

### **ACTION ITEMS FROM REPORTS**

#### **Communications, web page, social media, and SiSSLer – Michelle Miller**

The SiSSLer will soon move to eNewsletter format. Received an offer from the content team at NYLA to create newsletter format/layout for us for a \$2500 one-time fee. They

would build it and we would populate it quarterly and send it out. Discussed using the newsletter as member benefit – members can get lesson plans, worksheets, materials related to articles from newsletter as a way to encourage membership. Non-members could read articles about lessons but would not get full set of materials. Could send eNewsletter to all librarians in the state via SLS directors, maybe we would get more members if they want the materials.

### **2016 Conference – Affiliate selection– MaryAnn Karre**

Discussed partnering with YSS for spring conference since our annual meetings are at a similar time and we all are suffering for lack of attendance. Unfortunately, YSS thinks 2016 is too soon since their conferences are too streamlined to change the format now, so we need to come up with a new venue/affiliate for 2016. Sue Bartle volunteered to contact SLSA as a possible partner. She will propose to SLSA at their Feb 27 board meeting and will notify us of the decision via an online vote. What other organizations can we target? NYSCATE, etc. May be hard to coordinate by 2016 but could get the conversation started about future meetings. Partnering with other organizations for conferences can be win-win; determining expense/profit for all involved will need to be discussed.

### **2015 Conference logo, theme, contracts – Tara Edmonds and Nina Levine**

Proposed theme: “Celebrating our Impact.” Strands include Inquiry, Management, Programming, Advocacy, Collaboration, and Technology. Proposed concept art shows books making an impact (cracking the ground). Board members liked overall theme, but concerned that “celebrating” is perhaps not the best word if we want administrators to approve attendance. Also, board members wanted more than just books in the logo (fighting the stereotype). Proposed location for conference is Doubletree in Tarrytown (will send contract proposal to NYLA). Proposed dates: April 30-May 2, 2015. Proposed speakers: Keynote Keith Curry Lance, Friday Luncheon Carol Kuhlthau, Saturday breakfast Joette Stefl-Mabry, Saturday luncheon Todd Strasser; other options include MJ and Herm Auch, Nora Raleigh Baskin, Joe Murphy, etc.

**MOTION: To accept the theme for the 2015 Conference of something akin to “Advancing Our Impact”.**

Motion made by Sue Kowalski, seconded by Anne Paulson. *Motion passed.*

### **2014 Conference update – Lindsay Cesari**

So far only we only have 30 registrants, which is not atypical for this stage. Many vendors have committed. Publicity ramping up (YSS, NYLA, SLS directors, etc). Really excellent conference proposals so they added bigger poster session, unconference. Interspersing authors, posters, and vendors in vendor area with different color skirts so attendees know which is which. Backup options are being planned in case Dr. Lankes can't present keynote for health reasons. Nice partnership with SU iSchool for student volunteers. Irish dancers will perform after vendor opening; HS students will be playing during vendor opening.

### **Slate of nominations – Sue Kowalski**

Several board positions were recently vacated (VP communications, Secretary, Region 2, Region 4, Region 8). Voting for the next slate will take place at April conference, but terms don't begin until November at the NYLA conference, which is a long time for them to be vacated. New board members were appointed to fill in from now until November, when they can be voted on. Thank you to everyone who is stepping in! In addition, Penny Sweeney has been added to Ways and Means Committee, Penny Meskos to Exhibits, and Mindy Holland as Archivist (committee chairs approved by President).

**MOTION: To accept the following appointees for their respective positions who are stepping in to fill vacancies: Michelle Miller for VP Communications, Rebecca Buerkett for Secretary, Ellen Frank for Region II, Beth Davis for Region IV, and Mary Ann Sheets for Region VIII**

Motion made by Sue Kowalski, seconded by Jill Leinung. *Motion passed.*

**MOTION: To nominate full slate of officers, including President Elect, VP Communication, Secretary, Regions 2,4,6,8. as listed in the report.**

Motion made by Sue Kowalski, seconded by Jane Herbst. *Motion passed.*

### **Literary Landmarks designation – Karen Sperrazza**

The Empire Friends of New York Roundtable has asked SSL to support their designation of the Almonzo Wilder Farm in Malone and the Robert Louis Stephenson cottage in Saranac Lake as Literary Landmarks. NYLA has endorsed this, and are looking for more support for the designation. The Literary Landmarks would get a sign and designation, as well as an awards ceremony. Rocco is a supporter, and reports that they need more endorsements to back nominations, as well as donations for plaque and dedication ceremony.

**MOTION: To endorse Empire Friends' attempts to designate the Almonzo Wilder Farm and Robert Louis Stephenson Cottage as Literary Landmarks, including a donation at the discretion of the President, not to exceed \$500.**

Motion made by Michelle Miller, seconded by Jane Herbst. *Motion passed.*

### **Change deadline for awards applications – Dawn Pressimone**

We had to extend deadline again this year to December 15 – should we move the deadline date? Does this affect why haven't people been applying for awards?

**MOTION: To move the SSL awards application deadline to December 15.**

Motion made by Anne Paulson, seconded by Beth Davis. *Motion passed.*

### **REPORTS – SATURDAY EVENING COMMITTEES**

- Organizational Chart – Sue Kowalski is working on job descriptions for members of the board and committees. Committee and board members will hear from her for feedback soon.
- Mentors – Sue Kowalski has created a spreadsheet listing SSL volunteers and their areas of expertise and interests. Committee and board members viewed

spreadsheet of volunteers, and everyone had the opportunity to claim people that they might want for volunteers. Sue will share results.

- Communications – the next SiSSLer publication will be in pdf format (no print), with a drop date of March 7. It will be a blend of old and new; the goal is to shift from static informational format to a best practices interactive format, from reports to something more meaningful. But we don't want to shift completely away – we'll be keeping affiliate highlights. The deadline for submission is February 15<sup>th</sup>. Distribution will be via School Library Systems, affiliates (email).
- Leadership Institute – Sara's plan is to gather a team of people working on research/modules/inquiry – Paige Jaeger, Michelle Luhtala, and a panel of elementary librarians (Rebecca Buerkett, Jill Leinung, Susan Polos). The Institute will highlight what it is we do as school librarians to meet standards. The focus will be on the NYSED Modules – some schools are using them, some are not – do we Adapt, Adopt, or Abandon? Instead of a Tech Smackdown, we will have a digital sharing showcase for successful projects (or near successes). Discussion: should we limit attendee numbers this year to 75 (not including board members & presenters)? Should we change format so we use more rooms, hold breakout sessions? We don't want to drive people away if the facility is crowded and uncomfortable, but we hate to turn people away (could get 150 easily – good for membership). Lisa will find out what extra space may be available at Cornell. Save the Date – August 3-5.
- Uncommon Approaches to the Common Core – Joanne Shawhan – being held August 12-13. Joanne will email a link.
- AASL Affiliate Assembly at ALA MidWinter – Sue Bartle
  - NYLA has endorsed Sari Feldman for ALA President.
  - Freedom to Read Foundation – Library school and new librarians should apply for Gordon Connibal Conference Scholarship.
  - AASL Fall Forum “Anytime Anywhere Learning Landscape” in St. Louis MO, October 17th & 18th, and maybe some remote sites too.
  - AASL Essential Links website – need to be an AASL member to use, want people to get more involved.
  - AASL CC Task Force – developing a toolkit, some useful InfoGraphics on Website.
  - School Library Month Committee – Lives Change at your Library, Jeff Kinney spokesperson.
  - AASL will require re-affiliation for each region (we are Region 2 – they are on it).
  - Caucus reports – many of same issues we face on the state level bubble up at national level.
- DLD, Summer Reading – Mary Beth Farr – Summer reading theme is “Fizz, Boom Read!” Order materials now via your SLS director. Ask for stickers to put on report card envelopes.
- SLM Resolution to Governor – Jill Leinung – Proclamation wording changed from 2010, this is our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, so we want to highlight that in the language. Video message of Dr. Lucille Thomas, founder of School Library Day and AASL School Library Media month for SSL conference. (40 years ago it began as School Library Day (week) in April by Dr. Lucille Thomas, 29 years ago it became

a national AASL event for the month of April). Getting advocacy brochure printed up.

- Library Legislative Day is February 26th – Starts with 10:30 arrival, advocacy workshops, gala Wednesday night, receptions before gala, march on the capital with Sue and her students, reading posters all day long by appointment. It's good to schmooze with legislators while they're waiting in line for their photos (times posted online). For Virtual Lobby Day, Jeremy will do a letter for us to send out.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Membership – Kim Donius
  - NYLA's new dues structure for institutions or organizations – trying to get larger libraries with larger budgets to pay more, so small libraries will have reduced dues. SLSs can take advantage of this to join and give memberships to all members to improve employee involvement, with details of membership worked out internally.
  - Consider something for **longevity of membership**? ALA does this. NYLA?
  - If you join jointly with ALA, be careful to make sure to register for SSL membership too, may not automatically be joined.
- YSS – Sue Kowalski
  - Prepare a basket of SSL "swag", etc for YSS conference
  - Sunshine fund: \$15 per year for board for good news/bad news
- Awards – Dawn Pressimone
  - Clarification: Bylaws say Carol Kearney award can't be used for a library student, but there are other scholarships available, via funds from the auction, that could be awarded to a library student.
  - Awards Committee needs to re-structure – members request board rate to attend August Institute for an opportunity to meet together.

**MOTION: To allow the three awards committee members who are not board members to attend the August institute at the board member rate on a one-time basis to allow them to restructure the committee.**

Motion made by Jane Herbst, seconded by Ellen Frank. *Motion passed.*

- Re-affiliation of Affiliates, form on Google Drive – Charlie Kelly (phone in) Plan with Affiliates Chair and Regional Coordinators –hope to reinvigorate relationship between Affiliates and SSL board over next few years – would like to see Affiliate assembly at spring conference - won't happen this year, but maybe soon.
- NYSCEA – Carole Kupelian and Pauline Herr  
Currently, students that graduate in the summer or later are calculated as high school dropouts. Administrators are working to accept GED or graduates by 21 to "count" toward graduation rate. NYSCEA is asking us to support this.

**MOTION: To endorse the letter concerning graduation rates statement by SAANYS.**

Motion made by Carole Kupelian, seconded by Katie St. Laurent. *Motion passed.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Conferences, other than SSL – MaryAnn Karre – VP Conferences  
Early bird registration for YSS is on now. Other conferences are listed in her report.
- NYLA/NYSED School Library Summit – Sara Kelly Johns  
At NYLA council meeting, group passed the Resolution for Sustainable Libraries by Rebecca Smith Aldridge. Sara will post resolution – Libraries have a role in promoting sustainability and being sustainable (environmentally and otherwise). Planning team working on logistics for new School Library Summit to update the 2009 NYLA Summit, limited to 50 participants, including school library leaders, teachers, admins, parents, focus on the future of libraries, held July 8-9 in Albany.
- ALA News – Sara Kelly Johns  
Recent two-day retreat on reimagining ALA, looking at how ALA works, how does staff better serve where libraries are today, what ALA can better do to move forward, and what offices can better serve ALA members. Members will have the opportunity to provide input.
- Regional Coordinators News and Highlights:  
Jane Herbst (Region I)– We need to provide an activity calendar. We should add pictures along with the board members' names on the website.  
Mary Ann Sheets (Region VIII)- Best books for young adults  
Katie (Region VI) – Lindsay may be done as president  
Anne (Region V)– working on Re-Affiliation  
Sue – make sure you are sharing your great information! We have an obligation!  
Kim Donius – Wants to do something for all school librarians in NYS – maybe a distribution board as grocery store flyers for the end of the grocery store talk about how they help students.

### **MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**

Motion made by Anne Paulson, seconded by Jill Leinung. *Motion passed.*