

**MINUTES**  
**ALLEGHENY COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 18, 2006**

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Elliot Greenman, Wendy Smith, Vanessa Gleason, Janet Lockhart, Bob Kollar, Terry Farrell, and Cynthia Richey.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Lydon

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Sanjay Saha and Marilyn Jenkins

**5:35 P.M.     Call to order – Wendy Smith pending Elliot Greenman’s arrival**

A. Smith wished to address the Board regarding the member libraries’ decisions at the General Membership meeting and next steps. The members approved the following:

- To accept the RAD’s recommendation and utilize the 2006 RAD Distribution Formula, updating with data from the certified 2005 State Reports and limiting total distribution to the amount already approved by RAD (\$4,150,000).
- To request RAD approval for an additional adjustment across gains sufficient to redistribute funds to and hold harmless libraries facing potential combined loss from RAD and State funding in 2007 (Braddock, Green Tree, and Whitehall).

MOTION was made by Farrell and seconded by Lockhart to endorse the members’ decisions and submit request to RAD accordingly. MOTION carried.

B. Smith introduced several proposals for 2007:

- Establishment of an ombudsman position to hear concerns from members and report to the Board accordingly. This would not replace direct communication from members to the Board, but would provide an additional opportunity. It would be a one-year term, renewable at the pleasure of the Board. Smith recommended that Saha, an incoming at-large member of the Board, serve as Ombudsman for 2007. MOTION was made by Gleason and seconded by Richey to approve this recommendation. MOTION carried. Staff was asked to research and draft guidelines and procedures for the Board’s review.
- Establishment of regional discussions, one per quarter, with the President and regional representative. These discussions would be open to all library directors and trustees in the region and would provide an additional forum for communication. Minimal funds would be provided by ACLA for light refreshments as appropriate for the time of the meeting. MOTION was made by Richey and

seconded by Farrell to approve this recommendation. MOTION carried.

- A library director from each of the regions will be asked to share a 5-minute presentation at the General Membership meetings relating news from the region and interesting developments in the region.
- Bylaws Committee should consider an amendment that the position of President be an at-large position beginning in 2008. This provision is not intended to preclude a regional representative on the Board from being elected President but only to require that, if so elected, the regional representative would move to an at-large seat and a new representative for that region would be appointed to the Board. This would protect the governance structure of the Board and remove any perception that the President maintains a regional bias.

C. Meeting Dates for 2007 – MOTION was made by Gleason and Seconded by Kollar to adopt the following meeting dates for 2007:

- General Membership meetings on January 30, April 30, and October 30.
- ACLA Board meetings on the third Monday of all months excepting July, August, and December.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Janet Lockhart – Secretary**