

**MINUTES
ALLEGHENY COUNTY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2008**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Kollar, Diane Yates, Michael Kumer, J. Terrence Farrell, Brad Fish, Cynthia Richey, and Joy Gaetano.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Jane Lowry and Shawn Flaherty.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Marilyn Jenkins, Ronald Stout, Esq., Connie Galbraith, Kathy Robinson, Dennis Luther, Kelly McCormick, Glenn Walsh, and Kimberley Hrivnak.

6:05 P.M. Call to order – J. Terrence Farrell

A. Determination of Quorum – Quorum established.

B. Public Comments

1. Dennis Luther, Brentwood Library, read a letter of support urging the Board to continue support of outreach services and to focus on the larger mission of ACLA which is the highest quality library service for all residents of Allegheny County.
2. Kathy Robinson, Crafton Public Library director, reflected on her year as LAC chair and stressed the importance for every library, director, and Board member to be involved for ACLA to be a success.

C. **Consent Agenda** – MOTION made by Kumer and seconded by Fish to accept the following items on the consent agenda as submitted:

1. Minutes from the October 20 meeting
2. October Financial Statements

MOTION carried unanimously.

D. Requests for Additions or Changes to the Agenda

1. Jenkins announced that the West Region elected Shannon Debes as their representative effective January 1, 2009 replacing Michael Kumer who has resigned as of the end of December.
2. Gaetano gave a presentation summarizing her observations about ACLA after a meeting with regional conveners (presentation attached to these minutes).

Action and Discussion Items

A. Recommendations from Formula Oversight Committee regarding Board involvement in Formula Development Process – Farrell reported they would be meeting with the Formula Committee and would report back with recommendations in December.

- B. Discussion of Counsel's opinion on federated systems and direct service operations – Based on ACLA's Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, and the Library Code, Stout advised the Board it is his opinion that ACLA has the power to provide direct services to the public in the form of branch libraries and bookmobiles.
- C. Report from Finance Committee – Kollar gave a report from the Finance Committee (attached to these minutes). He shared information regarding a nonprofit summit he attended noting the message delivered was that funding will be limited in the coming year and nonprofits were encouraged to "batten down the hatches." Public funding will most likely go to "Tier One" services such as those meeting immediate needs for food, shelter, and medical assistance. The committee discussed ways to assist libraries through partnerships with outside organizations (such as SCORE), helping libraries better manage their budgets, and collaborative efforts with other libraries. He also noted the following:
1. 2009 Draft Budget – The final RAD budget is due out December 1 and any additional changes would be incorporated into the final ACLA draft budget to be presented to the Board and Members in December.
 2. Development Position – The committee recommended temporarily suspending establishment of the development position. Due to the current economic conditions, the unlikelihood of attracting foundation support at this time and the need to focus on direct support of libraries in the near future. However, he did indicate that the establishment of a development position is still of vital importance and should be pursued in the near future.
 3. Sto-Rox Library – Discussion ensued. Jenkins noted that FOR had approached ACLA eighteen months ago regarding operation of the library as a branch. She stressed the Board and Membership need to establish a philosophy and options for libraries serving distressed communities. This arrangement with Sto-Rox brings no monetary benefit to ACLA, but it does benefit the Library in that they are able to secure the services of a qualified professional at a reduced cost (through sharing of that position), the individual can access ACLA's benefit pool, and libraries benefit via the shared services available. Gaetano noted a long-term solution should be designed and a plan should be submitted to the Board by July. She suggested language in the communication to FOR to that effect. MOTION made by Kumer and seconded by Gaetano to extend the Sto-Rox Library agreement with Focus On Renewal through 2009 per the Finance Committee recommendation and to include in a cover letter a statement that ACLA intends to work with the library to identify a long-term solution in the year ahead. MOTION carried unanimously. MOTION made by Fish and seconded by Farrell that the issue of distressed libraries and library service in distressed communities be included as a twelfth critical issue to be addressed in 2009. MOTION carried unanimously.

Announcements – Farrell commended Jenkins on her presentation to legislators at the recent Legislative Breakfast at Oakmont Carnegie Library.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Terrence Farrell, Secretary