

Allegany County Library Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting
November 14, 2023
4:00 p.m.
Frostburg Library

PRESENT:

Deb Hendrickson, Renee Kniseley, Juli McCoy, Bill Bingman, Sue Rudd, Gary Leasure, and John Taube.

Library Leadership Team: Lisa McKenney, Andrea Everett, Ashley Swinford, Ali Cline, Shea Morse

The meeting was called to order by Renee Kniseley.

A motion to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on October 10, 2023 was made by Sue Rudd seconded by Gary Leasure and was approved. (Note: Juli McCoy was not present for this vote.)

A motion to accept both the statistical report and the financial reports of October 2023 was made by Bill Bingman seconded by Gary Leasure and was accepted. (Note: Juli McCoy was not present for this vote.)

NEW BUSINESS

ACLS Named Non-profit of the year!

John and Renee reported that at the Chamber of Commerce's Business Recognition Reception, the Allegany County Library System was awarded the Non-Profit of the Year Award! Renee and I were honored to be there to accept the award on behalf of the Library staff who do the work everyday and our Board of Trustees.

Presentation: ACLS Style and Branding Guide - Ashley Swinford

Library matters for the 2024 General Assembly Session

John updated the Board on Maryland public library's three legislative goals in the upcoming session. The first is in support of continued periodic increases in funding for the State Library Resource Center. The second goal is to monitor and shape any statewide collective bargaining enabling legislation. The third goal is to support a Freedom to Read bill.

- 1) SLRC Funding: The State Library Resource Center is a state-wide entity with the responsibility of staff development, shared databases, and inter-library loan and delivery. The bill will all periodic increases in state funding to SLRC.
- 2) Enabling Legislation for Collective Bargaining: Staff in numerous library systems in Maryland have been approached to form collective bargaining units. The enabling legislation would establish a process for staff to form collective bargaining unit and also outlines the negotiating process.
- 3) Freedom to Read Bill: This bill states that Libraries do not belong to the State, but to the people, and carry out the essential purpose of making available to all Marylanders a balanced collection that reflects the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society. Libraries value and support the free exchange of ideas, the freedom to read without censorship based upon any individual or outside groups' ideological positions, and balanced library collections that reflect a diversity of perspectives in a pluralistic society.

John stated that the legislative session starts on January 10, 2024 and he will keep the Board updated as these issues are reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Completion of the Annual Disclosure Form

John was able to collect the outstanding disclosure forms and will forward them to the County Ethics office for their files.

Leadership Team Updates

- Director of Administrative Services
- Director of Human Resources
- Director of Outreach and Marketing
- Coordinator of Events and Programs
- Coordinator of Branch Services

PUBLIC COMMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPDATES

Branch Monthly Reports for October 2023 were sent via email.

Washington Street Library Roof Update

The roof replacement project has been completed.

We have joined the MACO/MABE/MML Collaborative to take advantage of the expected lower premium rates to fulfill our obligations to contribute to the Maryland Time to Care Act/Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program. Regulations from MD Department of Labor will be released in January 2024 and the Collaborative will then issue an RFP to insurance carriers.

The Collaborative will select the carrier by 5/1/2024. Contributions to the program will begin on October 1, 2024 so we will have time to consider all our options.

FY2023 Bonuses were distributed in accordance to the policy approved at our October meeting.

The South Cumberland and Westernport Library Friends groups have endorsed the freedom to read statement. All of our Friends groups have now endorsed the freedom to read statement.

The LaVale Library was featured in the October 10, 2023 issue of Library Journal. It was the lead photo in the "Design Trends:Home in the Community" section of the annual Year in Architecture issue.

During the quality of work life survey work completed in the fall of 2022, staff requested additional training in the area of communication and de-escalating adverse public interactions. The training has been set up for January 22, 2024.

John reported that the Westernport, George's Creek Regional, Frostburg, and Washington Street Libraries will have their fluorescent light bulbs replaced by higher efficiency LED bulbs by January 1, 2024. South Cumberland and LaVale already have LED bulbs and fixtures.

Please join us for the 2023 Library Holiday Gathering. It is from 3PM to 6PM on Thursday December 14, 2023 at the LaVale Library.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 4PM at the LaVale Library.