

**Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures  
a Division of the American Library  
Association Board of Directors Meeting  
October 17, 2024; 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Central  
Via Zoom**

**Members Present:**

Wendy Tressler  
Rachel Fleming  
Miranda Bennett  
Cara Calabrese  
Lauren Corbett  
Thomas Lamanna, II  
Amy Swartz  
Alison Van Norman, Board Intern  
Julie Reese, Executive Director

**Ex-Officio:**

Don Allgeier  
David Dahl  
Karen Schneider

**Staff:**

Tom Ferren  
Mia Blixt-Shehan

**Absent:**

L. Angie Ohler,  
President

**Guests:**

Michael Fernandez  
Margaret Heller  
Paul Kelsey  
Jeff Mortimore  
Jeremy Myntti  
Mary Rzepcynski  
David Schuster  
Donna Sokol  
Jacqueline Toce

**1. Welcome to Board and Guests**

Tressler called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Ohler could not attend, so Tressler led the meeting.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

DOC 25.13 Board Agenda

Tressler proposed to adopt the meeting agenda with the amendment of changing "Ohler" to "Tressler." Calabrese moved and Fleming seconded.

MOTION passed to adopt the meeting agenda.

**3. Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Note: Board members may ask questions about consent agenda reports before voting to accept, and/or ask that a report be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

DOC 25.14 [August 2024 Draft Board Meeting Minutes](#)

DOC 25.15 [President Elect Resignation - Board Electronic Vote Results Oct 2024](#)

Tressler proposed to adopt the consent agenda. Lamanna moved and Calabrese seconded.

MOTION passed to adopt the consent agenda.

#### **4. President's Update**

Tressler reported that Ohler could not attend the meeting due to her husband's surgery; she reported that Ohler sent her regrets. Anything that needs to come directly from Ohler will be sent through Connect.

#### **5. Past-President Update**

##### **a. 5-Year Anniversary Planning**

Tressler and Heller are co-chairing the Five-Year Anniversary Planning Committee. They are planning a Gala to be held at ALA Annual 2025. She requested the Board save the date for June 29 from 7-9 pm at the Free Library of Philadelphia. Funding will come from a combination of ticket prices and sponsorships. Additionally, a special webinar will be held the week Core officially turns five in September 2025 featuring a prominent author to be determined. This webinar will be free for Core members, with a cost attached for non-Core members. The celebration will conclude with Core Week, which will be the new form of Interest Group Week. To supplement the official events, the Committee will focus on fundraising and individual giving. They hope to hold a fundraiser for Giving Tuesday in November 2024 to get contributions to the Core Forum Scholarship. Heller suggested that the Board help these Committee efforts by collecting impactful stories to help promote Core and communicate its benefits to potential funders.

The Board inquired about the possibility of offering five-year anniversary Core merchandise. Reese noted that there will be a special logo for the 5-year anniversary, and we can sell Core branded merchandise. It was noted that there will not be a Core Happy Hour at the next Annual Conference—the Gala will replace it in 2025.

## **6. Executive Director Update**

- a. Core Forum
- b. ALA Executive Director

The registration target goal for Forum is 450 people; we are currently at 390. Core has just extended the early-bird deadline to October 25 in hopes of encouraging more registrations. The donation goal is \$48,000 and we are currently at \$30,000.

The two-week ALA IT outage impacted registration sales for CE and Forum. Before the outage, the registration trend for Core Forum was at about 20 registrations per week. The outage prevented anyone from registering during the two-week period. After the outage was over, we started to see the registration trend pick back up to between 10 and 15 registrations per week. It is estimated that we lost 26 to 30 registrations for Forum due the outage which occurred during a key period in marketing.

The ALA search for the Executive Director position is continuing. A smaller search committee, led by Emily Drabinski, has been assembled, and Leslie Burger has agreed to continue to serve in the role until a permanent Executive Director is selected.

The Budget Analysis and Review Committee (BARC) and the Finance and Audit (F&A) Subcommittee met to review the ALA budget earlier this week. It was reported that the ALA preliminary audited report shows a deficit of \$1.6 million for fiscal year end, though staff is still performing analysis and updates before confirming a final number.

ALA is also consolidating the office space at 225 N. Michigan, which will reduce the cost of the lease and save ALA a significant amount of money. ALA is also allowing Reese to hire for the open Membership and Communications Specialist position despite concerns over the FY25 ALA budget. The Board inquired about whether the consolidation of the space impacts returning to office; Reese noted that a return to office policy is being considered but nothing has been decided at this time. Schneider noted that the Board was assured that despite the downsizing of the space, there will still be an office for everyone.

## **7. Publications Update**

Guests: Jeremy Myntti, Chair Publications Coordination Committee and Michael Fernandez, LRTS Asst. Editor

- a. Core Journal Editors Recognition for Core Journal Reviewers  
DOC 25.16 [Core Publications Coordination Committee Report](#)

Myntti provided an overview of the Core Journal Editors Recognition for Core Journal Reviewers document. The Board considered whether this could be an initiative could be given to an existing Core group to manage rather than creating a new group. It was determined that more information was needed before a decision could be made.

Tressler proposed to form a working group of Board members to develop options for volunteer recognition and bring back an update to the Board at the December meeting with next steps. Calabrese moved and Swartz seconded.

MOTION passed to form a working group to investigate volunteer recognition further and bring back an update to the Board at the December meeting.

Tressler asked interested Board members to reach out to Lamanna, Swartz, or Calabrese if they would like to participate.

## **8. Operational Update**

### **a. FY24 Year End Budget Report**

DOC 25.17 [August FY24 Year End Financial Commentary Report](#)

### **b. Operating Agreement**

Reese summarized the Financial Commentary Report for month 12 of the fiscal year, emphasizing that outstanding revenue and expenses are expected to appear prior to the budget close the end of October. This includes the endowment transfer that the division will need to accept to help reach a near break-even budget. She also noted that the year-end budget review schedule was heavily condensed due to the ALA IT outage. The biggest budgetary concerns continue to be membership and webinars, both detailed in the report. Webinar revenue and member dues revenue were negatively impacted by the outage—several webinars had to be rescheduled, and members were unable to renew their memberships during the outage. The Core Connect issue that was identified in Q2 of this fiscal year brought to light a major member communication issue that the division was unaware of up to that point.

Core submitted feedback to Peter Hepburn on the Operating Agreement proposal he will present on October 18 at the ALA Executive Board's [Fall Virtual Meeting](#) (ALA member login required to access this link).

At this point, Tressler proposed that the Board take a seven-minute break. Fleming moved and Calabrese seconded.

MOTION passed to take a seven-minute break.

## **9. Nominations**

Heller noted that the due date for ballot nominations has been extended. She requested that the Board submit and solicit more nominations. She welcomed the Board to reach out to her to have a confidential conversation on the requirements and expectations of each role up for nomination.

## **10. Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

## **11. New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

## **12. Executive Session (15 min)**

At this point, Tressler proposed that the Board enter Executive Session. Calabrese moved and Swartz seconded.

MOTION passed to enter Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at 2:24 p.m.

Later, Tressler proposed to adjourn Executive Session. Lamanna moved and Fleming seconded.

MOTION unanimously passed to adjourn Executive Session.

Executive Session was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Tressler proposed to accept Ohler's appointment of Allgeier as President-Elect for the 2024-2025 term, continuing as President for 2025-2026 and Past-President for 2026-2027. Corbett moved and Calabrese seconded.

MOTION passed to accept Ohler's appointment of Allgeier as President-Elect for the 2024-2025 term, continuing on as President for 2025-2026 and Past-President for 2026-2027.

## **13. Recap of Action Items**

Kevin A. R. King requested to resign from the President-Elect position—the vote to accept the resignation is in this meeting's consent agenda. President Ohler has appointed Don Allgeier as President-Elect, and the Core Board approved his appointment.

The Board will receive a final FY24 fiscal year budget report at a future meeting and will need to review it.

The Operating Agreement is an ongoing project.

The Publications Group will look at Publons or another type of product to aid volunteer recognition and make a recommendation on that.

Attendees are urged to consider nominations for the next Core Board and submit within the next week.

Attendees were reminded that registration is open for Core Forum 2024.

The next Core Board meeting is on December 17.

#### **14. Adjournment**

Tressler proposed to adjourn the meeting. Fleming moved and Corbett seconded. MOTION passed to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m. Central Time.