

**Core: Leadership, Infrastructure, Futures
a Division of the American Library Association
2023 Board of Directors Mid-Year Meeting
January 25; 1:00-3:00 pm Central
Draft Minutes**

Members Present:

Wendy Tressler, President
L. Angie Ohler
Rachel Fleming
Margaret Heller (arrived 2:26
p.m.)
Miranda Bennett
Lauren Corbett
Kevin A. R. King (left 1:46 p.m.)
Thomas Lamanna, II
Julie Reese, Executive Director

Ex-Officio:

Donald Allgeier
Cara Calabrese

Staff:

Jenny Levine
Tom Ferren
Amber Robbin
Mia Blixt-Shehan

Absent:

Kellie Barbato
Morag Boyd
Dr. Karen G. Schneider

Guests:

Melissa Brooks
Sam Helmick
Ray Pun
Patricia Ratkovich
Joseph Yue

1. Board Welcome and Roll Call

President Tressler called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Adoption of Agenda

24.21 Board Agenda

Tressler proposed to adopt the agenda. King moved and Fleming seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to adopt the agenda.

3. ALA Presidential Candidates:

Ray Pun
Sam Helmick

Pun introduced himself to and answered questions from the Board and guests in attendance.

4. Adoption of Consent Agenda

24.22 [Accept Nominations Committee Report and 2024 Core Election Slate](#) (PDF)

24.23 [Accept Councilor's Report](#) (PDF)

24.24 [Approve Draft December 2023 Virtual Board Meeting Minutes](#) (PDF)

Tressler proposed to adopt the consent agenda. Ohler moved and Fleming seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to adopt the consent agenda.

5. President's Update

24.25 [President's Report](#) (PDF)

24.26 [Conflict of Interest Statement](#) (PDF)

- a. Planning for President's Program
- b. LLX Update
- c. PLA Conference Social Hour Meet-Up
- d. Thanks to Core Staff

Tressler has edits to make to the Conflict of Interest Statement. She asked for volunteers to help edit the Statement in hopes of bringing it back to the Board in April for revised adoption. Calabrese, Allgeier, and Fleming volunteered to help.

There is a small committee working on the President's Program. Presenter costs are significantly higher than they were in the past, which has made things challenging. Tressler will update the Board once more is known.

Tressler attended LLX and had lunch with the Emerging Leaders. The Leaders were invited to attend and present findings of their project at the 2024 ALA Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Diego. Tressler also attended the Governance Institute, attending breakouts on fundraising and intellectual freedom, and enjoyed the new format. One of the panelists on the fundraising session was the current President of United for Libraries, who is interested in partnering with Core on future programming.

At this point in the meeting, Sam Helmick, who had tech issues at their originally scheduled point of appearance, was able to log in. Tressler used a point of privilege to reverse and allow Helmick to speak. Helmick made their introduction to the Board and answered questions from Board members and guests in attendance.

Tressler extended an invite to the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference in Columbus, OH, where she is hosting a Core meetup on April 2 to boost awareness of the division. Finally, she took a moment to thank Core staff for the work done behind the scenes, recognizing that the amount of staff members is not enough for all the work that has to be done but much has still been accomplished with the small staff.

Key dates for the remainder of 2024 can be found on the last page of these minutes.

6. President Elect's Update

24.27 [President-Elect Report](#) (PDF)

- a. Committee Appointments
- b. Volunteer Fair: January 26, 2:00pm - 3:30pm CT

Ohler started her update by thanking the rest of the Board for guiding her as a new Board member in preparation for her future as Core President. She briefly summarized her President-Elect Report, emphasizing her focus on ALA and Core appointments. She also reminded meeting attendees of the Volunteer Fair and encouraged all to attend.

7. Executive Director's Update

- a. Staffing, Forum, CE, Annual, Membership, etc.

24.28 [Core Administrative Report](#) (PDF)

24.29 [Membership Report](#) (PDF)

24.30 [Continuing Education Report](#) (PDF)

Reese gave a brief overview of her reports, highlighting that Core ended FY23 with a net positive, the first time Core has accomplished this. Reese announced Jenny Levine's retirement, noting that Levine will be working on documentation to help the transition and thanked her profusely for her work over the years.

Levine thanked everyone on the Board and staff for all their collaboration and camaraderie over the course of her career with ALA. She also gave an overview of the Membership Report, highlighting that Core is the only division in ALA to see a year-over-year decrease in member loss but noting her mild concern that Core saw a slight increase in member loss in the most recent report. She suspects this is primarily linked to the overall decrease in ALA membership and thinks Core remains in good shape. She noted that when Core started out, Metadata and Collections was the largest section; currently, it is Leadership and Management. Additionally, the Access and Equity and Buildings and Operations sections saw the most year-over-year growth out of all sections—these used to be a part of LLAMA and have now come into their own.

8. Financial Report

24.31 [Final FY23 Financial Commentary Report](#) (PDF)

24.32 [November FY24 Financial Commentary Report](#) (PDF)

Calabrese summarized the reports prepared by Reese and added that she looks forward to seeing how the automated membership campaigns Robbin put in place will affect numbers going forward,

but also cautioned that the Board cannot task the Core staff with too much right now given the small number of staff. She credited Reese with thoroughly tracking where money has been going and coming from and taking diligent notes to help documentation. Reese is confident that Core's upward trend will continue in FY24 and FY25. Calabrese noted that while attendance was down in Continuing Education events simply due to the fact that not as many were happening, the Best of Core Forum webinar series just started going forward, so the numbers on CE events are expected to increase.

9. Core Forum Report

24.33 [Core Forum 2023 Report](#) (PDF)

Reese summarized the Core Forum 2023 Report, particularly pointing out that 404 people attended Forum 2023—almost double the amount of last year's attendees—and that the event ended with an approximately \$20,000 net positive. Tressler acknowledged the concerns about registration cost and stated that unfortunately, it is not realistic to decrease that. Core will keep costs down as much as possible, but overall prices depend too much on what city Forum is in—which also dictates where Forum can be held—to reliably decrease these costs by a significant amount. Reese added that the free attendance to the Best of Core Forum webinars included in registration is a major added value that may not be obvious; she also re-emphasized the amount of networking opportunities offered and that these costs majorly support Core as a division.

Brooks, a Core Forum Planning Committee Co-Chair, noted that there will be an All About Core Forum presentation on January 30 for those interested in submitting proposals for Core Forum 2024. The Call for Proposals will be open until February 25. Brooks thanked Ferren and Reese for the diligent work and encouragement for Forum 2024, and she also thanked Ohler for her work on forming the Planning Committee. She also invited meeting attendees to reach out to her and fellow Co-Chair Debbie Ehrman at melissa.m.brooks@usm.edu and dehrman@slcpl.org to offer any feedback or suggestions for the 2024 event.

10. New Business

There was no new business to report.

11. Announcements from Members/Guests

There were no announcements.

12. Executive Session (30 min) – Closed Session

24.34 [Publications Report](#) (PDF; private document)

Membership

Staffing

Tressler proposed that the Board enter Executive Session. Ohler moved and Fleming seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to enter Executive Session. The Board entered Executive Session at 2:32 p.m.

13. Adjournment

Tressler proposed to adjourn the meeting. Fleming moved and Ohler seconded. MOTION unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

2024 Key Dates

- Virtual Board Meeting: April 18 (1pm Central)
- Core Forum Proposals - January 16- February 20
- Volunteer Fair: Friday, January 26 from 2pm-3:30pm Central time. [Registration Form Link](#)
- Interest Group Week: March 4-8
- Preservation Week: April 28 – May 4
- ALA Annual 2024, San Diego (draft key programs/meetings):
 - Friday, June 28 -
 - Board Pic at 3pm
 - Board Meeting I from 3:30-5pm
 - Board Dinner from 6:30-830pm
 - Saturday, June 29
 - Core 101 at 10am
 - Volunteer Fair at 10:30am
 - Division Level Chairs Meeting from 11-Noon
 - Awards Ceremony at 3:30pm
 - President’s Program at 4pm

Happy Hour from 6-8pm
plus Section Meetings, IIDA Awards, and Programs

- Sunday, June 30
Section Meetings, PR XChange, John Cotton Dana, and Programs
- Monday, July 1 -
Board Meeting II from 3:30-6pm
plus programs in the morning and early afternoon
- Core Forum 2024 - Minneapolis, MN - November 14-16