



March 19, 2021, ABOS Board Minutes

Recorded by Karen Bradley, ABOS Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. Central Time.

In attendance: David Kelsey, Lori Berezovsky, Brooke Bahnsen, Cathy Zimmerman, Robin Rousu, Zach Roberts, Michele Fernandez, Crystal Harris, Rachel Hadidi, Rosa Granado, Karen Bradley

Absent: None

Secretary Minutes

Karen Bradley motioned to approve the meeting minutes from the February meeting. Lori seconded the motion, and none opposed. Upon approval, the minutes will be posted to the website.

Treasurer Report

Brooke Bahnsen gave the treasurer's report; membership dues remain steady and we have paid Amigos for the year. Lori verified that the graphic design student has been compensated.

President's Report

David Kelsey announced that the 2021 ABOS Conference will be held virtually. He reminded the board that National Library Outreach Day is April 7th and there will be a bookmobile parade again to celebrate. We have a partnership with Let's Move in Libraries that will include Story Walk Week in November in an effort to try and get more youth librarians involved with our organization.

Committee Reports

Advocacy:

Michelle Fernandez gave the update for her team. They have completed a [working document](#) of the directory for state and regional library organization. She mentioned New York as a template for the complication of getting information for varying areas. The virtual parade is gaining the attention of many libraries and communities who are not ABOS members. Additionally, the Advocacy Committee is working on contacting further state/regional library associations/systems/consortias.

Awards:

Awards nominations will open April 1, 2021. The submissions form is ready for submissions and graduate schools have been contacted for the Bernard Vavrek scholarship. Decisions will be made by the end of July or early August.

BOIR:

David, Zach, Cathy, and Justin Prescott will be meeting next week to discuss future efforts. Zach will send the link to Board members to enter their information in the database.

Conference:

David made the announcement for the virtual conference. He will announce the decision to the listserv once we have the contract signed for 2025. The conference will be held from Monday, October 11-Friday, October 15, 2021.

Cathy updated the board on hotel information for 2025. She has been working closely with Shonna Nitzel and Maritz Global Events. Maritz is headquartered in St. Louis, and so Shonna has been able to negotiate closely with the hotel. We will not owe them any additional funds; they will keep the deposit we have already provided. Rooms for 2025 will be about \$179 per night, food and beverage will increase minimally to \$25,000, and there will be a 10% discount on A.V. The only concern mentioned was that we will be provided four spaces for bookmobiles and typically we have 10-12 in attendance. We will need to consider parking options for that conference as it approaches. The contract will be available to sign in the next week and Brooke will contact Amigos to cancel the March 25th payment and future payments.

Important dates for the 2021 conference: registration opens June 16th; registration closes September 30th; the Whova app will be live October 1st. Registration will see a \$5 increase to \$84 per person. A department of 3 or more will get the same discount of \$69. The student rate is \$49. We currently have a cap at 1,200 attendees and Amigos will be responsible for registration and customer service.

Presentation submissions will be accepted from April 1-May 14th, with notifications sent by June. Submissions that are not invited to present, will be asked to participate in a virtual poster session.

Michelle asked the group to consider an in-person bookmobile parade for future conferences.

Cathy approached the vendors this week to let them know we are going to be virtual. She will be sending out the brochure next week with information on sponsorship levels. She informed them that they won't need to man the virtual booth all 5 days but can post the hours they will be live. She has a timeline coming for verbal commitments and is giving them the option this year of hosting an evening event, which NLM was excited to hear about.

Continuing Education:

Rachel explained that the continuing education committee has three presenters they are ready to accept for the year. Cathy's presentation will meet the goal of having four continuing education events for this year. There will be a committee meeting next week to discuss the selection of the first session. Minor details were discussed for the document, including adding the ABOS logo to the upper left corner of the page.

Long Range Planning

Shonna and Cathy will be looking at 2026 before the end of the year. We have gotten interest from the Niagara Falls area and haven't been to the upper Northeast in quite some time. Springfield, IL is an option but we have been in the area more recently than in the northeast.

Marketing/Social Media:

The social media committee met this week. The new graphic design has been sent to ALA Graphics and should show up in the online store after the ALA weeklong furlough. The virtual bookmobile parade has 156 submissions as of today and the Little Free Library Week

submissions currently stand at 27. The LFL submissions are both from individuals in communities as well as libraries.

Membership:

Crystal pointed out that we have 385 members as of today, including 10 new members for the year so far. Institution memberships are up, with two just this month. The "ALL Aboard!" Membership campaign launched February 15 and has attracted 20 first time members. Membership Mondays continue. Susan Parkins and Rick Medrano have been spotlighted. The Jenn Koetz interview will be aired on March 22 and Ann Plazek's spotlight will be on March 26. The membership committee has a Google form ready for people who are interested. There is a new discount of \$10 off to members with lapsed membership. A membership renewal survey was sent out February 5th to 330 individuals and closes soon. Crystal will be reaching out to lapsed members and asking them to rejoin ABOS. She is also going to send out an ABOS stylus pen for new members. Finally, the committee has a meeting planned for the following week.

Technology:

Robin provided the update for the technology committee. The group had their first meeting Wednesday to debrief last year to see what can be improved upon. The focus areas for this year include making sure vendors feel supported with best practices, looking at accessibility through screen readers and closed captioning, and tech support for live sessions. We will be looking to improve workflow and adjust attendees expectations regarding when uploads may be available. The group also discussed limiting vendors to 5 or fewer for presentations.

Old Business:

ALA Graphics Store -

The design has been submitted and will show up online in the next few weeks.

New Business:

Partnerships

Conversations with Cathy will continue. Amber Hayes is scheduled for Monday, April 5th. She is looking at a June Conversation with TepeaSnow, an organization that works with caregivers of those with dementia. She proposes a day or two for senior outreach promotion; perhaps after StoryWalk Week.

ABOS in the News!

We have a six-page feature article in American Libraries Magazine, an article in School Library Journal about bookmobiles and youth outreach, and an article in Knovvmads magazine in their June issue.

Board Membership

Rachel Hadidi has accepted a new position and has submitted her resignation. David proposes Jenn Keetz to fill the vacancy. Jenn had the 5th amount of votes for member at large. She is on the continuing education committee and have full support from her manager. Robin motioned to approve and approved unanimously.

Important ABOS Dates in 2021

- Virtual Bookmobile Day - April 7, 2021
- Little Free Library Week – May 3-7, 2021

- “All Aboard!” Membership Week - June 14-18, 2021
- Book Bike Week – August 2-6, 2021
- ABOS Conference – October 11-15, 2021
- StoryWalk Week - November 15-19, 2021

Upcoming Conferences

- ALA Annual - June 24-29

Adjournment at 3:01 pm CST

Next Board Meeting April 16, 2021 Noon (P), 1:00 (M), 2:00 (C), 3:00 (E)

Meeting times -- 3rd Friday every month 2pm CST