

Executive Committee
Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Interest Group
Reference and User Services Association
American Library Association

Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021

Location: Virtual (on Zoom)

Attendees: Joan Blaylock, Vicky Crone, Karl Debus-Lopez, Ashley Evans, Karla Goodlander, Julia Hiltz, Heather Kiger, Bill Ladewski, Ben Leubsdorf, Lee Lipscomb, Courtney McDonald, Adria Olmi, Rebecca Ramos, Michael Steinmacher, Lance Wiscamb.

The meeting began at 7:32 p.m. EST.

Chair's report -- Michael Steinmacher

FAFLIG held a virtual meet-and-greet last Saturday at ALA Midwinter. Roughly 25-30 people were there, including several people new to the group. Feedback indicated a desire for programming, networking opportunities, and job search guidance from FAFLIG.

Rachel Arizaga has stepped down as chair of the Programming Committee due to personal reasons. We will be looking for a new chair.

We will be participating in a RUSA town hall on February 9 to showcase what we offer to RUSA.

RUSA updates/messages -- President Courtney McDonald, Executive Director Bill Ladewski

Courtney McDonald welcomed FAFLIG to RUSA and said they are delighted to have us. A few updates:

- February 9 town hall will be a showcase for the new groups in RUSA.
- RUSA has seen continued and strong member engagement through online programming, better than budgeted. That's good because it's a major revenue stream for RUSA.
- There has been positive feedback about the town halls, which began last summer, and we plan to continue having them. We'd love to hear ideas for future town halls.
- RUSA has continued to focus on controlling expenses, as well as building revenue.
- A task force has been looking at the definition of reference over the past year. We now have a working definition and are taking feedback.

Bill Ladewski said RUSA wanted a smooth and comfortable transition for FAFLIG as it moved from ASGCLA, and they are happy to have us with them.

- ALA is starting budget season.
- Lots of focus on the 'pivot strategy' to make ALA and RUSA financials more sustainable. ALA has a five-year plan, RUSA has a three-year plan.

- The efforts now to address RUSA financials are positioning the organization for a strong future.
- Don't worry -- RUSA is not going away!
- Excited about the upcoming town hall -- right now about 50 people are registered.

Secretary's report -- Ben Leubsdorf

The Executive Committee approved by email three motions immediately following the ratification meeting on November 18, 2020.

1. Committees were created as successors to each of the working groups, with the exception of the Administration Working Group.
2. The Awards Committee description was updated to bring it in line with RUSA practices.
3. The Secretary was perpetually authorized to update the Manual's preamble to have the correct date for the latest update.

On November 19, 2020, the Chair made the following committee appointments and notified the Executive Committee by email:

- Phil Quinones as chair of the Advocacy Committee.
- Adria Olmi as chair of the Awards Committee.
- Heather Kiger as chair of the Communications Committee.
- Ashley Evans as chair of the Community Committee.
- Lee Lipscomb as chair of the Elections Committee.
- Rachel Arizaga as chair of the Programming Committee.

Ben Leubsdorf has been responding to emails that come in to our group account, faflig.ala@gmail.com. There have been four since our last meeting in November: one inquiry about membership, two requests for the Manual, and an MLIS student looking for information on federal libraries (who was sent the FEDLINK directory of federal libraries, the FEDLIB discussion list, and information about joining FAFLIG).

Ben Leubsdorf plans to take minutes at these meetings and circulate them to Executive Committee members for review and corrections. Should he then distribute them to the FAFLIG membership, or should we wait and formally approve them at the next meeting? The Manual is silent on this question, so it's up to us.

Michael Steinmacher said there's no reason we can't circulate the minutes earlier. Ben Leubsdorf said OK, our plan will be to circulate draft minutes for corrections, and then provide them to our members via ALA Connect.

Comments/updates from officers

Chair-Elect Joan Blaylock: I've been having a good time tonight.

Armed Forces Representative Adria Olmi: [see Awards Committee report below]

Federal Representative Vicky Crone: Has anyone else been dealing with Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019? It requires us to certify that vendors aren't working with certain Chinese companies.

Adria Olmi said that the Army has a Teams channel to help coordinate this work. It is confusing.

Michael Steinmacher said the law was enacted but no training was provided, it's a challenge.

Vicky Crone said another hot-button issue is eBooks -- where has that issue landed in the ALA reorganization? Adria Olmi said she will have to go back and look at the ASGCLA spreadsheet to see where it was re-homed.

Committee reports

Awards Committee -- Adria Olmi: Good news -- we do have nominees! Please nominate your deserving colleagues.

Communications Committee -- Heather Kiger: Non-ALA members can now join our FAFLIG site on ALA Connect. They can't post, but they can monitor what's happening. The email listserv still exists but it will go away soon.

We are seeking news and articles for our upcoming newsletter. Please send to faflig.ala@gmail.com.

The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers!

Elections Committee -- Lee Lipscomb: We have openings in 2021 for Chair-elect, Secretary, Armed Forces Representative.

We have a draft plan for conducting the election:

- Solicit candidates 40 days before ALA annual conference through ALA Connect and FEDLIB, plus armed-forces lists.
- Candidates will submit photo, bio, and a two-paragraph platform statement, due 10 days before the conference starts. Candidates will get 2-5 minutes to address members during the FAFLIG annual meeting.
- Voting will be conducted via Survey Monkey, emailed to registered members.
- Results will be announced on ALA Connect.

The Elections Committee is looking for volunteers!

New business

No new business.

Open discussion

Adria Olmi again urged people to nominate candidates for RUSA awards. Courtney McDonald said in the chat that "we would welcome more nominees" and RUSA membership is not required for most of the awards. Joan Blaylock said she'll commit to calling two people to solicit nominations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m. EST. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.