

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

Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2022

Location: Virtual ([on Zoom](#))

[Agenda](#)

Attendees: Chair Joan Blaylock, Armed Forces Representative Adria Olmi, Secretary Ben Leubsdorf, Communications Committee Chair Ebony McDonald, Meg Tulloch (guest speaker), Diana D'Agostino, Ted McClure, Gloria Miller, Julie Arrighetti, Karen Filkil, Melissa Blaschke, Merrill Stein, Rebecca Ramos, Richard Guajardo, Richard Huffine, Trish Bachman, G. Amorelli, N. Sherman, Carol (no last name listed), SD, Sreen.

The meeting began at 7:04 p.m. EDT.

Chair's report -- Joan Blaylock

Joan said she has requested a room for the FAFLIG annual meeting at this summer's ALA conference in Washington. The rooms won't be assigned until mid-April, so we can discuss logistics at the May meeting.

Comments/updates from officers

Immediate Past Chair Michael Steinmacher

(Michael was not present, but Joan presented his slides, which included updates in his capacity as Chair of the Elections Committee.)

Michael presented at the RUSA Virtual Forum on March 10, and it was a big success.

The FAFLIG elections are coming up! The call for nominations will go out on May 11, with nominations due by June 13. Two positions are open this year, Chair-Elect (three-year commitment) and Federal Representative (two-year term). Nominees should submit a photo, bio, and two-paragraph platform statement to faflig.ala@gmail.com.

Michael is looking for two volunteers to help handle nominations. Michael won't be able to attend the annual meeting, so Joan will conduct the election using the procedures in the FAFLIG Manual.

Secretary Ben Leubsdorf

Ben said that we're working on our annual report, and should have a draft ready by our May meeting.

FEDLINK is conducting a survey to update the Federal Library Directory. Ben asked if people think FAFLIG should reach out to FEDLINK and offer our help and support for this effort. Adria said it sounded like a good idea. Joan said she's used the directory and found it helpful.

Ben said he plans to include the new FAFLIG newsletters in the records that he transfers each year to RUSA for long-term archival preservation, in addition to annual reports and Executive Committee minutes. Asked if recordings of Executive Committee meetings are included in those records, Ben said he didn't know. Adria suggested that Lance Wiscamb might know, and Ben said he would ask Lance about it.

Committee reports

Awards Committee -- Adria Olmi

Adria announced that the RUSA Federal Achievement Award for 2022 has been awarded to Lee Lipscomb, our former Chair who led FAFLIG through its recent period of transitions.

There was no winner for the Federal Rising Stars Initiative award. Adria said we might want to explore ways to increase awareness of the award and/or make it easier for people to apply next year, so we have more candidates.

Communications Committee -- Ebony McDonald

Ebony said she's looking for content for the April 2022 newsletter. Items of fewer than 200 words on any topic related to work in federal or armed forces libraries are welcome.

Guest speaker: Meg Tulloch, Director of the Center for Library Science at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

(Disclaimer provided on slide: "The opinions expressed in this presentation are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government Accountability Office.")

Meg began a slide presentation, "Federal Librarianship: Understanding our Profession, Shaping our Future." She said she recently celebrated 20 years in federal service, and so she has some stories to tell.

She said she wants to emphasize how vital federal librarianship is to our agencies, even if it doesn't always feel that way. Librarians are "leaders, doers, and thinkers" who are needed in the federal sphere, especially for their strategic thinking on large issues. We are boots on the ground. We are librarians, not the library.

In her career, Meg has been an Army librarian, director of the National Defense University Libraries, Executive Director of FEDLINK, and director of the Center for Library Science at GAO. She discussed her experiences in each of those positions.

In her current role, she's really had it brought home that we are librarians and not the (physical) library. For example, at GAO, 99.9% of the collections are virtual. We are information professionals and what we offer is not a space, but our professional skills – structured literature reviews, taxonomy management, creation of ontology tools, etc.

An enthusiastic discussion/question-and-answer session followed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. EDT. The Executive Committee's next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022, at 7 p.m. EDT.