

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

Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022

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

Attendees: Chair Joan Blaylock, Chair-Elect Ashley Evans, Immediate Past Chair Michael Steinmacher, Armed Forces Representative Adira Olmi, Communications Committee Chair Ebony McDonald, Programming Committee Chair Thomas Moss, and 15 participants.

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. EST. The Secretary was absent, so the Chair took notes.

Chair's Report – Joan Blaylock

Chair welcomed all participants to 2022 and wished all good health and joy. Then, shared hope that those absent due to illness were better soon.

Change to agenda. Guest speaker, Dianne Babski, will be saved for last.

The current Federal Representative vacancy announcement generated no response. Since the vacancy runs through the next election, the new goal is to support Immediate Past Chair Michael Steinmacher and help by recruiting candidates. All were asked to reach out to contact people, especially for non-military candidates.

FAFLIG Officer Comments/Updates

Immediate Past Chair Michael Steinmacher

The ALA accepted the “Libraries and National Veterans’ Forum” program under the FAFLIG banner. Elections information will be reviewed at the March meeting. He will be unable to attend the annual meeting at the ALA Conference and asks that, should any election business need to be done at that time, a member of the FAFLIG Executive Committee assist.

Armed Forces Representative Adria Olmi

Speaking as the Awards Committee chair, it's time to nominate for RUSA awards. Don't be shy. Go to the RUSA website and ALA Connect for more information about the nominations process.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee -- Ebony McDonald

Presented the newsletter. Talked about the software she used to create – Adobe InDesign – and ideal length. The response from the participants was very positive. “Fabulous.”

Programming Committee -- Thomas Moss

Spoke about the background and accomplishments of this month's guest speaker, Dianne Babski, then introduced her.

Guest Speaker: Dianne Babski, Associate Director for Library Operations, National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Ms. Babski talked about her background, the current activities in her area of the NLM, how these activities relate to the NLM broadly and to the NIH. She also integrated information about how those activities at her section analyzed and discovered skills and work flow changes needed for success now and in the future. She highlighted how this analysis resulted in major changes as well as 30 new hires done via the Pathways recruitment process. Changes included evaluation of the collections with a project management mentality and utilizing user feedback. Two interesting results were: changes to the indexing process in Medline that improved the precision rate of results from 48% with the previous method to 78% using automated algorithms; and, in anticipation of the 200th anniversary of the NLM, a 15-year strategic plan, which changes the functional organization to product based. When asked about skills for librarians, she mentioned knowledge of database design, math and computer skills, digital literacy, technical savvy and being both innovative and a risk taker. Three professional organizations she highlighted were the Association of Research Libraries, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and the Medical Library Association.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. EST. [The Executive Committee will next meet on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 7 p.m. EST.](#)