

Executive Committee
Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Interest Group (FAFLIG)
Reference and User Services Association (RUSA)
American Library Association (ALA)

Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2024

Location: Virtual (Zoom).
[Slides on Google Drive.](#)

Attendees: Chair Adria Olmi, Chair-Elect Elan Birkeland, Immediate Past Chair Ben Leubsdorf, Armed Forces Representative Ebony McDonald, Ariana Curiel, Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski, Patti McCall-Junkin, Simone Clunie, Stephanie Galipeau.

The meeting began at 2:03 p.m. EDT.

Chair Adria Olmi welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Adria reported on the successful [“Meetup for Federal and Military Librarians”](#) at the ALA annual conference in San Diego, and said we’d like to do some programming at the [2025 annual conference in Philadelphia](#) as well. Immediate Past Chair Ben Leubsdorf said that traditionally, the “How to Get a Federal Library Job” panel has been an in-person event, but that it may work better as a webinar as we have conducted it recently. Armed Forces Representative Ebony McDonald said she liked the idea of doing some programming around [new federal librarian competencies resources](#) from FEDLINK. Ben will reach out to FEDLINK to gauge interest in doing an event.

Adria discussed the [recent “FAFLIG Speaker Series” webinar with Department of Transportation librarian David Gansz](#), which went very well. Ebony said we probably have time to do at least one additional webinar this fall, and one option would be to do a structured conversation like the one led by former FAFLIG Chair Ashley Evans at the [Military Libraries Virtual Training Summit in 2023](#). Ben said we could frame such an event as “office hours.” No final decisions were reached, in the absence of Programming Committee Chair Gabby Amorelli.

Ben gave an update on the federal awards administered by RUSA, the [Federal Achievement Award](#) and the [Federal Rising Stars Award](#). The plan going forward is to have one FAFLIG representative on the [RUSA Achievement Awards and Grants Committee](#), and that person will

take point on administering the two awards, with actual decisions ratified by the committee. He has also created manuals to guide administration of the two awards. For now, Ben will continue to serve as the FAFLIG representative on the RUSA awards committee.

Adria asked if, going forward, FAFLIG meetings should be held midday or in the evening on the East Coast. She said we might try to rotate to different times, to ensure armed forces librarians at postings outside the United States can participate. Ebony said we could try to alternate between midday and evening meetings. Ben said we used to rotate Executive Committee times. Chair-Elect Elan Birkeland said she sometimes holds double meetings to reach people on different sides of the world. Ebony said she likes keeping the “FAFLIG Speaker Series” webinars on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. EDT, it’s a set time and recordings are available. Ben said we could try to adjourn a meeting and come back into session hours later to give more people an opportunity to offer comments and participate, but that would put more strain on Adria. Adria said she was not averse to trying. No final decision was reached.

Adria discussed ways to promote FAFLIG and federal/military libraries more generally. Ben said we could try more direct outreach to federal libraries when we promote events. Simone Clunie suggested doing promotional presentations to regional library groups.

On the “How to Get a Federal Library Job” webinar, both Ebony and Ben said they favored doing it again, but expanding it to 90 minutes (from 60 minutes) to make more time for Q&A.

On communications, Ben said it might work to bring back Ebony’s quarterly newsletter. Ebony said she can provide the files used to produce the previous editions, and that it would be great to bring it back. Adria said it was a helpful newsletter, and we had [something similar back when we were the Federal and Armed Forces Libraries Round Table \(FAFLRT\)](#). Elan said she really liked the social-media graphic that Communications Committee Chair Jackie Evans created for the recent “FAFLIG Speaker Series” webinar. No final decisions were reached, in the absence of Jackie.

Ebony provided an update on military library contracting and IT matters, including increased adoption of the Bibliovation ILS across services.

Ben said it was great to see so many new faces at today’s meeting.

A round of introductions went around the Zoom room.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m. EDT. The next Executive Committee meeting has not yet been scheduled.