



APPALACHIAN REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wilkes County Public Library

Thursday, March 20, at 1:00 p.m.

(Action items in **bold**.)

1. Call to Order - 1:10 pm

Members in attendance: Margaret Love, Patty Swartzbaugh, Jan Noffsinger, Doug Butler, Kyle Hall, Karen Moll, Jennifer Chatham, Arnold Lakey, Camilla Lovette-Day, Natalie Harkey, Mary Stolberg

Absent: Brenda Dobbins, Becky Ball (Wilkes local board substitute)

Visitor: Janina Shoemaker, Wilkes Local Board Member

Staff: Laura McPherson, Tammy Holston, Monica Caruso, Suzanne Moore

2. **Additions/Deletions and Approval of Agenda** - motion made by Karen Moll, second – Arnold Lakey – all approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes** – January 2025 Meeting minutes; motion made by Patty Swartzbaugh, second Jennifer Chatham – all approved

4. Correspondence and Communications

None

5. Reports: County Librarians and Regional Director

Reports were provided.

6. Unfinished Business - none

7. New Business - Kyle asked questions about IMLS funding in light of political maneuvers. Laura and Tammy gave updates from the state library: The FY2025 budget continues to provide support for IMLS, including its Grants to States program, which is vital for state and local libraries. Overall, while current funding is in place through September 2025, the long-term outlook for IMLS is uncertain pending Congressional action and the full implementation of the recent executive order. It was noted that contacts for local elected officials and state representatives are available on the private board document pages for each county.

Tammy also noted that at the next board meeting, there will be officers elected for FY25-26. Wilkes will be nominating a Chair, Watauga a Vice Chair, and Ashe a Secretary. Doug appointed a nominating committee

8. **Reports of Standing Committees**

Budget and Finance – Tammy reported on revisions (see attached) She also gave explanations about the NCDIT needs in each county and presented preliminary budget requests for the new FY 25-26. Jan recommended acceptance of budget amendments and budget proposals and all were in favor.

Governance: Kyle shared proposals for tweaking the meeting room policy. The next step is that county librarians share the proposed changes with managers and an updated policy will be voted on at the next ARL meeting. The next policy review will be the User Code of Conduct.

Personnel: Adverse Weather and Emergency Closings policy reviewed and recommendations made for changes/clarification.

Search Committee: Closed Session – review minutes of the Special Called Meeting 11/22/2024. Motion made by Camilla Lovette-Day, second – Kyle Hall, all in favor. Minutes from the 11-22-25 closed session were also reviewed and approved by all after a motion presented by Camilla Lovette-Day and a second by Mary Stolberg.

9. **Adjournment**

- Karen Moll motioned to adjourn, and Patty Swartzbaugh seconded. All were in favor. Next ARL meeting will be held in Watauga on May 15, 2025