METROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUES. SEPT. 17TH, 2013, 2 - 3:10 P.M.

Online meeting using Blackboard Collaborate, hosted by Beth Martin. Use of the expression "so-and-so wrote . . ." reflects the fact that meeting was in a mixed spoken and typed format.

**Board Members Present:** Joli McClelland, Beth Martin ("UNC-G administrator"), Robert Bryan, Rebecca Freeman, Valerie Freeman, Melinda Livas, Rae Lovvorn, Richard Moniz, Frank Newton, Sherrill Shiraz. Joined at 2:25: Jo Henry. Joined at 2:53: Jessica Reid, Brenda Almeyda.

**Board Members Absent:** Denelle Eads, Katy Hill, LaJuan Pringle, Doug Short.

**1. Minutes of Last Board Meeting (Frank).** Minutes of the Aug. Board meeting were approved.

**2. Treasurer's Report.** Jo was unable to be present at the start of the meeting, but Joli had distributed Jo's written report. We currently have $9,292. Treasurer's report was approved.

**3. Social Event.** There will be a joint get-together sponsored by Metrolina and NCLA next Tues. at Threes Wine Bar (333 W. Trade Street, Charlotte), 9-24-2013, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**4. Program Planning -- 2014 Metrolina Conference.**

**(a) Venue.** Richard raised a brand-new concern in his E-mail of Sept. 10th, 9:24 a.m. ("RE: Meeting this week"), that the 2014 Conference may not be able to be held at Johnson and Wales University due to a change in the laws regulating the use of space by outside groups in buildings built with government bond funding, or in Johnson and Wales' increased understanding of those laws. With their financial and space support, Johnson and Wales has been an indispensable partner in the first eight years of our Metrolina Information Literacy Conference -- (since we opened up the subject focus to topics in librarianship in general in 2013, we've started shortening the conference name to just Metrolina Conference) -- and the Board is very grateful to Johnson and Wales for this partnership which has been very fruitful and valuable for us. In his followup E-mail of Sept. 13th, 9:51 a.m. ("RE: More info."), Richard reported that in his meeting with the President of JWU, they concluded that it was in the best interest of Metrolina and everyone involved for us to plan our 2014 conference at another location. Doug noted that Central Piedmont Community College, Harris Campus was a possibility. At the meeting we continued our discussion of this. Valerie wrote "I think Harris is probably the frontrunner at this point." Richard asked if there were occupancy limits at Harris. He noted that in 2013 Metrolina basically maxed out the occupancy limit of ca. 120 in the auditorium we met in for Dr. Bell's keynote speech at JWU. If Harris can legally hold a bigger crowd, that would be something positive for us to keep in mind as we plan the 2014 conference.

**(b) Venue -- Other possible locations.** If we decide to hold it at Imaginon (cf. LaJuan's E-mail), we can park in the light rail lot. USC-Lancaster was also mentioned as a possible location.

**(c) Venue -- Long-term legal considerations.** Our Metrolina charter, drafted and approved by legal authorities many years and many presidents ago, establishes Metrolina as a 501(c) group (tax-exempt), but we believe our charter classifies us under 501(c)(6), which Wikipedia glosses as "Business Leagues, Chambers of Commerce, Real Estate Boards, etc." (Wikipedia article "501(c) organization," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/501c>). Richard's consultations with Johnson and Wales' president and their legal counsel brought up the fact that if we could get ourselves reclassified into 501(c)(3), glossed as "Religious, Educational, Charitable, Scientific, Literary, Testing for Public Safety, to Foster National or International Amateur Sports Competition, or Prevention of Cruelty to Children or Animals Organizations" [the secretary observes that the law is a many-splendored thing], under the "educational" subcategory, then the law which is causing trouble for us as an organization outside of JWU wanting to use rooms and buildings at JWU that were built with bond financing would be trumped, defanged, and rendered innocuous. We don't think it is realistic for us to think we could pull off this reclassification in time for the June 2014 conference, but it is worth looking into for the long run, and Robert and Richard volunteered to look into it. Joli added that we can probably prove we're educational if we need to.

**(d) Attendance by JWU Faculty.** Richard will see if he can get JWU to pay registration for JWU faculty, so that the interested individuals can attend without out-of-pocket expenses as they have been able to in the past.

**(e) Conference structure.** If we hold the Conference at a location other than JWU, the possibility of having the conference without a meal (lunch) was raised. Also the model of the CPCC Share Academy was mentioned --keynote first, then breakouts, then box lunch.

**(f) Date.** Joli mentioned Tues. June 17th, 2014 as a possibility.

**(g) Registration.** Melinda volunteered to come up with some registration options.

**(h) Vendor Tables?** Jo suggested we might want to look into the possibility of offering vendor tables at our 2014 conference, as is done at NCLA not to mention many national librarians' conferences. It would provide a place for vendors selling library products to advertise their wares at our conference.

**(i) Our Strategy for Planning the 2014 Conference.** The Board agreed we need to work out our venue first and then address all the other aspects of conference planning.

**5. Program Planning -- December Event.** Rae suggested we might explore having Dec. event at Johnson & Wales. Richard said you have to time events at JWU carefully if not in the summer (space becomes more readily available in the summer). The possibility of having food trucks instead of a catered lunch was raised, but Melinda wrote "Everybody may not like the food truck option. Lunch is a nice draw." The Board took a vote which came out in favor of a catered lunch (or at least a box lunch). Valerie estimated that the December program typically draws 30 to 42 people. Beth will look into whether we can hold Dec. program at Amélie's.

**6. Retirements, Resignations.** Joli announced that Denelle is resigning as she had too much on her plate.

**7. Elections for 2014 Officers (Joli).** Frank checked with his supervisors and had let Joli know he had permission to run for another two-year term as Secretary, and he was reëlected. Richard offered to put in his name for Vice-President (2014) and President-Elect (2015), and was elected.

**8. Next Board Meeting** will be back at Harris Campus, usual room, Thurs. Oct. 10th 2-4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Newton

MLA Secretary

9-20-2013

Apology. There was a reference to the possibility of doing something at Johnson C. Smith University sometime during the Board's meeting, but the Secretary didn't get it written down, and didn't remember which heading to put it under.