

**RPLAC**  
**June 10, 2010 Meeting**  
**Newton County Library, Covington**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chair Carolyn Fuller. Kathryn Ames agreed to act as Secretary for the meeting. Also present were: Joe Forsee, Adrian Mixon, Dusty Gres, Jon McDaniel, Carrie Ziegar, Alan Harkness, Julie Walker and Lamar Veatch. New members present included Greg Heid who hosted the meeting and Patricia Edwards, both of whom officially join RPLAC in July. Also present were Marcia Christy, Claudia Gibson and Peggy King. On the telephone were Donna Howell, Regent Dink NeSmith, and Chuck Gibson.

The first order of business was the election of officers. Jon McDaniel nominated the following slate:

Alan Harkness, Chair

Richard Sanders, Secretary

This was seconded by Adrian Mixon and there were no further nominations from the floor. The slate was unanimously approved and will take office on July 1.

Regent NeSmith offered several remarks from the Board of Regents.

Lamar and Julie announced several points from GPLS.

- 10 yr. sublease at Clairmont Rd. has been signed which will allow GPLS to move PINES from the 5<sup>th</sup> floor down to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor; good news is that they will pay at the 1997 lease rate which results in a reduction of the lease by 23%--and saves \$54,000.
- Elaine Black received a Prime Time Grant, the #1 ranked grant in the applications for \$61,000 which will cover travel for a New Orleans conference, training & promotional materials to promote this grant.
- Richard Brock is still receiving Technology Plans which are due in 20 days---some have been approved and he hopes to have all of them shortly. A reminder to delinquent systems will be sent out by Julie.
- Diana Very is scheduling dates for Annual Reports Training---if you want to host contact Diana. This training will be for new people who have not completed an annual report or for a refresher as there are no new elements this year.
- Lamar noted that anyone planning to attend ALA in Washington, DC should plan to attend the Tuesday rally on the hill at end of ALA, then join members of the delegation to visit Congressional Offices following the rally.
- The Governor has now signed the FY2011 budget, but exact details are not yet known. Christopher will send out copy to Directors as soon as some decisions are made after discussion from this meeting.
- The new funding formula does include grants reflecting population adjustments in Materials and SSG funds.

Lamar distributed copies of the gun law and there was some discussion about challenges to libraries being government buildings. There appears to be a group in the state that will seek to challenge libraries about this. GPLS encourages libraries to talk with their board attorneys, but noted that the Board of Regents is pursuing this as well.

The Association of County Commissioners in Georgia would like to form a study committee to discuss public libraries and funding issues. Julie and Lamar met with Ross King, Executive Director of ACCG, the day before this meeting. Mr. King is interested in libraries and archives. Lamar Paris, who is the chair of ACCG this year and one of Donna's Commissioners, will also be involved. Mr. King was truly surprised to see the statistics for library use and circulation and thought a study committee might be able to articulate the real effect of public libraries on the lives of people. ACCG is of course quite interested in the MOE requirements and determining levels of adequate funding and services. Lamar and Julie will involve RPLAC in this process which may include representation from different groups including Directors, Georgia Council, Library Boards, etc. The general feeling is that RPLAC represents the best cross section of the different types of public libraries in Georgia. Directors may nominate possible members of this group.

Discussion items:

1. How to best deal with budget cuts?

There are 14 frozen positions plus 3 at GPLS [PINES administrator, Lyn Hopper and one other] now in the state each valued at approximately \$80,000 with benefits. Perhaps OPB will consider releasing those positions, but GPLS does not think that it will happen soon. After some discussion, the group agreed that filling at least 1 of the 2 vacancies at Pine Mountain and 2 of the 3 vacancies at Middle Georgia Regional should be priorities for this year if funds become available. No other system has more than 1 frozen vacancy at this time. Restoration of all other frozen positions should be the next priority. However, we should note that the GPLS budget does not currently have available the \$1.1 million required to fund the frozen positions and if these positions were released by OPB and allowed to be filled, that money would have to come from other reductions.

All agreed that further materials reductions would not be a good move.

All agreed that reducing SSG is undesirable.

And while we don't like furloughs, that would be preferable to other reductions.

Currently, according to Julie, there will be NO furlough days but this could change if the budget situation becomes more dire or if OPB approves unfreezing of positions.

After discussion, the group recommended that GPLS forego the step increase for this year. The cost of implementation of steps for the 310 professional positions is \$278,000. If RPLAC approves the step increase, then they must find the \$278,000 elsewhere in the budget.

**2. Converted positions should be considered as temporary. The group would like to recommend that systems have the opportunity to re-convert positions back to professional positions in the future. Systems would be able to do a one-year conversion of state-paid positions--it will give systems flexibility and save money for the state (compared to fully funding a position).**

**3. After much discussion about several formula issues, it was decided that RPLAC members should meet for a retreat to examine our policies and procedures for state grants and to develop recommendations to GPLS for possible changes. This will tentatively be planned for the third week of August for 3 days. Julie will begin working on arrangements. Among the topics to be discussed will be:**

- Criteria for state paid positions**
- Basic level of services**
- MOE requirements**
- Funding issues**

**4. Talking Book Center plans will be completed in draft format by August.**

**5. Ames noted that Parks and Recreation has a major recognition program at the state level and proposed that RPLAC establish a committee to recognize libraries for awards for exceptional services. Gres noted that she has staff who are recipients of the Laura Bush scholarship and others agreed. Alan will appoint a committee to develop award categories and criteria.**

**6. A request was made that in the future, instead of a mass mailing to various lists about grant possibilities [such as the children's listserv], the announcement go to the directors.**

**Other business**

**Dusty Gres made a motion to adjourn, second by Carrie Zeiger and meeting concluded at 1:15.**