

**Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries  
Annual Dinner and Business Meeting Minutes  
April 23, 2008**

**DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF MEETING:** April 23, 2008, at Lovoy's Italian Restaurant, Greensprings Ave., Birmingham, AL

**PROGRAM**

Dr. Julie Todaro, 2007-2008 ACRL President and Dean of Library Services at Austin Community College in Austin, TX, was the speaker for the evening. Dr. Todaro spoke about staffing issues for 21<sup>st</sup> century academic libraries and demonstrated some of her own methods for handling, digesting, and presenting data to administrators and other stakeholders as she thinks about the future of academic libraries. She provided handouts for those present and will make electronic copies available for the AACRL web site.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Rosemary Arneson called the business meeting to order at 8:45 p.m.

**SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION AWARDS**

Rosemary presented the Significant Contribution Award to Dr. Jerry Stephens, director of the Mervyn H. Sterne Library at UAB. Eric Kidwell, Director of the Houghton Memorial Library at Huntingdon College, and Sue Medina, Director of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries, made this recommendation:

Please accept this submission to nominate Dr. Jerry Stephens for the AACRL Significant Achievement Award.

Dr. Stephens currently serves as library director of the Mervyn H. Sterne Library at UAB. We believe Dr. Stephens record of accomplishment in the profession with the state of Alabama, as well as regionally and nationally, make him deserving of this recognition from our state chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

Here is a sampling of Dr. Stephens accomplishments:

**NAAL:**

Dr. Stephens was a guiding force in the establishment of NAAL, the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries. Not only was NAAL (established in 1984) one of the first statewide library consortia but it was the first to treat public and non-profit private institutions as equal partners. This reflected the central educational philosophy of NAAL – that our primary concern should be the advancement of quality higher education for ALL students. Dr. Stephens shared this philosophy and was an effective and influential articulator of it. As NAAL has evolved, a “level playing field” among its members has been utmost in the Dr. Stephens' vision. His leadership within NAAL is well known and highly respected.

**The AVL:**

Dr. Stephens leadership was also instrumental in the investigation (and later implementation) of a statewide virtual library. Today, the AVL, the Alabama Virtual Library, is a model that other states have looked to for motivation and inspiration that such resources, open to all citizens of the state, is not only a possibility, but a functioning, sustainable reality. Perhaps those of us in academic and research libraries do not often recall that there was a time when electronic database availability was more a reality in higher education than in K-12 and public libraries. Dr. Stephens was instrumental in advocating a more holistic view for the state of how this developing technology could – and should – be available to all Alabama residents, regardless of age, level of education, or socio-economic standing, and he chaired the first AVL Database Negotiating Team, which secured much content for the AVL at very, very reasonable pricing, and established enviable licensing agreements that among other things, set three-year pricing caps that allowed the AVL to more effectively plan its budgeting requests.

A further illustration of his passion and vision at the state level would be the work he did many years ago when appointed to the APLS LSCA Advisory Council. Dr. Stephens encouraged the Council to develop a plan that would bring the then new technology to public libraries throughout the state, including Internet access and resource sharing. The Council developed such a plan, which was approved by the APLS Board. The timing of the Council's work could not have been better, for at this time the Gates Foundation launched its public library initiative. Because Alabama already had a plan in place, it was poised to

respond immediately to the Foundation's call for state proposals. I think it is safe to say that due to this, Alabama was selected to receive one of the first Gates grants.

Mentor:

Dr. Stephens has taken upon himself the role of advocate for the profession as a viable, rewarding career choice. He has been an exemplary mentor, and has offered whatever support and advice he can to those considering a career in the library profession. His expertise has assisted many in such diverse areas as selection a library automation system, successfully surviving an accreditation review, reexamining the issue of library as place, and leading us all in the state forward into the future.

Regional and National:

At the regional and national levels, Dr. Stephens has been actively involved in SACS for many years, serving on numerous reaffirmation committees and presenting at ALA conferences on the topic of library assessment. His expertise has assisted many librarians in constructing assessment plans that have lead to not only successful reviews by accrediting bodies, but also provided useful assessment results for evolving the services and collections of academic libraries.

Currently, Dr. Stephens is lending his expertise and leadership to the OCLC Board. His service is undoubtedly providing OCLC with very practical and forward thinking guidance, and at the same time is serving to place Alabama in a very positive light among colleagues from other geographic regions.

In conclusion, we would like to say that this nomination only skims the surface of Dr. Stephens' accomplishments. Much more could be detailed, but we believe that this summation is enough to communicate the years and level of service Dr. Stephens has given to the profession. We hope the AACRL Board will look favorably upon Dr. Stephens' nomination for the AACRL Significant Achievement Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric A. Kidwell  
Director of the Library  
Huntingdon College

Sue O. Medina  
Director, Network of Alabama Academic Libraries

Dr. Stephens accepted the award and thanked AACRL and all those present for what he called a team effort by all libraries in the state to improve and excel at library services.

## **OFFICER REPORTS/ RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING OFFICERS**

### **Past President**

Bob Schrimsher – Bob announced the results of the election this year. Rickey Best (AUM) will be the new president-elect, Mildred Jackson (UA) will serve as chapter liaison and member-at-large, and Ellen Wilson (USA) will be secretary. (Outgoing officer)

### **President**

Rosemary Arneson– Rosemary recognized current, newly-elected, and outgoing officers among those present, including Kathy Wheeler (USA), the new newsletter editor; and Maryellen Allen (UA), the incoming webmaster.

### **Vice-President/President-Elect**

Tim Dodge – Tim presented a plaque and book about Alabama art to Julie Todaro in appreciation of her visit. Tim also noted that he will be attending Legislative Day this year, partially funded by AACRL, whom he thanked.

**Treasurer**

On April 16, 2007, the AACRL account balance was \$6,853.92. Since then, deposits of \$426.00 in dues, \$465.00 from the Spring workshop, \$90.00 for the 2007 dinner and \$1,050.00 for 2008 annual dinner registrations have been made. Disbursements of \$1,151.43 for the 2007 annual dinner, \$163.27 for newsletter expenses, \$500 for legislative day and \$79.55 for web hosting have been made. \$43.02 in interest has accrued, and we were charged \$6 for a check we received that bounced. The account balance, as of April 23, 2008, now stands at \$7,027.69.

**Secretary**

Lori Northrup reported that copies of the April 17, 2007, business meeting were available in print and on the Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries’ website and had been approved via e-mail by the membership following last year’s meeting.

**Legislative Liaison**

Eric Kidwell – no report

**Newsletter Editor**

Jill Grogg – no report

**Webmaster**

Beth Ashmore – no report

**Member-at-Large**

Alyssa Martin – no report

**ELECTION RESULTS/INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS**

President	Tim Dodge, Auburn University
Vice-President/President-Elect	Rickey Best, Auburn University Montgomery
Past President	Rosemary Arneson, University of Montevallo
Secretary	Ellen Wilson, U. of South Alabama
Treasurer	Susan Herring, Athens State University
Member-at-Large	Mildred Jackson, University of Alabama
Legislative Liaison	Eric Kidwell, Huntingdon College
Newsletter Editor	Kathy Wheeler, U. of South Alabama
Webmaster	Maryellen Allen, University of Alabama

**BYLAWS CHANGES**

At this time, after recognition of the executive board, Rosemary asked for a voice vote on the bylaws changes that were proposed by the executive board. Bylaws changes proposed had been publicized in the March 2008 newsletter and on the AACRL web site prior to the meeting. Beth moved that all changes proposed to the bylaws be accepted, and they were, by a unanimous voice vote.

Proposed changes accepted were as follows:

**ARTICLE VI – Officers Section 3. Duties**

(d) The Treasurer shall report to the chapter membership, at least annually on the financial status of the chapter; maintain necessary accounts with an accounting of all chapter monies; maintain an active membership list; send membership applications and renewals to the Member -at-Large; submit end-of-year reimbursement reports to ACRL in accordance with its guide lines; **file necessary non-profit organization tax forms with the IRS**; and perform other duties as assigned by the President.

**ARTICLE IX - NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND VACANCIES Section 3. Time of Election**

Election of officers shall be by ~~mail~~ ballot prior to the annual chapter meeting.

ARTICLE XI - VOTING BY MAIL

Votes by **mail, telephone or online** may be authorized by the Executive Board for the purpose of conducting necessary business between meetings, or in lieu of a quorum. The procedure for voting by **mail, telephone or online** may be established in such manner as the Executive Board may direct.

New Article

**ARTICLE XV - INCORPORATION & ARCHIVES**

**The Alabama Association of College & Research Libraries was founded in May of 1987 and incorporated in October of 2000 as a non-profit organization. The official address of the association, as filed with the State of Alabama and the Internal Revenue Service, is Ralph Brown Draughon Library, 231 Mell St., Auburn University, AL 36849-5606. The Ralph Brown Draughon Library is also home to the association's archive.**

After the vote, Rosemary adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lori Northrup, past AACRL Secretary