ACL Board Meeting Agenda
Friday, April 12, 2024
12pm–1pm
Meeting at Berkeley Public Library

12:00pm: Meeting begins

Meetings and Calendar items:

- May member meeting: Zoom
- June member meeting: In person at Berkeley Public Library
- July member meeting: Zoom
- Next Board meeting in June or July

  We are aiming to have the next board meeting following our in-person June membership meeting.

Committee updates:

- Book Review & Outstanding List (Caroline, Joy, Lesley)
- Budget (Kimberly)
- Distinguished (Joy, Lesley)
- Editorial (Penny, Sarah)
- Helfeld (Catherine, Celia, Jennifer)
- Institute 2025 (TBD)

  Shani is working on some ideas, especially around creating a more inclusive library or a storytime focus, including vocal training or puppet training. Banned books is also a possible topic, but it is currently pretty saturated in the professional development space.

- Membership (Catherine, Celia)

  We currently have 30 reviewing members, 40 nonreviewing members, 30 people we haven't heard back from, and 30 people who have unsubscribed.

  Only 8 people actually wrote reviews this month.

  We're at 70 to 80 total members.

  Mentorship: There was a meeting with mentors and Joy set up some documentation for mentors. There will be another meeting for mentors or those wanting to mentor, in order to provide more support to those in the mentor role.

  ACL's 90th anniversary is next year and the Membership Committee would like to ask for some money to plan a celebration (maybe tied to the Institute). Requests for funds should be submitted to Kimberly before she does the yearly budget in September.

There was a suggestion to do an Institute retrospective featuring past Institute topics. On the website we have Institute titles back to 1993 and Penny thinks there should be older ones in the archive.

- Mini-grants (Penny)
- Nominating (Angela, Catherine, Shani)

  Lillian stepped up for the Vice President role. We will need to look for a new Secretary, but it's a good introductory position and is a low-key commitment for newer members.

- Performer's Showcase (Armin, Diana, Renee, Sheila)
- Professional Development (Angela)

  Next month will be on transitional fiction.

- Website (Lillian)

  Lillian got back in touch with Laura about picking up a handful of projects for the website, including resizing book cover images on reviews and changing the highlight color for upcoming professional development. Two other suggestions were made for adding an ABC selection option for the All Reviews page and adding some updated payment forms for membership, Showcase, and Institute. Lillian will continue conversations with Laura and get these projects rolling for the spring and summer. There is a need to revisit discussion of whether to contract with a WordPress maintenance company or to continue to contract with an individual web designer for our website updating needs.

  Another discussion question to follow up on: Do we want to go historically back with minutes on the website? Lillian thinks we need a nicer page for meeting minutes if we are going to do this, but it's something we could consider.

  There is also some need to centralize ACL files and bring together disparate pieces, possibly under the ACL Gmail account.

Other Business:

- Mini-grants discussion and vote

  Voted in favor of two of the grants and no on one.

  A request was made to create a task force that would reevaluate the mini-grant program. Options instead of mini-grants would be to invest more in professional development, helping members attend conferences, or other more direct aid to members.

There was also a discussion of a need to renew the taskforce that was rewriting the mission statement. An option would be to hold either a special meeting or discuss the mission statement instead of a professional development. We would like to look for someone to moderate that discussion.

12:50pm: Meeting adjourns

Submitted by
Lillian W.