



**State Library Board  
Meeting Notes**

**Date:** March 27, 2025  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Virtual

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**Board Member Attendance:**

Ms. Alanna Wildman	Absent
Ms. Deborah Hyler, Member	Absent
Ms. Anna Claire Dando, Member	Present
Ms. Loretta Green, Member	Absent
Ms. Jennifer Cunningham, Member	Absent
Ms. Andrea Kelly, Member	Present
Mr. Mark Herring, Member	Absent

**Other Attendees:** Ms. Charlotte Dunn, SCSL; Faith Line, APLA; Ms. Breanne Smith, SCSL;  
Mr. Chris Yates, SCSL

**A. Board Business and Approval of Minutes**

1. No motion was made to approve the November 21, 2024, minutes as a quorum was not present. Informal notes will go out after the meeting instead of minutes due to the lack of a quorum.
2. No motion was made regarding the resolutions proposed by SCSL Board Member Mark Herring until he can be present to present them.
3. Ms. Breanne Smith gave a brief explanation of the new EPMS system that will be used to track employee performance.

**B. Director Report**

1. Agency Administration
  - a. Smith discussed the budget requests made for the next fiscal year. The State Library asked both the House and Senate for \$3.00 per capita, with \$812k for salary and fringe for ten new positions. The House budgeting sub-committee has allowed for \$2.75 per

capita and \$481k for five new positions; the Senate budgeting sub-committee has still not decided.

- b. Smith introduced and explained the FY (Fiscal Year) 2025 legislation the State Library is currently monitoring that would affect daily operations:

1. H3843 (Budget Proviso Codification Act) would codify Section 60-1-180:

“Section 60-1-180.

(A) The State Library may charge a fee for costs associated with information delivery and retain such funds to offset the costs of maintaining, promoting, and improving information delivery services.

(B) The State Library may charge a fee for costs associated with continuing education and retain such funds to offset the costs of providing continuing education opportunities.”

2. H3850/S104 (Responsible Library Funding and Child Protection Act) would require quarterly certification for state aid. Smith stated that currently, state aid is paid annually, and switching to quarterly-paid aid would put a huge burden on library administrative staff.
3. H3927/S368 (Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity Act) would prohibit state agencies (including schools, libraries, and universities) from promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) or working with any agencies or companies who promote DEI or have diversity statements or hiring practices. The implementation of either bill would cost the State Library \$453,000 for the upcoming fiscal year and \$417,000 annually in the future. That cost includes hiring four new employees to bear the extra administrative workload (\$397,000 annually); a one-time furniture, equipment, and software cost (\$36,000) and a recurring annual software cost (\$20,000).
4. H4045/S484 (County library staff qualifications): would remove the requirement for an American Library Association (ALA)-accredited MLIS for county library directors. Faith Line stated that in her experience, this would not be a good idea as the Master’s of Library and Information Science (MLIS) provides much-needed education for directors; she also said this would hurt counties, rather than help them.
5. H4059 (Freedom to Read Protections and Respect for School Librarian Autonomy) would protect school library media specialists, school library staff members, and educators by acknowledging that they are certified and trained professionals and should have professional autonomy to curate and maintain their collections within professional and guidelines and standards established by law. It also establishes clear guidelines for Material Review Committees for school districts regarding challenged materials.
6. H3021/S254 (Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act) would require SCSL to remove one of two current regulations, which would greatly affect the State Library.

7. S131 (Job Creation Bill): would remove tax exemptions for databases, which can run into millions of dollars. Smith also explained that the bill would removed further tax exemptions on textbooks, magazines, periodicals, and newspapers for state, county, regional, and school libraries.
- c. Part of the infographics shared included the FY24 statewide infographic. Smith highlighted the 10,303,196 library visits statewide in 2024, as well as the 2,456,612 cardholders in the same year
- d. Mr. Chris Yates discussed the success of the SCSL e-card registration. February 2025 saw 2,900 e-card registrations. The e-card fills the need for those patrons across the state who require access to databases and other e-resources.
- e. Yates shared that SCSL now has over 16,000 registered patrons. Unfortunately, some patrons have been trying to circumvent out-of-county fees with their local library by using their state library card. Yates explained that the State Library is currently trying to ensure that excluding SCLENDS materials, physical materials must be checked out at the State Library. Line noted that some counties have seen out-of-county fee income drop recently and agreed that SCLENDS patrons should be patrons who live within an SCLENDS county.
- f. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) Tombstone Project has been completed. Sixty-seven microfiche have been digitized and put online with appropriate metadata. The information includes 350 cemeteries, and it is available in alphabetical order by surname and also available by cemetery. Yates shared that librarians and volunteers from the University of South Carolina's South Caroliniana Library and the South Carolina Historical Society were hugely helpful and that SCSL is grateful for their time and expertise.
- g. For National Braille Literacy Month, the Director of South Carolina Talking Book Services (TBS), Jennifer Falvey, appeared on Live at 5 in Charleston to promote the occasion and everything that the Talking Book Services has to offer. Jennifer and the entire staff at TBS have been hard at work to promote their services, and this was an excellent opportunity. Falvey's appearance on Live at 5 can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: [https://youtu.be/wFwIuU5o2\\_8](https://youtu.be/wFwIuU5o2_8)
- h. Yates shared that The South Carolina Collection, a niche collection of current and older titles and materials pertinent to South Carolina history and culture, has now been relocated from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. The 4<sup>th</sup> floor TBS collection has been physically reduced significantly due to Duplication on Demand (DOD) technology being implemented, so it was logical to move the South Carolina Collection to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. More storage cabinets and shelves will be arriving soon to help expand the South Carolina Collection.
- i. Smith announced that Aiken and State Data Coordinator Leah Cannon received the Francis Keppell Award from IMLS for their excellent and timely work on the Public Library Survey.
- j. Smith announced that SCSL will be honored on April 24, 2025, by the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission as a Top 10 State Agency regarding our hiring practices.

- k. On March 6, 2025, Aiken was awarded the Director's Award for Excellence from the University of South Carolina's School of Information Science, or iSchool. It is not an annual award; instead, it is bestowed at the behest of the iSchool director when they feel it is warranted to recognize accomplishments above and beyond in support of the School of Information Science. Since 2018, under Aiken's leadership, SCSL has awarded 76 tuition assistance grants to 43 library staff members across 19 public library systems, totaling over \$135,000. This action has enabled library professionals who could not otherwise afford the MLIS degree to earn the credentials to back their expertise and experience.
- l. Yates provided information regarding the February 2025 visit from Marybeth Wise from the National Library Service (NLS), the parent division of the Library of Congress that is over the Talking Book Services (TBS). Wise was especially impressed that South Carolina TBS has gained patrons as most TBS divisions across the country have lost patrons. At the end of FY2024, South Carolina TBS had over 4,000 patrons, and thanks to an increase in staff, outreach contracts have increased 175% over the past year, including public library trainings, the Assistive Technology Petting Zoo (ATPZ), senior expos, and other efforts. Talking Book Services also has updated their parent/guardian permissions to follow the Library of Congress updates that were begun last year. Wise was also complimentary of TBS's local recording program, especially of the five children's books completed with music and sound effects. Children's materials make up a small amount of the NLS digital collection, and these five books are available nationwide for download. Additionally, the recording studio does recordings of magazines and other materials for nationwide distribution through NLS, including periodicals like *Garden & Gun*.)
- m. Yates shared news that SCSL received word about a month ago from a user that Berkeley County had blocked Discus access over an issue about age-appropriate content. Berkeley County stated that it was acting in compliance with SC Department of Education (DOE) Regulation 43-170, which states that "Instructional Material is not 'Age and Developmentally Appropriate' for any age or age group of children if it includes descriptions or visual depictions of 'sexual conduct,' as that term is defined by Section 16-15-305(C)(1)." The search the user's child had conducted in Discus was for "pornography," which not yield any pornography or suggestive images but instead yielded academic, scholarly articles about pornography. For this particular child, the parent felt this content was not age-appropriate, though the search results were scholarly material. At this point, teachers and administrators in Berkeley County have access to Discus but students do not. Yates stated that SCSL has not heard back from DOE to see if this particular search result or ones like it are or are not in compliance with Regulation 43-170; SCSL naturally wants to be responsive to school and parent concerns. This issue still has yet to be resolved with Berkeley County; the State Library has been unable to gather additional information from the county about their exact issues with Discus.
- n. Yates shared the current, known information about the status of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the only federal agency that funds museums

and libraries. On March 14, 2025, an Executive Order was issued to reduce federal bureaucracy, including drastically reducing IMLS to the point of almost-elimination. On March 21, 2025, a report was submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regarding efficiency. An email several days earlier from IMLS stated that they expected to award state grants as normal, but this was before the Executive Order was issued. The American Library Association (ALA) and the IMLS Board have submitted letters of concern regarding statutory requirements of the agency to the new acting director, Keith E. Sonderling, who was sworn in on March 20, 2025. Yates stated that the State Library is awaiting new developments and plans to stay informed.

- o. Line expressed concern about news regarding E-Rate, the federal program that provides discounts for internet access and related equipment for schools and libraries. E-Rate, part of the Universal Service Fund that was established under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, currently is being debated at the Supreme Court as being unconstitutional. Yates stated that Paul Harmon, SCSL's IT Director, has been proactive in encouraging public libraries to stay up-to-date with their technological infrastructure. However, the cost for internet services and related equipment would be astronomical without E-Rate, which pays the majority of those costs for schools and libraries in South Carolina.

## **2. Partnerships**

- a. Talking Book Services Reader Advisor Tyler Edmond has forged a successful partnership with the SC State Museum and regularly does outreach at their Sensory-Friendly Saturdays.
- b. Smith shared the Check-Out SC Infographic, noting that the state park passes, which were made available to county libraries, were checked out 11,000 times in 2023. The backpacks that originally checked out with the park passes are currently being revamped and will hopefully be ready to check out within the next year or two.

## **3. Projects/Programs**

- a. The Literary Landmarks Association was founded by United by Libraries, but it has been on hiatus for quite some time. Aiken and McCabe Rentz, the coordinator for the SC Center for the Book, have created a new program just for South Carolina literary landmarks wherein the public may nominate culturally significant places around the state that pertain to great literature. Aiken and Rentz would like the SCSL Board to assist in selecting these SC Literary Landmarks, with the goal of two per year during a full calendar year. More information (and the form to nominate a space to become a South Carolina Library Landmark) can be found here:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/93R5LLS>
- b. The Public Directors' Summit took place February 4-6, 2025, at Hickory Knob State Park and included representation from 40 of the 46 county libraries. Topics included human resources, finance, budgeting, legislative information, policy writing, and media training. The Summit was well received by all in attendance. It was a great opportunity, not only for SCSL to share relevant information and provide training, but

also for county library directors to build community and connection. Smith stated that SCSL would like to hold this event annually as it provided everyone with excellent learning and networking opportunities.

- c. With the popularity of genealogy, Aiken wanted to place more emphasis on this rapidly rising field of interest. One librarian has received extra training in helping patrons with this service, and the State Library has purchased access to additional databases. Sessions for Book a Genealogy Appointment online started this year and operate much like the Book a Librarian service on the website. Since January, there have been thirteen bookings.
- d. Yates announced that in December 2024, the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) and SCSL partnered together, with SCSL becoming just one of 64 nationwide Preservation Stewards. Becoming a GPO Preservation Steward means that SCSL has committed to preserving three print (tangible), federal document titles in perpetuity so that the public can rely on these collections as sources of Federal Government information for generations to come. The three print titles selected for perpetuity were ones of which the State Library already had a large collection; they also are all pertinent to South Carolina history and interest.
- e. Center for the Book:
  - 1. The Chief Louie Chavis event from December 2024 was featured in the *Post and Courier/Free Times*. The event was a huge success and drew a wide audience. The article can be found here: [https://www.postandcourier.com/free-times/news/sc-native-american-tribes-federal-recognition/article\\_9bc1aaa6-bbe5-11ef-b17a-fb06cfbae3a7.html](https://www.postandcourier.com/free-times/news/sc-native-american-tribes-federal-recognition/article_9bc1aaa6-bbe5-11ef-b17a-fb06cfbae3a7.html) (additional copy sent as attachment).
  - 2. Exploring Hobbies with Carolina Pong (01/29/2025) featured the health benefits of ping pong for National Hobbies Month.
- f. Webinars:
  - 1. The Get to Know the South Carolina State Library (01/30/2025) series has been popular with the rise in the number of e-card enrollment
  - 2. Grant Writing: Creating a Winning Proposal (02/19/2025) is part of a grant-writing series that Dawn Mullin, a long-time reference librarian, does, and it is wildly popular.

#### **4. Personnel**

- a. The State Library currently has the following open positions: Public Information Coordinator, Director of Library Development, and Public Services Librarian.
- b. Newly hired staff include Rhianna Bogard (Reader Advisor Assistant) and Beka Darrah (Government Documents Librarian).
- c. Welcome to Charlotte Dunn, who started as a Reader Advisor in November 2024 and was promoted to Executive Assistant in February 2025.

#### **5. Past and Upcoming Events**

- a. Notable State Documents Awards Ceremony (03/19/2025)
  - 1. The event was well-attended, with many state agencies represented.

2. The contest has grown over the years, with web entries especially becoming more sophisticated and complex.
- b. Read-In (04/03/2025)
  1. This year's featured guests include Davis Wash, Miss South Carolina; Helen Prince, the SCASL Librarian of the Year; and Queen Quet, Chieftess and Head-of-State for the Gullah/Geechee Nation and the 2025 Read-In Grand Marshall.
  2. This year's Read-In highlights the joy of reading for children of all ages.
- c. TBS Art Gallery/Let's Celebrate Art! Award Ceremony (04/24/2025 at 11:00 a.m.)
  1. This year, there were a record number of pieces submitted (54 total).
  2. Students submitted artwork from across the state, not just a few schools or counties.

#### **6. Public Libraries**

- a. There are director vacancies in the following counties: Chesterfield, Greenwood, and Richland.
- b. Smith and Yates brought up Pickens County's collection development policy and its relation to current proposed legislation in the House and Senate.
- c. The individual South Carolina county public library infographics for FY24 will be sent out with the notes after the meeting. They contain the statewide infographic on page 50 of the PDF.

#### **C. APLA Report**

Line explained that APLA is currently following the situations regarding IMLS and E-Rate.

#### **D. Finance**

Smith presented the financial report. There was nothing of note and no questions.

#### **E. Adjournment**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2025.