



## State Library Board

### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 24, 2025  
**Time:** 10:30 a.m.  
**Location:** Virtual and in-person at 1500 Senate Street

#### Board Member Attendance:

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

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

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

1. Anna Claire Dando made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2025, board meeting. Mark Herring seconded the motion; all board members present approved the minutes.
2. The board discussed their earlier resolution to remove references to the American Library Association (ALA) from the State Library's website. Breanne Smith reminded the Board that the South Carolina State Library is not an institutional member of ALA. Mr. Herring stated he would still link a link to the original resolution that he wrote added to the website. Faith Line asked if removing all affiliations to ALA would take away future grant opportunities. Mr. Herring stated that the Board wishes to divorce themselves from ALA's partisanship and that this resolution is in conjunction with the letter that State Librarian Leesa Aiken wrote to ALA previously. Ms. Line stated that ALA informs all libraries of current events in libraries and that inquired if we would be able to inform them in future things that

the State Library does. Mr. Herring stated that there would be a link to the resolution he wrote on the State Library's website. Ms. Line countered that the State Library removing all mention of ALA from the website and removing all affiliation from ALA would affect hiring practices, such as requiring an ALA-accredited MLIS degree for future candidates. Ms. Line continued that she does not agree with everything ALA has done but that they are the nationally-recognized group for library professionals in the United States. Mr. Herring countered that ALA is a flashpoint in the South and that he wants the state to divorce itself and its organizations from ALA. Andrea Kelly stated that the point regarding ALA had already been made previously when Ms. Aiken discontinued the South Carolina State Library's institutional membership with ALA and this all seemed very nitpicky. Mr. Herring said that Ms. Aiken had written a brief statement that the Board may use to reflect its disassociation from ALA. Ms. Smith read the statement. Jennifer Cunningham and Ms. Kelly agreed that the statement Ms. Smith read (that Ms. Aiken had written) was fine with them. Ms. Dando made a motion to approve the statement written by Ms. Aiken to be added at the first mention of ALA on the State Library's website; Mr. Herring seconded the motion; there was no vote. Discussion continued of where ALA is mentioned on the library's website. Ms. Smith confirmed that the first search result of ALA on the library's website is the press release from where the State Library broke institutional membership with ALA. Ms. Kelly asked if the South Carolina State Library is no longer tied to ALA, if libraries would still be able to observe occasions like National Library Week; Ms. Smith confirmed this would be the case. Mr. Herring said that this statement divorces the Board from ALA's unacceptable ideology. He went on to say that people outside the library world are upset and have been poisoned by the library world's leftist ideals. He feels that there needs to be a strong effort to bring people back to libraries and that we are losing people to the left. Ms. Dando asked if an asterisk would be needed on the statement and that she felt it would be redundant; Ms. Kelly agreed. Mr. Herring stated that he would like the Board statement's in a prominent place where people would see it. Further discussion ensued. Ms. Dando voted to put the original statement on the second search result of "ALA" on the library's website; Mr. Herring seconded the motion; all Board member presented voted in favor of the motion.

3. Ms. Smith reviewed the intentions and goals for the South Carolina Literary Landmarks. She explained that after the Board has voted for their landmark choice, there will be a ceremony, and the Board will place a plaque at the location. Ms. Dando made a motion to vote for the Porgy House. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion; all board members present approved the vote for the Porgy House to become a South Carolina Literary Landmark through the South Carolina Center for the Book.

## B. Director Report

### 1. Agency Administration

- a. Ms. Smith stated that Leesa Aiken is working with the State Library's web developer to remove the phrase "diversity, equity, and inclusion" from the library's website, as per the Board's resolution. The web developer has almost completed this work.
- b. With regard to the IMLS Grant Award, the State Library was awarded a little over three million dollars for this year's grant, which is in line with what is typically received.
- c. The State Library was awarded the 2025 Tutor.com Champion Award at the ALA Annual Conference. The award was granted based on the State Library's work done in conjunction with the SC Department of Education. The State Library's offerings with Tutor.com include live tutoring sessions provided in both English and Spanish; those sessions include everything from subject-specific assistance to paper-writing help, to career assistance to SAT and ACT prep.
- d. The State Library will have two more library systems joining the SCLENDS consortium: Saluda County and Greenwood County. Mr. Chris Yates has been working with them extensively to ensure a smooth transition. Ms. Line explained that for small libraries, SCLENDS is their "lifeline" to getting materials their individual systems often would not be able to house or afford. She further explained that while there are other consortia in South Carolina (e.g., Palmetto), SCLENDS is the largest. Ms. Dando stated she appreciated the explanation. Ms. Smith noted that the new SCLENDS Coordinator job interview process would begin soon.
- e. A new construction survey for public libraries will be happening this year; the previous one was completed in 2023. The library's Facilities and Access Consultant, Caroline Smith, sends out the survey every other year; it allows the State Library to see how libraries are using their spaces and to see if any of them need assistance with building planning for renovations or new construction.
- f. The State Library will be moving its shared services to the Division of State Technology (through the Department of Administration). DST will handle things such as servers, back-up information, etc. It will be more cost-effective for the Library, as it is a smaller agency.
- g. There were several building updates explained by Ms. Smith and Charlotte Dunn, who serves as the point-of-contact for all building issues and renovations:
  1. Window Project:
    - a. Though the building has always been the State Library (built as such in 1967), it is leased to us for use by the Department of Administration.
    - b. The current windows are not up to code. With the building being on the National Register of Historic Places, all windows must meet historic appearance standards.
    - c. Once the mock-up windows are installed and approved, DoA may move forward with replacing all the exterior windows in the building. This project will continue into next year.

- 2. Sub-Basement Shelving:
  - a. Shelving in the sub-basement is being shifted so that our Federal Documents Collection can be more accessible and better organized.
  - b. This project also includes map cases, which will become more readily accessible.
- 3. Camera and Security Access Control:
  - a. The needed roof replacement took 2.5 years, so there were delays to the original timeframe.
  - b. However, within the next few months, this project should be completed.
- h. The Preservation Area in the basement of the Library has experienced some technical setbacks; however, the Department of Administration has been very helpful in ensuring we have the correct electrical components for the phasebox machine, which will be shipped at the end of August.

## 2. Partnerships

- a. In June, the Prisma Health Mobile Mammography Bus visited the State Library for employee screenings. The Library partnered with a few other local state agencies for this occasion. It was a success that will hopefully be repeated every few years.
- b. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism has partnered with the State Library for Check Out SC, a collaboration to distribute state park passes to public libraries for checkout. When the project first started, there were 46 park passes; now, there are 900 in distribution across the state. The program is extremely popular across the state at all the public library systems.
- c. The State Library's Center for the Book has recently partnered with Historic Camden to highlight South Carolina's remarkable role in the American Revolution for SC 250. The Library will partner with Historic Camden to digitize a ledger belonging to Eli Kershaw.

## 3. Projects/Programs

- a. Book Donations
  - 1. Ms. Smith provided information regarding Operation Bookdrop. The project is a collaboration between the State Library, the South Carolina Department of Veterans' Affairs (SCDVA), and South Carolina Humanities to provide reading materials to veterans' homes across the state. The SCDVA Veteran Village residents in Florence and the Patriot's Village in Sumter have benefited from received materials.
  - 2. SCSL has continued its work with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DSSN), and the Department of Public Health (DPH). Despite some hurdles, the State Library has furnished them with new reading materials, focusing primarily on facilities with long-term residents. Most recently, our Facilities and Access Coordinator, Caroline Smith, worked with Morris Village through the Department of Mental Health to set up their residents with a functional library

b. Electronic Resource Purchases

1. Candid Foundation, a database of grant writing information, and GuideStar, a database of grant writing information, will be available to use in-house at South Carolina's public libraries. Dawn Mullin, one of SCSL's reference librarians, will be available to train public librarians on these databases if necessary.
2. Digital access to *The Wall Street Journal* will be available using the link through the State Library's website. It is accessible both on desktop and mobile browsers, though not through the *WSJ* app. Users must create an account through the SCSL link, but access remains free with a State Library card.
3. Heritage Hub is a database featuring genealogical information and funeral home notices, covering the years 1704-present day. It is available through the State Library's website.

- c. The State Library is working with the vendor of the Discus vendor of Smart Search Kids after someone expressed issues with the search feature. Mr. Herring stated that one county has already expressed concern with the Discus collection of databases. He further stated that he already has attempted to restore access to the county that has discontinued access to Discus.
- d. The SC Plants the Seed project has ten library systems participating this year. This project connects the tenets of literacy, nutrition education, and access to healthy food; SNAP users are also able to utilize their benefits in purchasing healthy food through the project. SC Plants the Seed addresses the food deserts in South Carolina, of which there are many, by including free books and recipe cards so that participants can further their knowledge of the food they are consuming. Ms. Dando inquired as to whether the project is an appropriate use of library funding and if other state agencies were partnering with SC Plants the Seed. A discussion followed wherein food deserts were outlined in detail, as were SC Plants the Seed partners, who include USC SNAP-Ed, Clemson SNAP-Ed, Lowcountry Food Bank, and the South Carolina Department of Public Health. Funding for South Carolina Plants the Seed comes from a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The general conclusion was favorable toward the project.
- e. For the upcoming sescentennial of the United States, the South Carolina State Library plans to commemorate the state's pivotal role in the Revolutionary War. Planned partnerships include displays partnering with South Carolina State Museum, as well as photograph displays featuring South Carolina Revolutionary War sites by local photographer Marie Goff.

4. Personnel

- a. The State Library currently has the following open positions: Youth Services Consultant, Library Services Director, and SCLENDS Coordinator
- b. Yaunna Hunter was hired as the new Public Information Coordinator. Sarah Schroeder was promoted to Library Development Director.

## 5. Events

- a. As a part of its Center for the Book's Speaker at the Center series, the State Library hosted a program by Heather McPherson, the South Carolina Military Museum's Curator of Collections, on July 16, 2025. Ms. McPherson discussed South Carolina's rich history in the fields of aviation and space.
- b. Upcoming events include the following presentations:
  - 1. Speaker at the Center: Silversmith Kaminer Haislip on "Charleston Silver, Past to Present" (August 7, 2025, at 6 p.m.).
  - 2. Speaker at the Center: Authors of "South Carolina's Matilda Evans: A Medical Pioneer" (August 26, 2025, at 3 p.m.).

## 6. Public Libraries

- a. Ms. Smith announced the creation of the Public Library Directors' Portal. It will allow library directors to submit all necessary forms directly and securely to the State Library in a digital format. Ms. Smith explained that the portal will streamline the process for the submission of documents such as grant information, public library board minutes, and state aid paperwork.
- b. For the FY25 legislative session, South Carolina libraries received an increase of \$.25 per capita for state aid. Regarding Proviso 27.1, public libraries must submit their funding certification, which explicitly states the Proviso 27.1 language, twice per year in order to receive their two payments from the State Library. There is also in effect a comprehensive review process that would be completed if requested by the local Legislation Delegation related to a county library's compliance with Proviso 27.1.
- c. The State Library was honored to host the SC APLA monthly meeting on July 18, 2025, which featured a Director's Showcase highlighting impact grants from the previous fiscal year. It was a considerable success and enabled smaller library systems to highlight the ways in which even small impact grants can affect great change. Ms. Line commented that she attended and that it was a great way to share information, no matter the size of a director's library system, and to get ideas from other library systems.
- d. LSTA Planning Grants are now open for applications for public libraries. Any public library system may apply; up to \$2,500 per grant will be awarded by LSTA, which is funded through IMLS.
- e. There are two current director vacancies in South Carolina: Chesterfield and Richland.

## C. **APLA Report**

Ms. Line stated that APLA just met the previous Friday. This fiscal year, the organization hopes that the minimum amount public library systems receive will be \$200,000 so that smaller and rural organizations will be able to weather any federal funding issues.

Ms. Line stated that APLA is working with SCLA to promote public libraries. The organizing will help bring in bigger-name speakers for SCLA's annual conference.

Finally, Ms. Line discussed APLA's stand on Proviso 27.1. She emphasized that librarians agree in that they do not want inappropriate books in young hands; she stated that librarians want to make sure children receive age-appropriate materials, too.

#### **D. Finance**

Ms. Smith presented the financial report. There were two budgets to discuss due to the closing of the previous fiscal year and the opening of the new fiscal year. Both budgets were on target with nothing of merit to note. No additional questions were asked by the Board.

#### **E. Adjournment**

Ms. Dando made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Herring seconded the motion. All present approved. The next Board meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2025.