

LIBRAS Annual Members' Meeting / Annual Reports

Minutes of Meeting
Thursday May 19, 2016

Opening:

The meeting of the LIBRAS membership was called to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. on the 28 of May at Columbia College by President Rebecca Miller.

Present:

Approximately 35-40 attendees.

Annual Reports

President's Report, Rebecca Miller, Trinity International University

- Welcome and call to order
- Went over agenda for the meeting
- Shared the big news that LIBRAS is celebrating its 50th anniversary
- Admitted 18th Library to LIBRAS Roosevelt University
- Update on our non-profit status
 - We are working with a lawyer and this is taking longer than expected
 - We have used some of our budget surplus for this purpose
 - The lawyer has filed back taxes and LIBRAS does not owe anything
 - The next step actually to apply for non profit status again

Constellation, Melissa Proulx (Communications Director), North Central College

- At the last Directors meeting a decision was made to have a Steering Committee for Constellation Users to create a community
- There will be more details forthcoming to Directors to identify members/user for this group

Vice President/President Elect's Report, Rebecca Miller reported on behalf of Shannon Wenzel who could not be present

- SIG report for the year
 - Shared events hosted by the various SIG groups which is enclosed in the LIBRAS Annual Report
- There will be call for SIG chairs for next year coming

Past President Continuing Education Report, Fetyko Page, Elmhurst College

- Final Report for LIBRAS on Continuing
 - There were a total of 40 applications from 11 institutions
 - LIBRAS funded 30 applications
 - 5 applications were from individuals who had already submitted a request for the year which were denied due to limited funds
 - Next year, keep that in mind, plan ahead and decide what your more expensive request are before submitting
 - Approved about \$7000 in Continuing Education funds

- 23 of the total applications were submitted for the February funding period
 - Fall funding period may be better to apply
- Midwest Archives Conference was most popular event this year with 4 attendees
- 2 people each attended ALA, ILA, LOEX
- The Executive Board and Continuing Education Coordinator will be making clarifications to the application forms to clarify above issues, notifications of approved applications will be given to directors
- 5 continuing education requests were for online workshops, so a good reminder that those are eligible for these funds too

Treasurer's Report, Andy Meyer, North Park University

- The LIBRAS financial picture looks good
- Funds were spent on Continuing Education
 - Reminder: If you have been approved for something and have not submitted receipts, we want the books cleared by the end of June
- Money was also spent dealing with non-profit legal issues

Nominating Committee, David Stern, St. Xavier

- The Nominating Committee this year is David, Jan Chindlund from Columbia College, and Susan Swords Steffen from Elmhurst College
- Nominations for the Executive Board
 - Vice President/President Elect TJ Urbanski, Lewis University
 - Continuing Treasurer Andy Meyer, North Park
 - Secretary, Jacob Hill from Elmhurst College
- A ballot will be sent out for the vote

Looking Back at the History of LIBRAS

Susan Swords Steffen (Elmhurst College) is one of the longest serving LIBRAS members and reported on the history of LIBRAS with slideshow that will be available in Constellation

- Senior LIBRAS director along with Jim Cubit (Lake Forest)—both started in February of 1996
- Susan has been involved in LIBRAS for 40 years and was celebrating its 10th year at the start of her time in LIBRAS
 - At that time librarians had to file cards and if you wanted to know what someone else had in their catalog would have to call the library
 - ILL was not available to undergraduates or public libraries and was limited to faculty and graduate students
 - Library landscape: Illinois has always been a progressive state for libraries
 - Library systems act was enacted
 - First research and reference centers were set up at UIUC and the idea was to have Regional Centers to coordinate ILL
 - December of 1965 LIBRAS was formed with Aurora University, Elmhurst College, Benedictine University, Maryknoll College, and George Williams College
 - More information is available on LIBRAS site for history of members
 - Most institutions have had LIBRAS presidents and there have always been women presidents in LIBRAS
 - Libras has been a great place for beginning librarians to get professional development

- Libras Activities
 - Made Union card Catalog
 - Mad union serials list
 - Interesting mix of libraries, including libraries with religious traditions that have enriched and varied the collections
 - ILL for books and journal articles
 - Reciprocal borrowing
 - Shared ERIC documents
 - Held monthly meetings, programs, social events, and the sharing of library materials
 - Also had conferences and speakers
- Melvin George was one of the original founders of LIBRAS
 - He could not attend this meeting, but wrote an email to congratulate LIBRAS on 50th anniversary which Susan shared at this time

Susan then opened the floor to anyone who wanted to share something about his or her experience with LIBRAS

- Jim Cubit, Lake Forest College
 - When I came to Lake Forest in 1996, I came from a school out east that were not sharing as much yet or could afford not to, but in Illinois was impressed by all the resources sharing. I remember LIBRAS colleagues helping sort out this transition and have appreciated the professional development support and SIG meetings. I was amazed by how forward thinking to Illinois was.
- Ted Schwitzner, formerly North Central College
 - I was a new librarian at North Central and it is hard to emphasize the value of collaborating on small scale. The SIG groups helped solve problems by talking and sharing with others. We shared at meetings—sometimes even pieces of collections. Once North Central took withdrawn books to give to Kendall and vice versa as collection goals have changed. The LIBRAS model is unique and shows how valuable we all are to one another. There are lots of ways to share and add value—to me this is the LIBRAS thing.
- Katie Maier O’Shea, North Park University
 - I always tell new library faculty, not to worry about publishing an article, just present the idea to LIBRAS. I tell staff members and interns to go to events and present at events. It’s so easy to go and present among from friends starting with LIBRAS. It’s a great way to start your career.
- Belinda Cheek, North Central College
 - I appreciate the social events like the Christmas party with white elephant exchange.
- David Stern, St. Xavier
 - As a newer person in LIBRAS, I see an enthusiasm for innovation at these meetings. We go to meetings and spark new ideas and move quickly. Anytime I have an idea, I start with the group here which is pretty unusual in formal structures.
- Jennifer Paliatka, Elmhurst College
 - Another benefit is finding friends from LIBRAS at national conferences too. The state budget is struggling, but we can come together as a group to identify with one another. We’re not state schools or large schools, but Liberal Arts Colleges so we can share these issues. Issues with state school budgets are creating opportunity to present and share and represent smaller schools.

- Jan Chindlund, Columbia College
 - I find the directors meetings to be very useful. There's a round robin moment where people share about their institutions and use the discussion list to share issues and ask questions.
- TJ Urbanski, Lewis University
 - The word that is not being is used here is "family." Directors meetings were very welcoming for me as a newer member. I appreciate all the help. Because of the director's meetings and the SIGs have been able to do things I otherwise could not have done.
- Susan wrapped up this section and encouraged us to take some time to welcome our new Roosevelt University members

Keynote Speaker

Brian Bannon, Commissioner of the Chicago Public Libraries

Title: Looking Forward to the Future of Libraries

Libras Archive Review, Carolyn Seitmann, Dominican University

- Last summer spent time in the LIBRAS archives at North Park to digitize some interesting and important documents
- Through this learned some LIBRAS history and lore
- Digitized 43 items and placed them on an Omekka
- Images from this presentation can be found at <http://libras50thanniversary.omeka.net>
- The images include:
 - Founding documents
 - Fax Machine Debate in 1976 (IMSA getting free ILL with giving a fax machine for a LIBRAS institution)
 - Newsletter: LIBRAS Lines

Rebecca closed the meeting with some notes

- Photos were taken throughout event and may be posted to Constellation, let someone know if you're uncomfortable with that
- Details regarding lunch
- Details regarding optional tour of Columbia College Library following lunch

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 for lunch followed by tour.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Michelle Oh
LIBRAS Secretary