



Ex Libris Association

Annual General Meeting

Monday November 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Pacific, 12:00 p.m. Eastern

In attendance: Deb Thomas (President), Tom Eadie (Past-President), Cynthea Penman (Secretary), Bob Henderson (Treasurer and Membership), Vivienne James, Christine Wilson, Frances Davidson-Arnott, Lorne Bruce, Donna Burton

Members at large: 22

Minutes v2

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Meeting was called to order and land acknowledgement delivered by Deb.

2. Adoption of agenda

Additions: Report from the Nominations Committee (8K)

Changes: Date of meeting (9 i and ii)

Motion to adopt agenda as amended: Tom

Seconded: David Harvie

Approved

3. Approval of AGM Minutes, November 5, 2022

Motion to adopt: Christina

Seconded: Elizabeth Ridler

Approved.

4. Business arising from minutes

No business arising.

5. President's Report (Deborah Thomas)

The full report was provided prior to the meeting. Deb reported that it had been a very active year, and that it would great to increase the number of board members.

6. Treasurer's Report (Bob Henderson)

The full report was provided prior to the meeting. Bob reported that the information contained in the report spans two financial years, as the AGM reporting is not synchronized to our financial year.

As of the end of the previous AGM, there was a balance of approximately \$9,900. Income for this year (e.g., memberships, etc.) was approximately \$8,800, for a total of approximately \$18,000. Expenditures included: \$1,200 for two issues of *ELAN* (i.e., postage, etc.); \$2,800 for the Indspire bursary; and other small costs for a total of approximately \$12,000. The balance as of October 11 was approximately \$6,600. Assets include cash of approximately \$6,600, GICs of approximately \$18,000. Liabilities include trust fund for life memberships of \$700.

Questions were asked regarding:

- a) the Indspire bursary funds (under both income and expenditures) – simpler, keeps budget line separate from other funds
- b) cost of running the association – generally somewhat lower (e.g., using Zoom rather than in-person AGM), but not significantly.

7. Membership Report (Bob Henderson)

The full report was provided prior to the meeting. Bob reported that there are 229 members, including over forty new members from the 2023 OLA SuperConference. More members are renewing, than not, and more are doing so through e-transfer, which streamlines the process. He continues to chase after those that haven't renewed. All were encouraged to recruit new members.

Questions were asked regarding:

- a) joint payment through OLA – issues have been resolved, and Bob will continue to monitor.
- b) OLA new executive – suggestion of meeting with OLA to work on streamlining the process, after the SuperConference, between Bob and OLA operations and membership executive.
- c) retiring OLA members – can ELA be notified when OLA members retire, to send them ELA invitation – challenge is that OLA may not be informed, but worth discussing at above-mentioned meeting.

8. Committee Reports. *(Note: in the interest of time, full reports, provided prior to the meeting, were not read, but questions and discussion were welcome. There were no questions nor discussion unless otherwise stated.)*

a. Biography Project Committee (Lorne Bruce)

Lorne reported that they hadn't been as busy but had started a new project of biographies of those still living, as well as adding photos. ELA now has the largest collection of Canadian librarian biographies (surpassing Wikipedia).

b. ELAN (Newsletter) Committee (Frances Davidson-Arnott)

Frances reported that the committee is interested in articles about how/why people became librarians. She encouraged those wishing to write about their experience to contact her. She is very happy with OLA support with the evolving layout. Many compliments were received, and suggestions for changes, additions, content ideas, etc. are always welcome.

c. Ad Hoc Library Tours Committee (Vivienne James)

Vivienne reported that two tours had taken place. In April, members toured Toronto Public Library's Wychwood branch, and in May, viewed a virtual tour of Stanley A. Milner Central Library in Edmonton. The next tour on November 13 will be of U of T's Robarts Commons and exhibit. Suggestions for other library tour locations (in person or virtual) are welcome.

Deb commented that adding virtual tours was a great way to expand our reach for those not in Toronto.

d. Website / Listserv Committee (Lorne Bruce)

Lorne reported that this year's focus was on technical aspects. For the website, this included moving to Docuwiki, changing the interface to be more user friendly, adding more photos and images, fixing broken links, making the site more prominent in Google and Bing search results, etc.

With the listserv, contact information was reviewed and updated, and it currently has 219 members.

Lorne was complimented on the changes, all of which greatly enhance the site.

A question was asked regarding:

a) the ability to add content from Facebook – this is no longer possible.

e. Facebook Committee (Donna Burton)

Donna reported that the Facebook page had been working well, with new views, likes and followers, and content from the library world was being added frequently, along with ELA news. However, Facebook, in response to the federal Online News Act, is blocking both past news as well as current Canadian news items, and these can no longer be seen or shared. This is causing a major change in ELA's Facebook content, although we can post from other websites. Canadian Librarianship website is posting useful news links, which ELA can then use on our Facebook site.

f. WK Lamb Award Committee (Christina Wilson)

Christina reported that two submissions (both from Ontario public libraries) were made for the biannual award, for outstanding work with seniors. The last award was given in 2021 during COVID. The recipient this year was Innisfil IdeaLab & Library, who exceeded the key criteria of innovation. After a needs assessment, they developed a new program to reach out to seniors who would not likely attend a program in a physical library.

For future years, the committee hopes to expand interest in the award beyond public libraries. Christina thanked the committee, as well as Michael/Michelle at CFLA-FCAB, Lorne and Bob.

Question was asked regarding:

a) location of recipient library - Ontario

g. Archives Committee (Christina Wilson)

Christina reported that the committee hoped to have someone with archival background/experience take over the role of committee chair. A future project is to review and assess the physical documents, and digitize as appropriate.

h. Indigenous Student Bursary Committee (Deb Thomas)

Deb reported that more than enough money was raised for the bursary, and CFLA was a great help in broadcasting the application process to a wide audience. Suggestions for additional sponsors are welcome.

Question was asked regarding:

a) the winner – ELA has not yet been informed if there is a recipient, and if so, who. Indspire have a number of bursaries, and work with the applicants at the general level, then assess which bursary is best suited to an applicant. Deb will be informed at the end of the year as to the success in awarding our bursary.

i. Education Committee (Deb Thomas)

Deb reported that the first webinar, separate from the AGM, was delivered by Kayla Lar-Son, Indigenous Programs and Services Librarian. The very interesting presentation unfortunately had a low attendance, but the recording is on the ELA website. The plan is to hold two webinars per year, as well as at least one in-person presentation. The next presentation, an in-person event, will be a combination lecture and tour of a Carnegie library. Watch the listserv for a notice early in the new year. Suggestions for future topics are welcome.

j. CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee (Richard Ellis)

Dick reported that the more we can support libraries and library users in the area of intellectual freedom, the better. It appears that a negative US influence is coming across the border. The Canadian situation is different from that of the US, with ALA having significantly more money, staff, operations, communications reach etc., than does CFLA, which makes information as available as possible.

k. Nominations Committee (Tom Eadie) (nominations from the Floor)

Tom reported that over the past year, ELA had been seeking Board members for the roles of Vice President, Archivist and board directors at large. He then called for nominations from the floor.

Christine nominated David Harvie as director at large. Accepted.

Frances nominated Julie Schneider as director at large. Accepted.

The nominations were closed. Both nominations were voted on and approved.

9. Other Business

a. Review of the Constitution (proposed changes provided prior to the AGM)

No further comments were received.

i) *Motion to adopt the changes as indicated:* Donna.

Seconded: Christina

A friendly amendment was proposed, and the revised motion is as follows:

Motion: That the Annual General Meeting Date for the Ex Libris Association be moved in 2025 and subsequent years to within the first six months of the fiscal year, from November/December in order to allow for a full accounting of the previous year's activities and approval of the official financial reports.

Moved by: Donna

Seconded: Christine

Approved.

ii) A special meeting is needed to present the above bylaw change to members. This meeting would be held in 2024 and include the bylaw change as well as a presentation of the full financial report for 2023.

Motion to the above change to the Constitution: elizabeth Ridler

Seconded: Susan Ibbetson

Approved.

b) Affiliations with other Associations (Deb Thomas)

Deb reported that she is actively reaching out to other associations to try to establish relationships similar to the one ELA has with OLA. An initial first step is offering honorary memberships to Executive Directors. Suggestions and recommendations are welcome.

c) CFLA/FC Challenge Survey and the current landscape of intellectual freedom in Canada.

Presentation by Dick Ellis “Is the Sky Falling? Intellectual Freedom in Canada.” Dick delivered a very interesting and thought-provoking overview of the topic, with much discussion.

10. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn: Peter McNally

Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m., Eastern time.