

USATLA Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, December 1, 2023 12pm Central - 1pm Central Via Google Meet

**Minutes**

Attendees:   
DIRECTORS: Sue Kirschner-President, Nina Hillery - Interim Treasurer, Anne Friederichs, Martin Stone, Anelis Coscioni

STAFF: Rebecca Nutter- Director

MEMBERS: Lara Lehman (New Mexico), Leigh Fernandez (New Mexico), Allie Bishop (Washington)

WELCOME

President Sue Kirschner welcomed everyone and began the meeting at 12:02. Everyone introduced themselves.

MINUTES of 12-2-2022 MEETING

Anelis Coscioni noted that a change needed to be made to the 12-2-2022 minutes. The wording “Kiwanis’ focus on families and education”was changed to include “Kiwanis work for children. From their website: The Kiwanis Mission: Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis vision: Kiwanis will be a positive influence in communities worldwide - so that one day, all children will wake up in communities that believe in them, nurture them and provide the support they need to thrive. The Kiwanis motto: Serving the children of the world.

With changes made, Anne Frederichs moved for the minutes to be approved. Anelis Coscioni seconded. Motion passed.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS RESULTS

Re-elected for a three year Board term was: Martin Stone

Elected board members for a three year term were Lara Lehman of UNM and Naveeda Qadir in Tennessee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

* **Judith and Tony Iacuzzi** - announced their retirement from USATLA in April. Rebecca Nutter to resume responsibility of ED as of November 1, 2023. Judy and Tony were appointed as honorary board members beginning November 1, 2023.
* **Valentine Appeal 2023** - The 2024 Valentine Appeal will go out at the end of January. There was conversation about following up with donors to let them know what we have accomplished. Maybe send out the newsletter link with the donor request letter. Some mentioned they thank donors personally if they know them.
* **Quality Conversations** - to continue into 2024. Schedule is posted online. These will continue to be recorded and available online. Rebecca encouraged all to contact her with ideas or comments.
* **Newsletter** - continue bi annual newsletter online. Anelis mentioned that Rebecca should ask for any content to add to the newsletter.
* **Toy Companies** - will continue to pursue relationships with toy companies. Focus on reaching out to toy companies directly, versus going through a middle man such as Lakeshore Learning. Small businesses are more personable and easier to connect with and would appreciate the exposure. Community Playthings, Green Toys, Guidecraft, Kodo Kids were mentioned.
* **Vray Sanitizer discount** - HamiltonBuhl has offered USATLA members a discount on their UV ray sanitizer.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Interim treasurer Nina Hilery reported a balance of $50,998.77 as of the end of the third quarter (September 30, 2023). The Valentine Appeal in 2023 generated $17,250.

MEMBERSHIP

* Chairperson Anelis asked those in attendance what would keep you as a member of the USATLA? Some mentioned they really like the forums, not feeling alone, and being able to connect with others in the field.
* Anelis mentioned that the Brazilian Toy Library group has “leaders” or people in the toy library field that represent different “regions.” They connect with nearby toy libraries and can relay any information/questions back to the Brazilian Toy Library group.
  + Could the USATLA do something similar?
* A goal should be set for next year - how many new members should we aim to join?

OTHER ITEMS/COMMENTS

Social media accounts - Rebecca mentioned that her goal is to be more active on the USALTA FB page and create an Instagram account.

Allie asked the group for recommendations on how to make members of her toy library more engaged - how to make their membership more worthwhile. Martin mentioned talking to child care facilities. Anne mentioned talking to the public book library. Rebecca mentioned that swaps are popular with her members at her toy library.

NEXT GENERAL USATLA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, December 6, 2024 at 12:00 pm Central

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm Central.