

USATLA General Membership Meeting

Friday, December 2, 2022

Via ZOOM

**Minutes**

Attendees:   
DIRECTORS: Sue Kirschner-President, Rebecca Nutter-Treasurer, Nina Hillery, Anne Frederick, Martin Stone, Anelis Coscioni, STAFF: Judith Iacuzzi-Executive Director, MEMBERS: Jaquelyne Hunter (Dubuque, Iowa,), Naveeda Qadir (WI).

WELCOME

President Kirschner welcomed those in attendance and made introductions. She commented on how play is so important and how at her Cuyahoga County Public Library (CCPL) records have been broken on toy circulation during the past year.

MINUTES of 12-3-21 MEETING

Nina moved and Anne seconded that the minutes from the 12-3-21 meeting be approved.

There were no additions or corrections. Motion passed.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS RESULTS

Re-elected for a three year Board term were: Marcia Anthony, Anne Fredericks, Donna Giannantonio, and Joanne Oppenheim. Shannon Denby from LA Toy Loan was elected as a new member for a three-year term.

Officers elected for two-year terms were: Sue Kirschner as president and Rebecca Nutter as treasurer.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

* Members’ Quality Conversations that were generated from a suggestion from the general membership in 2021 continue to be scheduled. All are recorded and posted on the USATLA website and available to members.
* USATLA continues to investigate a relationship with Lakeshore Learning and other toy companies that can help with possible discounts for our members.
* Research continues to identify toy libraries in the United States.
* The Operator’s Manual is being rewritten and will be available online in the future.
* ITLA –Western Hemisphere (Americas) is working on world -wide standards for toy libraries.
* Publicity: the USATLA newsletter continues to be disseminated online.
* Board member Anelis Coscioni is spearheading a committee to work on membership development. Definitive goals and objectives have been identified.

FINANCIAL REPPORT

Treasurer Rebecca Nutter reported an annual balance of $44,673 as of the end of the third quarter (September 30, 2022). Despite the lack of revenue-generating conferences USATLA has stayed on budget. The Valentine Appeal in 2022 generated $15,000.

INTERNATIONAL TOY LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ITLA) UPDDATE

Executive Director Judy Iacuzzi will attend the International Conference in Australia

March 3-7, 2023. She will represent the United States and give a brief presentation about the US and Western Hemisphere. Sue Kirschner encouraged members to share information about their toy libraries that could be included in Judy’s presentation.

QUALITY CONVERSAATIONS FOR MEMBERS

So far, five Quality Conversations have been held in the last year. Others will continue to be scheduled and cover topics that members request. All conversations are recorded and can be accessed on the member section of the USATLA website.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

* Chairperson Anelis needs help from members concerning things they need from USATLA and what new members may possibly want. A questionnaire will be sent out.
* She has made contact with Kiwanis (an international service organization) to see if they would possibly fund toy library memberships for families. Kiwanis’ focus is families and education.

OTHER

1. Sue Kirschner requested ideas for future Quality Conversation ZOOM meetings:
2. How toy libraries use social media
3. What are specialties of toy libraries
4. Possibly showcase a toy company and how libraries work with them
5. Research the possibility of having guest speakers-focus on how children learn, stages of development
6. Packaging
7. Share examples of how various toy libraries package the toys and materials
8. Research large canvas bags for very large toys
9. CCPL uses A. Rifkin 7 Co. for large bags for toys.

NEXT GENERAL USATLA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, December 1, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Anelis moved and Marty seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm EST.