

**Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council  
State Board for the Certification of Librarians Meeting Minutes  
206 Washington St SW, Atlanta, GA 30334  
July 9, 2018 - 2:00 p.m.**

The Georgia Occupational Regulation Review Council Monday, July 9, 2018. The following members were present:

**Council Members Present**

Ms. Kerri Wilson, Chair, OPB  
Rep. Darlene Taylor, House of Representatives  
Sen. Jack Hill, Senate  
Ms. Debra Stephens-Wilson, State Accounting Office  
Mr. Gary Truitt, Department of Revenue  
Mr. Larry Blakenship, Department of Natural Resources  
Ms. Petra Evans, Department of Agriculture  
Ms. Lorri Smith, Secretary of State's Office

**Administrative Staff Present**

Anna Wrigley Miller, OPB  
Daniel Adams, OPB

**Council Members Absent**

Ms. Dionne Denson, Department of Public Health

**GORRC Members' Staff**

Lisa Durden, Secretary of State's Office

**Visitors Present**

Julie Walker, State Librarian, Georgia Public Libraries  
Judy Dyer, Member, Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians

**Call to Order:** Ms. Wilson established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Agenda**           The Board accepted the agenda as presented.

**2:00 p.m. Meeting**

**1. Introduction of Members, GORRC Process and Schedule**

**2. Overview of the Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians**

Julie Walker, State Librarian, Georgia Public Libraries – in favor of maintaining the Board of Certification of Librarians. Public Libraries are a center piece for access to knowledge. She said that 65% of states have a certification for librarianship. Having a state certification centralizes the processes to make sure leadership in libraries are at a certain standard. This standard makes sure that state funds are being used in the best way possible. Required continuing education helps maintain a high mark for librarianship (10 hours per year is required, but many go over the required minimum). Without the certification, unlicensed professionals may be hired to positions they are not qualified for jeopardizing the information available to people accessing the library. Julie then introduced Judy Dyer.

Judy Dyer, Member, Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians – provided an overview of what the Board itself does: fast review process, quick passing of applicants, and detailed review of applicants. Screening of applications for ethical or criminal cases. All meetings are over the phone. Tele-conference meetings mean that it costs the state nothing. Board members volunteer their time and are not reimbursed for expenses. Continuing education is vital and is updated by the Board. Libraries are also screened.

Judy then opened the floor for questions:

- a. Chair Wilson asked how often the Board rules and regulations are updated.
  - i. Judy and Julie both said that the rules are in law and are not changed. Julie added that the fee has not been updated since she started on the Board.
- b. Lorrie Smith added that the fee structure is \$80 for a new application and \$75 every two years after that. The Secretary of State's office received \$20,000 in FY18 and \$14,000 in FY17 from the Librarians Board.
- c. Rep. Taylor inquired about the difficulty to discuss a problematic license since the Board only meets 4 times a year. She also asked about application turn over and how difficult it is to get qualified candidates who want to be librarians.

- i. Judy said that the Secretary of State's office processes the routine applications, but any major issues or complaints are brought to the Board and then discussed by the Board.
- ii. Julie added that ALA schools are churning out more qualified candidates and that librarian jobs in Georgia are fairly sought after. Georgia has a strong reputation in the Southeast and across the nation.
- d. Rep. Taylor also asked about the background check process.
  - i. Julie said that the local level employer does the background check.
  - ii. Julie also stated that an individual has to get a Georgia certification if they are coming from out of state to work for a library.
- e. Larry Blakenship asked about how the complaints are handled.
  - i. Julie said that the complaints are handled through the Secretary of State's office. The complaints are discussed at the quarterly meetings. Most complaints are generally meant for the local library.
  - ii. Lorri Smith added that there are really no complaints to speak of for the Board of Certification of Librarians.
- f. Sen. Jack Hill said that since you do not have to have a job to apply for certification, it is possible for someone to be certified without a background check.
  - i. Julie said that once they are hired, the employer could run a background check.
- g. Sen. Hill and Rep. Taylor suggested that a background check should be a requirement, but such change would have to come from legislation.
  - i. This could be state funded since it is expensive and some rural areas might not have the budget for it.
  - ii. The amount of work with kids and elderly would make this important.

Chair Wilson asked Lorri Smith to talk about the expenses:

- a. Direct costs - little to no expenses for travel.
- b. Indirect costs - on average \$18,000 each year from the Secretary of State's Office.
- c. 937 licensees - the fees pay for the expense from the Secretary of State's Office.

Julie reiterated that 10 hours of continuing education is required.

- a. Many opportunities for continuing education are available.
  - i. State and National Conferences, Director Meetings, and Online Classes.
- b. The Attorney General's office has an employee that helps out during the quarterly meetings.

Chair Wilson brought up that 12 states require certification.

- a. Julie said that information was outdated and she did a survey of the other states libraries and that it is actually 32 states that have a certification process.
- b. States who did not certify librarians felt that they needed licensure.

Sen. Hill asked how many colleges in Georgia are accredited ALA Schools.

- a. Julie said that Valdosta State University is the only college (public/private) in the State of Georgia that provides the MLIS.

Rep. Taylor asked if every county has a library.

- a. Julie replied that they do.

Gary Truitt asked if the 10 hours of continuing education is sufficient with all of the technological changes.

- a. Julie said that it is her experience that most members get well over the 10 hours of continuing education that is required.

Chair Wilson asked about how the profession has changed along with technological changes.

- a. Julie Walker explained that book circulation has not dropped. Librarians have to know a lot about technology and especially electronic books. The internet has changed that and the focus has moved to e-readers. There is now a focus on robotics camps also. Searching and analysis of sources is another area that has changed a lot.
- b. Judy Dyer talked about how the process of checking out a book has changed. She then brought up how larger libraries helped the book ecosystem for smaller libraries.

### **3. Open Public Comment**

(none)

### **Closing Discussion**

#### **1. Announcement of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 20th, 2018, Capitol 450, at 1:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

No additional business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Daniel Adams, OPB