10:30 AM: Meeting called to order and the board and guests were welcomed by President Rod Wagner.

**Board Members Present:** Board members – Rod Wagner, President; Christine Lind Hage, President-Elect; Cynthia Friedemann, Secretary/Treasurer; Susan Schmidt, Division Councilor; Gail Guidry Griffin, Immediate Past President; Dora Sims, Trustee at Large; Gwendolyn Guster Welch, Trustee at Large; Diane Sarantakos, Trustee at Large; Robin Hoklotubbe, Friend at Large; Cherine Janzen, Friend at Large; Deborah Doyle, Foundation at Large; Steve Laird, Corporate at Large; Virginia Stanley, Corporate at Large; Patricia Glass Schuman, Board Member at Large.

**Board Members Conferencing in:** Jeffrey Smith, Foundation at Large

**Staff Present:** Sally Gardner Reed, Executive Director; Beth Nawalinski, Marketing and Communications Director; Jillian Kalonick, Marketing/Public Relations Specialist/Newsletter Editor.

**Board Members Absent:** Marsha Bennett, Friend at Large; Gretchen Herman, Corporate at Large; Chako Morgan, Corporate at Large.

**Guests Present:** Visitors list available upon request.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Rod Wagner welcomed the group and asked those present to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Agenda** – Rod asked the group to review the proposed agenda as presented in advance via email.

**MOTION:** To Accept Meeting agenda as presented.

*Moved by Gwendolyn Guster-Welch and seconded by Dora Sims. Motion passed unanimously.*
Approval of Minutes - (Midwinter 2014) Rod asked the group to approve the minutes of the previous board meeting in Philadelphia on Saturday, January 25. Susan Schmidt attended and requested that she be added.

MOTION: To accept the minutes as amended.

Moved by Jeff Smith and seconded by Dora Sims; Motion passed unanimously.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Executive Director Sally Reed reported on a number of items, (recognitions, budget, membership, dues, programs and headquarters) with group questions or discussions on the items.

Recognitions - Susan Schmidt and Rod Wagner were both recognized for recent national awards they have received. Pat Schuman (sponsor) thanked sponsor Steve Laird for his corporate sponsorship of the Gala Author Tea. Virginia Stanley was thanked for her long term support. Ed McBride was thanked for the sponsorship of his support of The Laugh’s On Us.

Budget - The budget is looking good, took awhile to get in the black, last year by $198; and Sally’s projections for this year’s budget will be $6000 in the black. For this fiscal year, UNITED was asked to divide small division subsidy in half and due to the significant strain on ALA’s budget and association wide sacrifices, United agreed to this “one time only reduction.” Recently, however, Sally and Beth were apprised of an additional reduction for fy2016 which had not gone through appropriate budgetary channels and which was not appropriately reported to United staff and board. Through efforts of Rod, Christine we were successful in having that amount restored.

Small division services have historically been considered of value to the association, and the funds have continued to provide support to UNITED. Rod spoke for UNITED and Sara Pritchard spoke on behalf of ASCLA, saying it was important to continue citizen support and specialized services support for libraries. Pat Schuman stated we should not have to “fight this battle every year” and would like to see policy changes that we would not face this again.

Jeff Smith suggested that we be more proactive about securing this subsidy since it is a part of the ALA / Division Operating Agreement. It was suggested that we ask LLAMA and maybe other divisions to pass a resolution supporting the small division subsidy or create a resolution ourselves and present it to council. Sally noted that if our revenues continue along the current trajectory and with the decrease in expenditures that the reduced rent will bring, it is likely we will no longer qualify for the small division subsidy in the near future. However, she also noted that we are carrying a $100,000+ deficit against our endowment despite the predicted operating surpluses. No action was taken.

Membership – Still in decline, a committee is working on this and the different committees of United have a number of changes. Three states have FOLUSA membership for everyone in their state. Peggy
Danhoff led the charge to develop the Trustee Academy. It has been pushed out to the states. This has helped developed a significant amount of revenue for United and has helped state library agencies fulfill their missions to educate Trustees. The Academy requires the development of a welcome webinar, as well as database development, and Beth is to be praised for her significant efforts in this area.

**Dues** – It was suggested that we raise individual membership from $50 to $55 per year. Twelve years have passed since we had a dues increase, and there are many additional resources provided to members. Beth shared that section memberships will be free in coming years meaning additional resources will become available to members. Gwen stated that trustees may not see the value of professional development for trustees. Gwen encouraged promotion of Nuts and Bolts for new attendees. Sally suggested that we utilize the Directors as a means to encourage new trustees to join. Beth offered that we should pursue a resolution from LLAMA to encourage directors to engage their trustees.

Sally and Beth handed out new member packets for distribution by Board members. The board discussed merit of increase in dues. It was decided that we raise the issue in New Business to immediately raise dues $5 while researching what other divisions are charging for making a longer term decision at next year’s annual meeting.

**Trustee Minis** – Ten new programs are being designed for library trustees in areas critical to their roles. They will be marketed to directors as a way to help educate and orient their trustees during board meetings. They will be 5 – 7 minutes in length, professionally filmed and edited and advertised in *Public Libraries* journal.

**United Office Space** – Staff shared that do much of their work digitally and have eliminated a number of office tools; faxes, copiers, etcetera. They are looking to move outside of Center City Philadelphia, but on the transportation line. The lease is up for renewal in July 2015. Sally would like the board to approve a move on smaller and less expensive quarters. Beth said we should save $15,000 with this move outside of Philadelphia.

MOTION: The UFL board strongly supports a move to smaller office space with in the greater Philadelphia area and asks that the ED of ALA give us permission to make the move.

Gail Griffin moved, Christine Hage seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

Rod thanked Sally, Beth and Jillian for their outstanding work and support. They are wonderful to work with. Applause!

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Nominating Committee - Diane Sarantakos presented the slate of UFL candidates for the 2015 election. The ballot will include their credentials and information. Susan, Charles and April Butcher left for the vote:

United for Libraries Slate for 2015 Election

**President-Elect**
Susan Schmidt
Charles Hanson

**Trustee at Large**
Camile Alire
Fred Stielow

**Foundation at Large**
Paula Beswick
April Butcher

Submitted by the 2014-2015 United for Libraries Nominating Committee
Diane Sarantakos, Chair
Robin Hoklotubbe
Donna McDonald
Rose Mosley
Peter Pearson
Kathryn Suarez

**MOTION: To accept the slate of candidates as presented by the Nominating Committee. Committee recommendation was passed unanimously.**

Academic Task Force Report – Sally Reed stated that United for Libraries lost a lot of members during the merger. In particular, a large number of academic friends dropped their memberships and Charles Hanson’s committee worked closely with Sally and Academic Library Friends. A large task is at hand. ACRL had survey that asked about academic friends groups. Charles was commended for his leadership of the academic friends leadership and development.

Committee Appointments – Christine Hage presented the slate of members and committee chairs, the appointments for the coming year include many new names and members which will bring fresh ideas and participation to help the organization. In addition to committees, other new members may participate and attend and work, but the named members are the official members. Most committees are open for members to be involved.

Bylaws Revision Committee – Christine Hage convened committee that read entire document and there are revisions to be approved. The committee will bring cleanup language and recommended changes to the board for their approval at the midwinter meeting in 2015.

New Business - Susan Schmidt inquired about additional issues of the UNITED newsletter produced in digital format to save funds. Gwen suggested there are other uses of the newsletter such as legislative distribution. The group resumed discussion regarding a dues increase.
MOTION- To increase dues by $5 effective September 1, 2014 and create a committee to look at long range approach to dues.

*Pat Schulman proposed the motion; Robin Hoklotubbe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Closing Remarks from the President** - Rod Wagner thanked the outgoing board members and committee chairs: Beth handed out certificates and recognition items to the following individuals:

- Gail Guidry Griffin
- Dora Sims
- Gwen Guster Welch
- Robin Hoklotubbe
- Marsha Bennett
- Virginia Stanley
- Chako Morgan
- Gretchen Herman

Rod welcomed the new board members, new and returning:

- Ed McBride
- Don Roalkvam
- Donna McDonald
- Peggy Barber
- Michael LaCroix
- Peter Pearson
- Payal Lal
- Nadar Qaimari

Rod passed the gavel to Christine Hage.

Rod reminded the group there are lots of programs and invited folks to attend president’s program and auditorium speaker series. Should be fun event at 8:30 am.

Rod thanked committee chairs and provided certificates to outgoing committee chairs:

- Cindy Friedemann, Newsletter - Website
- Gwendolyn Welch, Leaders Orientation
- Jeff Smith, Legislation, Advocacy, Intellectual Freedom
- Robin Hoklotubbe, Annual conference
- Steve Laird, Awards
- Susan Schmidt, Nominations
- Diane Sarantakos, Nominations
Sally thanked Rod for his “top shelf” leadership, felt we got a lot accomplished, he is a man of quiet courage, and will stand his ground, and she appreciated working with him. He was given a crystal book by the staff.

11:44 PM: Meeting adjourned.