

**Executive Board Meeting**

**Friday, April 14, 2023**

**10:00 am – 12pm**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

Attending: Noelle Boc (Personnel Issues), Joanne Lamothe (Past President), Kim Hewitt (President), Meena Jain (Program Planners), Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Tina McAndrew (Secretary), Kristen Collins (Association Manager), Andrea Puglisi (LITS), Will Adamczyk (Legislative), Krista McLeod (NELA), Michelle Filleul (Vice President), James Lonergan (MBLC), Andrea Fiorillo (IF/SRC), Laurie Lessner (Conference), Sarah Breen (Assistant Treasurer), Felicia O’Keefe (YSS), Eileen Dyer (Legislative), Susan Caulfield (IF/SRC), Robert Hayes (Program Planners), Nora Blake (Investment), Sharon Shaloo (Mass Center for the Book), Sarah Sogigian (MLS), Sia Stewart, guest

**Call to order**: 10:10am

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2023 meeting** made by Michelle Filleul and seconded by Krista McLeod. All in favor.

**President’s Report –** Kim Hewitt

Kim mentioned that LLD was a success and allowed for others to specifically discuss their items on the agenda

**Treasurer’s Report** – Bernadette Rivard

Bernadette reported expenses are normal and income looks good.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report** made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor

**Association Manager’s Report** – Kristen Collins

Kristen is currently updating memberships and  handling inquiries as they come in. She created a voting survey in Google Forms and a voting email deployed via Wild Apricot. Kristen prepared a report for Joanne with the results and gave her the metrics on the open rates of the email.

**Conference Update** – Kristen Collins

Kristen found a new AV supplier for conference which we can use for future events. Speakers are still registering. After running out of hotel rooms, Kristen secured another block of rooms at the Holiday Inn. So far 250 people have registered for conference. Laurie debuted this year’s conference t-shirt; Kristen highlighted some of this year’s giveaways: overnight stays at Sea Crest and Foxwoods and a video webcam.

**Committee Reports**

**Election**

Joanne discussed election results – Noelle is stepping in as Vice President/President Elect, Danielle Savin as the Assistant Treasurer/Treasurer-Elect, and Nancy Milone Hill as ALA Councilor, effective July 1. The slate will be presented at conference. Metrics of results show that only 24% of people who opened the email voted.

**IF**/**SRC** -Andrea Fiorillo

Andrea reported that book challenges are being used as a means to drive people to the polls for elections. In Westborough a school committee member was supported during this past election specifically by a group that likes to support challenges. Andrea suggested that when challenges come in that we look and see where the connections are and how the challenges are being coordinated. She helped the community in Reading prepare a Fight for the First campaign which was very helpful. Please use a Fight for the First campaign or contact the IF/SRC group if you come up against a challenge.

**Personnel Issues** – Noelle Boc

Noelle is updating the PI website with new resources including a list of other sites to post jobs and is working on a document about looking for volunteers/interns. Happy to have more members!

**Programming** – Meena Jain

One goal was to provide a mentorship program to support MLS students going to conference. Three students who joined MLA were hosted; Meena reached out to Felicia of YSS to get mentors showing how a professional organization works. Fundraising has been difficult so there was a discussion with Kim, Michelle, and Robert, during which it was decided to move membership so its organization wide and not section only. This way new members/student can choose any section to participate and join.

**Legislative** – Wil Adamczyk

Wil reported that Legislative Day was very successful with more people attending than could fit in the rooms, 2/3-75% identified as new library advocates. A virtual event was held prior to give pointers on attending the actual event. Eileen reported that the work groups are doing well; these groups help with the budget, eBooks and other legislative items. A goal is to have more collaborations and partnerships with other organizations; Laurie paired with someone which was very beneficial to help people find their way around

1. **Update**

* **MBLC**– James Lonergan

James reported that at Library Legislative Day it was hard to hear so they are looking at accessibility issues for next year; James thanked Wil and Eileen for all of their work. Library school students attended which is great early advocacy. James reported on the budget and the legislative work for next year which will focus on school libraries; Noelle and James talked about scholarships and internships to diversify the profession.

* **MLS**– Sarah Sogigian

Sarah talked about the webinars on Intellectual Freedom that were contracted with ALA. These were hosted for MA librarians with recording online for up to 18 months. 200 people have watched already. Please make any suggestions for future topics. Currently, there are 2 grant opportunities: a language learning grant where staff can apply to learn a language and sign language. 45 people have already applied to take these classes via Library Juice Academy. Spring series of classes are listed on the MLS calendar

* **NELA**– Kim Hewitt

Kim reported NELLS announced the cohort for the summer; Nora will be the MA mentor for the NELLS program in Vermont this year

1. **New Business**
   * **Fossil Fuel Divestment**

Sia Stewart talked about her interest in public pensions and how they are invested and what can be done to decrease paying for fossil fuel with pensions. Sia was a library director for more than 30 years and she realizes how important public pensions are as income in retirement. Currently there are several bills in the MA legislature specifically addressing public pensions – bills filed in the Senate and House regarding climate change as it relates to public pension. In the long run fossil fuel investments are going to be a poor financial investment. The bills didn’t pass during the last round and we should look at how to change it for the bills to be successful. Sia asked MLA to look at the bills and to see if it is within its mission to support them; also, to consider reevaluating MLA’s investments and bank used as it pertains to bad track records with fossil fuels. Eileen and Will will schedule a discussion with Sia.

Motion to adjourn at 11:22am made by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Michelle Filleul.

*\*Next meeting: Friday, June 9, 2023*

Respectfully submitted,

Tina McAndrew

Secretary