

MLA Readers' Advisory Section Meeting Minutes - 6/7/19

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Diane Annunziato

Present: Diane Annunziato, Nanci Milone Hill, Kristi Chadwick, Melody Friedenthal, Veronica Howley, Annette Diola, Melissa Ryan, Anna Michelsen, Alene Moroni, Molly Riportella, Pam Aghababian, Shelly Quezada, Tricia Donnelly

Introductions

Diane read a letter from William Adamczyk, MLA President

MLA Membership

See Article X of the MLA Bylaws. Attendees were reminded that in order to belong to the section, they must be MLA Personal members.

Overview of Leadership Positions to be filled

Co-Chairs (2) - Need to attend every Executive meeting, set meetings, put together agendas and run meetings.

Treasurer - Prepare and present our budget requests to the Executive Board for the following fiscal year.

Secretary - Take and publish minutes manage email listserv, etc.

Conference Committee Liaison - attend all conference committee meetings (monthly) and help plan programs. Present the RA section's programs to the conference committee.

Sisters-in-Crime New England (SinCNE) Liaison - be our sections liaison to Sisters in Crime liaisons (Lisa Lieberman, VP/Pres Elect and Leslie Wheeler, Speakers Bureau Coordinator, SinCNE).

(Details regarding length of position terms (2 years suggested) etc., will be outlined in the Section By-Laws.)

Possible Committees

Conference - To put forth ideas for conference programs, (i.e. MLA Annual; one day stand-alones).

Survey - To find out what folks are doing now, do they have a dedicated RA staff? What do they need from us? Shelly suggested that we reach out to those libraries who are not really practicing RA at all. Craft a white paper re: results.

Social Media - includes MLA Website page content. Anna Mickelsen handles this for MLA. Alene Moroni suggested that we not start our own RA social media but use MLA's

since they need content. Have a monthly topic discussion on social media accounts ; ask a question once a week and have people respond via social media.

Outreach - How to reach out to libraries who haven't considered or don't practice RA to change their attitude and discuss why RA training is a good idea and a benefit to all staff. Present at Directors' Groups and Network Meetings.

Meetings

The frequency of meetings, possible locations, *Go to Meeting* remote attendance and Order of Business for Meetings (i.e. speaker; topic of day discussions; planning out the year) were briefly discussed and will be brought up again at our next meeting.

The Co-Chairs will set-up the schedule for the year, book the meeting space and get the access information for the *MLA Go to Meeting* account.

Our next meeting will be August 1, 2019 from 10am to 12pm.

Mission Statement

Alene Moroni moved that we use the statement on the RA petition to membership as our Mission statement. Pam Aghababian seconded - unanimously approved. Text follows:

“To champion and advance the practice of Readers’ Advisory (RA) statewide by means of, but not limited to: providing educational opportunities and resources to libraries, librarians and all library workers; fostering and promotion of grants from organizations and institutions for purposes of furthering RA; and connecting writers and the library community.”

By-Laws

In the future, we should work on having some bylaws. The need for bylaws by sections will be brought up at the Executive Board meeting next week. There are some bylaws on the MLA website that we can take guidance from. Nanci Milone Hill got the Reference bylaws from Laura Bernheim.

Discussion: Why are you here today? What are you hoping to get from the section that you're not currently getting from your home library, consortium, MLA? What ideas do you have?

Resource sharing (survey asking what individuals/libraries want); a place for all RA RoundTable Co-Chairs to come together.

Get more people to know about the Mass Center for the Book calendar and use same for central programming clearinghouse.

MLA would like a focused look at what's happening in the state so that they can offer more support.

Be exposed to more resources about how to train/empower ALL staff. Train the trainer.

Put together and provide training (for MLA) to other libraries.

Heal divisions between degreed and non-degreed librarians; get all on the same page and at the same level of comfort with RA, knowing where they can go for help if needed.

Connect library-to-library community, all to collaborate and support each other throughout the state.

Professional Organization Partnerships - i.e. expand writers' group partnerships with liaisons to Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA), Romance Writers of America (RWA), Horror Writers Association, Historical Writers of America, etc.

Election of Officers

Nanci Milone Hill moved that Alene Moroni and Pam Aghababian take on the role of Co-chairs for our section. Diane Annunziato seconded. Alene and Pam accepted the nomination. Unanimously approved.

Alene Moroni nominated Tricia Donolly for Treasurer, seconded by Anna Mickelsen. Tricia accepted the nomination - unanimously approved.

Anna Mickelson moved that Nanci Milone Hill be nominated as Secretary, seconded by Alene Moroni. Nanci accepted the nomination - unanimously approved.

Conference Committee liaison - Nanci nominated Anna Mickelson, seconded by Shelly Quezada. Anna accepted the nomination - unanimously approved/

Sisters in Crime Liaison - Anna nominated Molly Riportella, seconded by Pam Aghababian. Molly accepted the nomination, unanimously approved.

MLA Executive Board Meeting

The next MLA EBoard Meeting will be next Friday, June 14th. This is the annual "Transition" Meeting, where new officers (MLA Leadership, Sections & Committees) meet with the outgoing officers for a smooth transfer of authority. Alene Moroni will attend as voting Section Co-Chair. Secretary Nanci Milone Hill will also attend.

Nanci Milone Hill moved to close the meeting at 11:27am, seconded by Anna Mickelson, unanimously approved.

SEE ATTACHED DOCUMENTS:

Letter from MLA President Will Adamczyk

MLA Article X - Sections

Copy of Original Section Petition

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Friday, June 7, 2019

Hello and welcome to the initial meeting of MLA's Reader's Advisory Section.

I apologize that I cannot be there with you today. I will be in Shrewsbury meeting with the new chairs of RA next Friday, and I'm very excited to add their voices to our Executive Committee.

Reader's Advisory is integral to modern library services. Whether someone is looking for new romance authors, or books on zombies from Eastern Europe, we need to be prepared to help.

Reader's Advisory also presents us the opportunity to create a common ground for dialog with our patrons and in our community.

Reader's Advisory work is important work. I believe this Section will become a model to other state organizations. I believe this section will create and share tools with librarians throughout the state, and that these tools will benefit countless library users. I believe that positive RA experiences will lead to repeat library users, and create the opportunity for new users.

I have high hopes and expectations for this Section. There will be great conversations, great ideas, and great results.

Please let me know how the MLA Executive Board can help you. Welcome. Thank you for joining this new team. I am very excited to see what happens.

Best,

Will Adamczyk, MLA President

ARTICLE X

Sections

Section 1. Twenty-five or more members of the Association having similar interests in common may organize into a Section of the Association upon approval by the membership of a petition presented to any annual meeting.

Section 2. Said petition must state the purpose of and need for the proposed section, and must be presented to the Executive Board at least 60 days before it is submitted to an annual meeting to allow the Board to prepare a recommendation.

Section 3. Members of any section must also be personal members of the Association.

Section 4. Sections may charge dues, limit their own membership, issue publications and carry on activities consistent with their own interests. All Section funds, regardless of source, shall be in the custody of the MLA Treasurer and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer as directed by the Executive Board upon the recommendation of the Section officers. All Section Chairs shall serve as voting members of the Executive Board.

Section 5. If the number of members of any Section shall fall below 25 for three consecutive years, the Section may be disbanded by majority vote of the Association at any subsequent business meeting. Any Section funds shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Association.

Section 6. Each Section Chairperson shall submit an Annual Report, in writing, to the President by June 15. Reports will be distributed to the members after July 1.

Approved by MLA Membership 5.23.2018



PETITION to the MEMBERSHIP of the
MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:

FORMATION of the READERS' ADVISORY SECTION

The requisite number of members of the Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) having similar interests in common and realizing the necessity and benefits of a group which would champion and advance the practice of Readers' Advisory across the Commonwealth request Membership approval to form a Readers' Advisory Section by means of vote at the Annual 2019 Business Meeting. We hereby submit this signed petition to the Executive Board for consideration and recommendation.

Section Purpose: To champion and advance the practice of Readers' Advisory (RA) statewide by means of, but not limited to: providing educational opportunities and resources to libraries, librarians and all library workers; fostering and promotion of grants from organizations and institutions for purposes of furthering RA; and connecting writers and the library community.

Needs to be Fulfilled: At the core of the American Library is the mission to pair each patron with the right book at the right time. Access to written content has exploded due to constantly evolving technology, making expertise in this area of library practice more necessary and urgent than ever before. Changes in the publishing industry have resulted in an explosion of new material with over a million works being published annually, requiring that library personnel use expanded knowledge in conjunction with other new and advancing tools to satisfy patron needs. It is incumbent upon the Massachusetts Library Association to assist the Libraries and Library Workers of the Commonwealth in the fulfillment of this mission.

Sponsoring Members:

Nanci Milone Hill

Diane Annunziato