

MLA Readers' Advisory Section Meeting Minutes - 8/1/19

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Pam Agababian, Co-Chair

Present: Pam Aghababian (Bedford), Diane Annunziato (Dracut), Melissa Ryan (Dracut), Nanci Milone Hill (Dracut), Melody Friedenthal (Worcester), Veronica Howley (Worcester) Molly Riportella (Westwood), Alene Moroni (Northampton)

Present Via Phone: Dorothy Parker (Amesbury), Laura Sanscartier (Dracut) Becky Vitlailis (Longmeadow), Kristi Chadwick (MLS) Gerry Deyremond (Andover) Chris Tremblay (Belmont) Anna Mickelsen (Springfield)

Approval of the June 7 Minutes - Diane Annunziato moved that the minutes of the June 7, 2019 meeting be approved as written, seconded by Molly Riportella - unanimously approved.

Reports from the Board - Alene Moronoi spoke about the Executive Board transitioning meeting that she and Nanci Milone Hill attended.

New Business

Section bylaws - Pam Agababian gave everyone time to review bylaws that she had drafted and asked for any input. Suggested changes:

Article V - Officers

Section 2-C: before "prepare regular financial statements of the Section's operating budget" add "preparation of the annual budget and"

Article VII - Meetings

Add Section 1 - Section meetings should be held bi-monthly at a date and time to be decided upon by the membership.

Section 3 becomes - "An annual membership meeting shall be held during the Annual MLA conference.

Section3 becomes section 4.

Pam will make the changes and send it out for further comment.

Member Survey - Pam said that the survey should ask people what help they want and what they need from our section. It will go to all regions with a personal outreach to members. It was suggested that we give a personal outreach to each library in the state. A subcommittee was formed of Alene Moroni, Dorthy Purdi (Amesbury), Gerry Deyremond and Tricia Donolly (both from Andover). Please send any ideas for questions to Alene at amoroi@forbeslibrary.org

Conference program ideas -

Diane Annunziato suggested that we bring in Dorothy Butler Gilliam, author of *Trailblazer: A Pioneering Journalist's Fight to Make the Media Look More Like America*. Nanci Milone Hill suggested that rather than suggesting this as a section program, we suggest her as a keynote speaker.

Nanci Milone Hill suggested that we bring in David Write and Kaite Mediatore Stover to do their "He Reads/She Reads" program. People liked the idea. Alene Moroni will contact them.

Alene suggested a program on Adult Fiction for Teens or Teen Fiction for Adults. She thought it would make a good panel discussion. Nanci suggested Robin Brenner as a participant. Nanci would also feel comfortable participating, as would Alene and/or Anna.

Nanci suggested that if we were already bringing in Kaite Mediatore Stover, she could do a Listener's Advisory. Alene said she would contact them.

Molly has been in contact with the liaisons from Sisters in Crime and will discuss with them the possibility of doing their Mystery Making program again. Leslie Wheeler had suggested a "First Lines" program, as well as a "Read Like a Writer" program. Diane said she had attended that program at New England Crime Bake and she did not think that it would translate to a conference program for our purposes.

Melody suggested that we form a liaison with NESFA (New England Science Fiction Writers) for next year. She would like to be that liaison.

Other suggestions - we form liaisons with SFWA, HWA and RWA.

Nanci suggested that we reach out to author Joe Hill, given that he is fairly local and the success of the recent television show NOS4A2, based on his book. Joe has a relationship with the Haverhill Public Library. Nanci will contact the Director to see if she will help us get him.

Alene suggested that we do a program on "How to Do Readers' Advisory Training at Your Library with or without a grant." Participants could include Alene, Nanci and Molly.

Gerry suggested that we revisit Speed Dating with the Authors." Nanci suggested that we put it off until next year. Diane suggested that we do it with Sisters in Crime authors.

There was a discussion about growing our membership. Nanci suggested that we had way too many ideas for the amount of members that we currently have. Alene suggested that we come up with three things to focus on each year. Everyone thought that was a good idea. The three things we will focus on this year are conference programs; budget; growing membership. Pam will put

coming up with three things for the next four years on the agenda for the next meeting.

Discuss -

Alene asked about having a section of the website dedicated to the RA section. Nanci said that as secretary, she would get the officers contact information to the MLA manager, as well as our meeting minutes. She will ask about having our own page. Alene said she would like to have RA resources on our page, so that anyone could access them. Nanci said that we would have to check with Executive as there had been some discussion in the past of making access to certain documents “for members only” in order to encourage membership. Diane pointed out that it was in our bylaws that we would share information and resources with everyone. Nanci said that we would still need to check as we are a section of MLA.

Next Meeting - Although we had agreed to meet on the 1st Thursday of each month, October’s meeting was slated for Library Journal’s Day of Dialog which many of us will be attending. The October meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, October 17th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Shrewsbury Library. We will then return to our normal schedule, with meetings on 12/5, 2/6, 4/2 and 6/4.

Adjournment

Diane Annunziato moved and Molly Riportella seconded that we close the meeting at 11:20 pm - unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Milone Hill - Secretary