



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 14th, 2020 at 10:00am

MLS Offices, Marlborough, MA

Attending: Sarah Sogigian (MLS Liaison), Ellen Rainville (By-laws), Alene Moroni (Readers Advisory), Kim Hewitt (Conference & Leadership & Management), Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Andrea Puglisi (PR), Esme Green (President), Jennifer Harris (Legislative), Rebecca Beckley (Association Manager), Noelle Boc (Secretary), Marissa Antosh (YSS), Will Adamczyk (Past President), Jocelyn Tavares (PR), Pam Aghababian (Readers Advisory), Sarah Breen (RUSS), Ellen Keane (Conference), Krista McLeod (NELA), Pam McCuen (Jordan Miller), Michelle Filleul (Conference), Joanne Lamothe (Conference) Patty DiTullio (Personnel & Ed), Aimie Westphal (Archives), Laurie Lessner (Membership) Attending via GotoMeeting: James Lonergan (MBLC), Sharon Shaloo (Center for the Book), Charlotte Canelli (ALA Councilor)

Call to order: 10: 10 am

Motion to approve the minutes from the December Executive Board meeting made by Jennifer Harris, seconded by Will Adamczyk. All in favor.

Treasurer's report (Bernadette Rivard): MLA started the month with over \$10,000 and enjoyed an income of about \$16,000. Money will be coming in from conference sponsors. Efforts are being made so that the balances on the report will from now on match the ones on the bank statement. We're in good shape and we haven't had to do a transfer from the reserves this past year. The investments are doing well. Rebecca has been effective with keeping the accounts payable up to date.

FY21 Budget (Bernadette Rivard): Overall the good news is we have a positive budget, but to do so we have to transfer money from the reserve account into the bank account. We are looking at strategies to prevent this, but this is the reality. Administrative and Investment Committee boards have discussed and approved it. Kudos given by Ellen Rainville and Krista McLeod for really streamlining the budget process and making the budget transparent.

Motion to approve the FY21 budget made by Jennifer Harris and seconded by Krista McLeod. All in favor.

Association Manager's report (Rebecca Beckley):

- The website has been cloned to be able to test new templates with the hopes of creating a more attractive site.
- Wild Apricot has the ability for MLA to create an online store, so we shall be using that to sell the YSS planners for their fundraiser. Keep this in mind for other fundraising ideas. Discussion came up around the idea that it could be used for raffles, but that might not pan out. Possibilities will be investigated.

Bylaw changes (Ellen Rainville): Any by-law changes must be made part of the annual business meeting in May for membership to vote on. The changes include mostly language clean up and clarifying the dates for nominations and elections for the board. We'll create a couple of slides for annual meeting to highlight the changes and present to the membership.

Conference Update (Michelle Filleul and Joanne Lamothe):

- All is going well; if there are any programs you are putting on make sure you have talked to your speakers and finalized details with them.
- Outside of programs, trivia and karaoke are back on the menu of events and library mini golf will be an exhibitor.
- Highlighted speakers: Rich Harwood, Sally Reed will be speaking on Friends and Trustees, Nancy Perl, ALA president, Ryan Dowd, Kyle Courtney from Harvard.
- In March, trifolds should be getting sent out. Feel free to chat up vendors at other conferences (i.e. PLA) to see if they'd be interested in exhibiting at MLA. Registration costs will be the same this year as last year and lunches will be included again.

Archives (Aimie Westphal and Esme Green):

- Aimie and Esme finally spoke to someone at the Boston Public Library (BPL) about MLA's records. Aimie has gone through the four boxes of old records. BPL is beginning an Archives department and they are taking a global approach to how they are accessing the records. MLA needs to iron out with BPL who is making choices about what is kept in the collection.
- BPL wants to use our records as a test case on how to handle them and create policy around it. They have forty-five boxes offsite of MLA's material. They would arrange for us to be able to go and view some of the records.
- Aimie and Esme will be going to meet in person with them in May.
- We don't know what they will want to do with electronic records. MLA may need to give them to Digital Commonwealth. Once policy has been developed with the BPL, we can streamline our own collection.
- Tabling the vote on records retention until more of a strategy is developed with BPL.

Committee/Section Repots

- Legislative Day (Jennifer Harris): Please sign up online to attend the April 2nd event. Lunch program will be streamlined with just Esme Green and the MSMLA president to speak. No award this year being presented. Only two legislative briefings will be offered. Bigger goal is to just get people meeting with their legislators. Eighteen legislative breakfasts have been scheduled this year. Is there feedback on the attendance at the legislative breakfasts of the legislators there? We can use that as a measure. Discussion about creating a listserv of the legislative breakfast hosts to share best practices and avoiding scheduling breakfasts on the same dates, etc. Can send emails to the network admins list and then it can be sent out through the library networks as opposed to allregions list. May 3rd and 4th is National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C.
- **ALA Chapter Councilor (Charlotte Canelli):**
 - Three big issues at ALA Midwinter. They are going to rename it as a Midwinter Event and future ones are going to be smaller affairs due to losing money on conferences. ALA publishing is down and ALA membership is also down. This meeting was the first that revealed the extent of how much ALA was in the red.
 - SCOE (now branded as Forward Together): reorganizational plan that eliminates the Council and puts all power into the seventeen member executive board. Suspect that SCOE was created because of the financial issues. General feeling is the ALA's executive board is in favor of doing away with the Council.
 - Macmillan update: a meeting with John Sargent of Macmillan happened at Midwinter. "Libraries are a problem" was his stance because we give away books for free. Much dissatisfaction expressed by librarians towards Macmillan's attitude.
 - Recommendation that our Executive Board reads the New Jersey statement about SCOE and discuss further. We will work on a letter similar to New Jersey's and base it off SCOE's report.

- There is potential here for membership of ALA to sue against misuse of funds.
- Sharon Shaloo mentioned that there were no budgetary controls, according to the people who came to speak to her group at the Midwinter conference. There's a definite feeling that the ALA executive board just decided to attack the council as a way to try to deal with some of the structure and money problems.
- **Membership** (Laurie Lessner): Wild Apricot has an app that's free to use. We could use it for looking at the calendar, registering for events, and you can have your membership card on it. There's also a way to use an administrative app to take payments, etc. Laurie is investigating more details.
- **Strategic Plan Update** (Will Adamczyk): Cindy Roach will be our strategic plan consultant and we will have some focus groups at conference. Nora Blake and Will shall put a steering committee together for the plan. Cindy will help edit and advise on the plan as it is created.
- **Nominating Committee** (Will Adamczyk): There is a race for Chapter Councilor with Esme Green, Kathy Lussier and Nanci Milone Hill all in the running. Noelle Boc is running for Secretary again. Joanne Lamothe is running for Vice President/President Elect. Returning officers: Nora Blake will become President, Bernadette Rivard will be Treasurer for the second year of her term, Esme Green will become Past President.
- **MBLC Update** (James Lonergan): Budget meeting at Roxbury Community College is coming up. Hoping to sign lease next week on the new offices for MBLC in Boston. Looking to move over the summer.

New Business

- **Jordan Miller Committee** (Pam McCuen): Pam is looking to recruit for the committee, hoping that a Massachusetts librarian might want to take it over and become chair. Marissa Antosh (YSS) will ask around to see if anyone in YSS might be interested.
- **Recruitment Note** (Esme Green): We all need to recruit and nurture members in our sections and committees. Reach out personally as well as to your section membership at large. Discussion around whether there is a better way for us to be reaching out to the membership at large to get more involvement in sections and committees.
- **Website suggestions:** Any suggestions or input for the website should be directed to Nora Blake or Rebecca Beckley.
- **NELA Update** (Krista McLeod): Emerson Greenaway Award nominations will be opening up soon for "Great Librarians." Any NELA member can nominate a librarian for the award. Krista can take nominations from our board. It's a lifetime achievement award. Preference is for a librarian who has had an impact in more than one state.

Motion to adjourn made by Jennifer Harris at 11:55am.