



MLA Executive Board Meeting

Minutes

Friday, April 10, 2020, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Virtual meeting via Gotomeeting

Attending: Esme Green (President), Ellen Rainville (By-Laws), Michelle Filleul (Conference), Pam Aghababian (Readers Advisory), Charlotte Canelli (ALA Chapter Councilor), Joanne Lamothe (Conference), Aimie Westphal (Archives), Greg Pronevitz (MSLA), Anna McGrath (ParaLibrarians), Rebecca Beckley (Association Manager), Laurie Lessner (Membership), Will Adamczyk (Past President/Nominating Committee), Krista McLeod (NELA Rep), Andrea Fiorello (PR), Kim Hewitt (Leadership), James Lonergan (MBLC), Jocelyn Tavares (PR), Jennifer Harris (Legislative), Nora Blake (Vice President), Kristen Collins (Conference Manager), Marissa Antosh (YSS), Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Sarah Sogigian (MLS), Callan Bignoli (IF/SRC), Pam McCuen (Jordan Miller), Ellen Keane (Conference), Sarah Breen (RUSS)

Call to order 10:07am

Motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2020 meeting made by Will Adamczyk, seconded by Marissa Antosh. All in favor.

President's Notes (Esme Green)

- Thanks to everyone for their quick responses to the statements from MLA about closing libraries during the pandemic. Pam Aghababian put up a link from NBC News about libraries still being forced to remain open during the pandemic. Callan Bignoli spoke on some big news breaking soon on this topic. Rhode Island is looking at pushing through curbside services. Texas and Florida are doing likewise. A lot of very troubling news around the country about what libraries are being required to do during the pandemic.

Treasurer's Report (Bernadette Rivard)

- The Administrative Board discussed finances and we moved \$9,000 to the cash reserves account and will have to refund \$15,000 to conference vendors. By the end of April, we will probably move more money into the bank account. MLA did apply for the CARES act for some funding, but no idea when that will happen. Please renew your membership ASAP because that will help with MLA's funds.

FY21 Budget

- Changes due to projected impact of coronavirus: No conference income, money will likely be strained next year in the wake of the pandemic.
- Bernadette revised the budget, lowering amounts by 10 or 15%; overall decrease in expenses by 14%. Hopefully, MLA will still make some money on conference next year.

May need to cut a little bit out of expenses from conference--speakers, meals, A/V needs, etc.

- The Executive Board needs to approve the budget and then the whole membership needs to approve it afterwards. Please look at the budget and then give feedback.
- Ellen Keane mentioned that she doesn't think that reduction on the meals amount will be realistic; might need to cut from other areas. Kristen Collins said she is hopeful she'll be able to sell more vendor space next year.
- Overall, we are still in fairly good shape with our money. Nora Blake encouraged us to apply for Payroll Protection Program (PPP) for just under \$10,000, which will keep us afloat.

Conference Update

- We were able to get out of the service contracts; some small costs had already been incurred (i.e. printing and mailings). Some exhibitors and sponsors we are refunding and then a few we don't know if they want to be refunded or move their money to next year yet.
- Plans as a result of cancellation:
 - Potential virtual annual meeting
 - Outreach to some higher education institutions to see if they might offer some free classes or such to give value to membership
 - Still going to use the Cape Cod Conference Center next year--may need to revisit our room reservations and such since we are not sure if we'll need to scale back due to budget constraints.
 - Will reuse graphics for 2021.
 - Career resources will be potentially extra important this year.
 - Will reconsider who the speakers are and the relevance of them and whether that needs fine tuning.
 - Already have 2022 conference early plans.
 - Also considering how to bring in money outside of conference. One vendor (Purple Umbrella) did reach out about whether MLA would be interested in hosting an online auction with 20% of sales going to MLA--the vendor does the work, we just help advertise.
 - **Motion to enter into a fundraising operation with Purple Umbrella** made by Esme Green, seconded by Bernadette Rivard. All in favor.
 - Will Adamczyk noted that we should create a policy about whom MLA can do such fundraising partnerships with. This will be worked on for the next meeting.

Annual business meeting

- We doubt we will be able to have a physical meeting anytime soon. We do need to get the membership together in some way.
- Considering a speaker to attract members--have a quick business meeting in the beginning, and then have a webinar/speaker. This needs to be done before July 1. Could be interesting to find someone to talk about how to do soft reopenings or a similar topic

- Question: is anyone actually planning for soft re-opening yet? Some are creating plans but need to run by local health departments. We could also put together a local panel about this.
- Callan Bignoli suggested doing something with MLS as a virtual conference as they are already in discussion about it. Should definitely be speaking to the Conference Committee first to not trample any plans they are making for the 2021 conference. MLS and Callan Bignoli will reach out to the Conference Committee to plan this virtual conference.
- Kristen Collins suggested that it could be made into two separate events where a members meeting occurs first and then proceeds into the webinar. Could also expand it to include MSLA and MBLC. Ellen Rainville suggested we email to members for the business meeting and then log into a webinar separately.
- The Administrative Board will weigh the options and create a plan.

Nominating committee (Will Adamczyk)

- Report on elections: About 28% of the membership voted on the online elections, which is about average. Will is reaching out to the unsuccessful candidates and then will bring it to the Executive Board for announcement and then to membership.

Membership letter

- The Administrative Board had a discussion about encouraging membership during this difficult period. Membership created a letter that lauded the work MLA has been doing and why it is important to renew. Can we send this out beyond membership to allregions? We might encourage membership among librarians who are feeling less like supporting ALA right now.

Esme Green thanks everyone for the great reports that were submitted.

Section Reports:

- ALA Chapter Councillor (Charlotte Canelli):
 - Elections results are in (check on those) but no new updates on SCOE. She will reimburse MLA for any money they had paid out for ALA Conference. ALA is in even worse financial straits than last reported. Chapter leaders are checking in and discussing how libraries are handling what is going on with ALA. Three different groups have merged as CORE. There was a survey from ALA that spans the entire country about what libraries are doing during this pandemic.
- MBLC (James Lonergan)
 - A lot of updates on their site about services and MA libraries
 - A great deal of guidance and advice is coming out from MBLC, MLS, etc. to start addressing how to reopen safely.
 - State budget is being delayed, as expected. Some money from IMLS will be coming to MA.

- State aid guidelines are flexible right now. Concern over libraries being singled out to be closed longer to save money for the towns.
- Many big questions around summer reading right now.
- Greg Pronevitz asks are we considering a call to action with the legislators? Talking points around our funding asks remain the same, and then MBLC are internally discussing what happens with budget cuts next year. Legislative committee is meeting soon and will discuss a virtual Legislative Day. James says it may be best to just organize librarians and patrons to reach out via phone or email to local legislators.
- MSLA update (Greg Pronevitz):
 - They have launched the Virtual School Librarian-it is a lib guide to the databases available statewide and there is a form online to be able to ask the school librarians questions. Also sponsoring Zoom meetings for the school librarians.
- NELA (Krista MacLeod):
 - NELA is struggling with the same issues MLA is. NETSL is doing a virtual meeting. NELLs is scheduled for August 11 and they are mulling over whether or not to still hold it. Conference is scheduled for October--there is discussion over whether to hold it or make it virtual.
- Paralibrarians (Anna McGrath):
 - Plan in place to still certify paras. Extending awards deadline to end of May. Next meeting is a virtual one on April 16th.

New Business

- Is a happy hour from PR still in the works? Readers Advisory would be happy to plan for that as well. PR is open to the idea of just connecting people in the library community with a cocktail hour. We can also advertise our sections if people want to chat about theirs. Nora could potentially run mini trivia? Questions about cocktails and the DDC. Every section can have their own signature drink. PR will pick a date and then an agenda will be worked up. Andrea will contact everyone to see what they want to do.
- AmazonSmile is another option to raise funds but there is some reluctance around supporting Amazon. Library Giving Day is April 23rd and we can support that day and offer a variety of ways to give to MLA.

Motion to adjourn made by Will Adamczyk, seconded by Andrea Fiorello at 11:47am.