

MLA Executive Board Minutes

Friday, February 11, 2022, 10am – 12pm
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Attending: Joanne Lamothe (President), Kim Hewitt (Vice President), Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Nora Blake (Past President), Noelle Boc (Secretary), Rebecca Beckley (Association Manager), Kristen Collins (Conference Manager), Jennifer Harris (Legislative), Emelia Thibeault (Personnel), Desiree Zicko (Paralibrarians), Anna McGrath (Paralibrarians), Robert Hayes (Program Planners), Amy Dorsheimer (Jordan Miller), Esme Green (Conference/ALA Councilor), Felicia O'Keefe (YSS), Jocelyn Tavares (PR), Meena Jain (Program Planners), Eileen Dyer (Legislative), Krista McLeod (NELA), Maura Deedy (LAMS), Ellen Rainville (Bylaws), Sarah Sullivan (LAMS), James Lonergan (MBLC), Lynne Soukup (LAMS), Sarah Sogigian (MLS), Pam Aghababian (Readers Advisory), Steph Barnaby (IF/SRC)

Call to order at 10:04am

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021 meeting made by Jennifer Harris and seconded by Bernadette Rivard. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report - Bernadette Rivard

Conference is starting to bring in money and membership had a great month. Expenses are normal. We're in good shape overall. Investment funds have been reallocated. We hopefully won't have to dip into our reserves this year. Overall, we are still down for the fiscal year, but that is also not unusual for this time of year.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Esme Green and seconded by Kim Hewitt. All in favor.

Association Manager's Report - Rebecca Beckley

Working on digitizing the certification process for the Paralibrarian Section. Should be doable using WildApricot.

Tried to create a contact list for the Executive Board on Gmail, but that has not been successful quite yet. Working on it.

Bylaw Revision: Clarification of Article IV, Section 4: Treasurer/Asst. Treasurer - Nora Blake

The new wording clarifies the new Assistant Treasurer position and better defined the roles the Assistant Treasurer and Treasurer positions inhabit. Candidate will serve as Assistant Treasurer for one year, one year as Treasurer, then one year as Past Treasurer on the Finance Committee. This will provide continuity for the position. It does require us to recruit for treasurer positions every year, but is worthwhile.

Motion to accept the bylaw revision made by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Jennifer Harris. All in favor.

Report of the Nominating Committee -Nora Blake

We got good responses for committees and for leadership positions.

Michelle Filleul is our candidate for Vice President/President Elect

Sarah Breen is our candidate for Assistant Treasurer

Tina McAndrew is our candidate for Secretary

Motion to accept the nominated slate made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Jennifer Harris. All in favor.

Conference Update—Kristen Collins & Esme Green

Conference is coming along well. We now have 15 exhibitors. Programs and schedule are set. Finalizing speaker forms now. Website is being built out and registration site will open March 25th. Question was asked if the MLA hotel rate held true for Sunday and the answer was yes.

Updates

- **MBLC**—James Lonergan

Legislative breakfasts have been going well. Testimony is on March 1st for the Legislative agenda. Can watch it streaming between 11am and 4pm. Governor's budget includes only tiny increases or level funding; hoping that the legislature will up those numbers. Good chance cap will get raised on construction up to \$25million which will benefit libraries on the waitlist. The Legislature is supportive of asking for more funding, but that is more complex a process—need to be able to use the funding and not leave anything on the table.

Question around if there has been discussion around diversifying our profession?

Joanne Lamothe noted we are hoping to address DEI with maybe the Personnel and Education Committee; but would love to have a collaboration with MBLC and MLS.

James Lonergan said maybe there is funding for it. Discussion around the barrier of getting a degree and joining libraries. State requires certification standards to become a director. We could develop a resource guide for cheaper options to get a MLS. Can target paraprofessionals as well.

- **MLS**—Sarah Sogigian

Two staff have moved on: April and Kelly. MLS will be an exhibitor at conference. MLS is trying to represent at Legislative breakfasts. In regards to DEI: MLS is hosting a class on May 16: Recruiting a Diverse Workforce

MLS recognizes that the DEI topics are popular and are repeating them. HR workshops are also very popular right now and will be repeating those as well. Project SET is in review at present.

- **NELA**—Krista McLeod

Krista is staying on as NELA representative temporarily. Conference planning is just beginning. Emerging leaders cohort will occur next fall.

- **Other Updates**

- **Legislative**—Jennifer Harris.

The ebook bill is focused on consumer protections and not copyright to keep it out of federal courts. By June 1st we will know if the bill will move forward.

Reminder: virtual Legislative Days on April 5, 6, 7. Looking at other bills coming through to see if we want to jump into supporting them.'

- **ALA Councilor**—Esme Green
They just had the Midwinter conference; concerns about the banning of books was at the forefront. Collection development deep dives are coming up with guidance from MBLC. Libraries should have a selection and reconsideration policy that could outline who can make a challenge and how to handle it. ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom has tools to help develop this:
<https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>
Resources are needed.
- **Jordan Miller Committee** is looking for more members.
- **Program Planners** would like to do a mentoring program.

New Business

- **EveryLibrary**—Joanne Lamothe
The response from the Administrative Committee is that it will be more productive for Legislative Committee to move forward with them and that people can join the working committee with EveryLibrary through that connection.
- Congrats to Krista McLeod who will be resign as NELA Representative and will become the Membership Chair of MLA.
- **PR Committee**—Jocelyn Tavares
We need to have our social media postings going on the MLA Facebook page; every section and committee should have a member that is in charge of posting on the MLA Facebook page. PR needs a more robust membership and have more integrated scheduling for the committees and sections. Doesn't mean that we can't have separate accounts for sections/committees, but those posts need to be shared with whole group. The transition meeting should introduce the social media policy and that we need a representative from each committee/section to PR. Would like to look at PR overall and what their actual parameters should be. Administrative Committee will discuss at their next meeting.

Old Business-NONE

Motion for Adjournment made by Nora Blake and seconded by Jennifer Harris at 11:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Noelle Boc
Administrative Secretary