

**Maryland Library Association**  
**Minutes**  
**Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 17, 2024**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**<https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/96070262083?pwd=VTV2eXNQRMNsZU8yK0kxb1g0TE5uQT09>**

Call to Order and Welcome

Tif Sutherland

- Tif called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

Changes to the Agenda

- Josh Stone will give the treasurer's report in Cheryl's place

February Minutes Approved via Email Vote

Conni Strittmatter

- These are posted

Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Nardiello

- Total Liabilities and Equity come to \$344,807.55, 11.53% less than last year
- Investments doing well overall
- CALD membership dues, which we take in and send right back out, are in at \$1,150 for the year
- We are handling CALD's registration for their conference this year. We will take in a small percentage for that
- The virtual conference brought in \$795 and spent around \$400
- The annual conference sponsorships are lower than the last two years, though they have been decreasing over time. The latest sponsor we brought in was USMAI to sponsor the ACRL reception
- Vendors have brought in \$8,190 in March for a total of \$24,081 for the year
- Legislative session brought \$7,300
- Redbubble brought in \$52.26 this year so far
- Jobline income for March was \$200 for a total of \$1,950 for the year
- CSD's, LDD's, and PSD's programming brought in \$3,290 in the month of March
- Sponsored items cost us \$114.95, which is for the Harriet Tubman tour at conference

- Credit card processing fees came in at \$5,966.35 for March. Josh is talking to some colleagues about how they have lower or flat fees, so he is hopeful we may be able to reduce this
- This year, we have spent \$1,581.30 on awards plaques for the MLA conference
- Total expenses for the month came in at \$27,246.72, coming to \$187,851.13 for the year
- Anita asked how we're doing on individual programs budget wise. We have brought in \$12,143 out of the budgeted \$20,000.
  - Anita would like to encourage units to repeat successful programs from the conference throughout the year
- Nay moves to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit. Teonja seconds. All approve.

## Old Business

### 1. MLA Unit Audit

Teonja Jung

- The bylaws revision has been put out to vote and will be open for 60 total days
- We are hosting bylaws townhalls April 22 at 2pm and May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am
- Once the division and interest group changes are implemented, the group will start looking at panels and committees

### 2. Bylaws Revisions & Vote Stone

Conni Strittmatter/Josh

- Part of the bylaws vote is to add the affiliate membership and merge the institutional membership with it
- Part of the institutional membership is being able to post on jobline. Without the institutional membership, you have to be an affiliate member to have access to jobline
- Josh has gotten feedback from smaller systems who may not be able to afford an affiliate membership who still want to be able to post on jobline
- Josh is going to work on an option to have a fee for posting on jobline annually
- Anita asked about moving forward with adjustment of individual membership dues
  - Josh will look at the previous proposal. We will consider putting that out for a vote early next fiscal year

### 3. Library Futures Cohort

Teonja Jung

- Teonja is going to send information to all elected officials indicating they will need to fill out the form to sign up
- Once all chairs of panels are selected, she will send it out to them as well
- The cohort starts February of 2025
- So far, 7 out of 30 have signed up
- Joe suggested some people might not love the idea of three days of virtual sessions. We may consider having a central place members of the cohort could meet to attend together

## New Business

### 1. Very Radical Fundraiser

Tif Sutherland

- a. These shirts are selling very well. We could make a few hundred dollars
- b. We're using a new platform for this. It allows you to have standard shirts always for sale, and you can add a run of shirts for special events or occasions

### 2. Irene Retirement Celebration

Josh Stone

- a. There are multiple celebrations
- b. One will be on the Thursday of our annual conference for MAPLA directors and the board of MLA. Irene will receive a plaque. It will be sponsored by MSLA and include an open bar for one hour and hors d'oeuvres
- c. The celebration open to all is June 21<sup>st</sup> from 3-7pm at the Michael E Busch library. It is a joint collaboration between MLA and some state board members. This will be a ticketed event to raise funds for professional development
- d. The board room at MSLA will be renamed after Irene Padilla

### 3. MLLI Update

Josh Stone

- a. Josh just signed a contract for the Maritime Convention Center in Anne Arundel County
- b. MLLI will take place Monday, March 17 – Friday, March 21. Check in will be on Sunday, March 16
- c. Sleeping rooms, a central room, breakout rooms, and lunch will all be included. They also have breakfast and dinner available
- d. So far, Josh has three official proposals for facilitators. Joe knows of others interested in submitting proposals as well
- e. Proposal submissions close in early May
- f. Joe, Darnice, and Teonja visited vendors at PLA with info about sponsorship of MLLI. Harford County has already come on as a sponsor for \$2,000

### 4. Election Results

Josh Stone

- a. Election results are as follows
  - a. VP Elect – David Dahl
  - b. Secretary – Laura Bandoch
  - c. ACRL VP/Pres Elect – Katherine Strain
  - d. ACRL Secretary – Shaune Pyle
  - e. CSD VP/Pres Elect – Jessica Letizia
  - f. CSD Secretary – Karen Earp
  - g. LDD VP/Pres Elect – Ana Carroll
  - h. LDD Secretary – Kalyn Au

- i. PSD VP/Pres Elect – Sara Szymanski
  - j. PSD Secretary – Melissa Lauber
  - k. SSD VP/Pres Elect – Maria Jacob
  - l. SSD Secretary – Nicole McLain
  - m. Black Caucus VP/Pres Elect – Genive Purchase
  - n. Black Caucus Secretary – Cecilia Thomas
- b. Tif Sutherland asked what the pros or cons would be to have people self-nominate. Right now, the nominations chair facilitates selecting people to be asked to run
  - a. Anita suggested people might not know how nominations work
  - b. Nay agrees that it would be helpful to better communicate the process of nominations and encourage membership to consider nominating additional candidates, which the bylaws supports

## 5. MLA Legislative Wrap Up Town Hall

Tif Sutherland/Josh Stone

- a. Someone reached out to MLA to ask for an end of Legislative session wrap up
- b. This is tentatively scheduled for April 30 with Tif and Morgan Miller
- c. Joe suggests making this only available to members to avoid others outside of the organization joining with negative intentions. This is also a good example of a member benefit
- d. Josh plans to do this every year from now on

## 6. MLA End of Year Wrap Up

Josh Stone

- a. Josh would like the steering committee to help him take the lead on an end of year wrap up
- b. Everyone on the committee can send Josh examples of accomplishments for MLA
- c. Anita suggests we have a deadline of May 27<sup>th</sup> for what we'd like to be included

## 7. PDO Change

Tif Sutherland

- a. Kelsey Hughes is changing jobs to work for the Urban Library Council, so we need to find a new Professional Development Officer
- b. Anita brought up that most recently, we cycled the conference chair into this role after they finished with the conference, so Anita could take this role on
- c. As a reminder, the PDO is in charge of approving professional development programs out of conference with the executive director approving financials. The PDO also facilitates the education scholarship awards. The PDO creates recommendations on scholarship awardees to be voted on by the steering committee
- d. The steering committee discussed whether the PDO could apply for an education scholarship award. There was concern about any conflict of interest that might exist in the process since the PDO does ultimately submit the initial recommendation
  - i. Josh added that the MLA office handles a fair amount of the process already, so it's possible this could be taken even more off of the PDO's plate to ensure nobody is

- disqualified from being eligible simply because they are in an appointed position
- ii. The announcement of available awards could be done by the VP instead as well

#### President's Report

Tif Sutherland

- Tif attended PLA. They went to the PLA president's reception at the central library in Columbus. They talked with Sam Helnick, who is running for ALA president, and Sam gave Tif great compliments for their talk at LibLearnX.
- ALA is beginning conversations to reconvene advocacy bootcamp. Tif is looking to join the roster of speakers for this
- Tif notices that people across the country are noticing that MLA is doing great work
- Tif is talking soon with CNS, a public access network run out of UMD, to discuss the Freedom to Read Act
- The Orioles fundraiser is not going as well as hoped. 17 tickets have been sold so far. Josh and Tif have purchased 4
- ALA's office for intellectual freedom is running a session on Law for Libraries. It was rescheduled for the weekend of June 1<sup>st</sup>, so they will miss the Orioles fundraiser game
- Tif was in Baltimore yesterday to serve on the interview panel for the state librarian
- Tif is going to reach out to the EDI panel about different bench marks the group can work on to hold MLA accountable on several areas. Specifically, they would like the panel to create a list of celebrations and initiatives to highlight as an organization centered on EDI

#### Vice President / President-Elect's Report

Teonja Jung

- Teonja attended PLA and enjoyed the president's reception as well
- Talked with a lot of vendors at PLA about MLLI sponsorship information
- Much of Teonja's focus has been on the Futures cohort and on the unit audit

#### Past President's Report

Nay Keppler

- Nay has been onboarding Shannon Carney to the role of LGBTQ+ IG Co-Chair
- She filled out an assessment of state librarian candidates

#### Executive Director's Report

Joshua Stone

- Josh is working on potential centrally located conference sites. This could start in 2026. It might not be a popular choice for DLA, but we could consider alternating if that's an issue
- Josh has given a few statements for interviews related to legislative topics, especially freedom to read. He often gives them to Tif, but takes on statements related to specific county topics since Josh has more protection in his role than some of us do
- Please let Josh know before you speak to anyone on behalf of MLA so he can determine who should be talking on it and so he is aware of it

- He is taking more courses for his certification, which is why he did not attend PLA

#### ALA Councilor's Report

Joe Thompson

- Joe submitted a report for the Spring CRAB summarizing council activities at LibLearnX
- Joe attended a meeting at PLA focused on public policy advocacy priorities in the context of attacks on libraries and ALA. It was a good meeting with fruitful ideas shared. We may need to do more to make people aware of what a difficult landscape libraries have right now
- Joe is interviewing Sonia Alcantara-Antoine tonight to discuss her role as PLA president
- Next weekend is Maryland Day at University of Maryland. Joe has volunteers but we need an activity. Anita suggests we consider a carnival game from the centennial

#### Conference Director's Report

Anita Crawford

- As of this morning, there are 503 people signed up for conference
- The virtual conference had 23 people attend and brought in around \$800
- The MLA/DLA Con specific app is now available on the app store
- Conference giveaways will include plant-able bookmarks and Radical buttons
- Silent Auction and the Registration Table still need volunteers
- Room assignments are in progress
- Virtual conference orientation is happening in 2 weeks
- The committee has done a great job on planning the conference this year
- Still time to submit for a silent auction basket. The deadline is coming up next week
- If you are getting to conference on Tuesday, stop by the MLA office at the conference to see if there's any help needed

#### Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 2:44pm