

Maryland Library Association

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Call to Order** 1:02 PM

**Changes to the Agenda** None

**Minutes for June Meeting Approved via Email** The steering committee meeting was cancelled in June. The Executive Advisory Board meeting was held but there were no minutes that were taken due to confusion. Josh will inform the auditors.

**Treasurer's Report** Some changes to report codes need to be made to reflect name changes of various divisions/groups. The checking account is up 1.6%. Reserves are up 3.52%. Income is up 2.04%. There was a profit of \$4,101.83 for July. There was a motion to approve from Dave. It was seconded by Chelsea. The report was approved, subject to audit.

**Old Business**

**MLA Unit Restructure** The next meeting of the unit group is on August 27<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will tie up the implementation piece and begin talking about discussion groups. Teonja is meeting with LDD and TIG to wrap the individual division/group meetings.

**New Business**

**Sustainability Interest Group Petition** Tif reconnected with Nicole on the group, which had been on hold due to the unit/group audit. They still have the petition with the signatures. Once the group gets together, there are a lot of people interested in getting started on implementing things.

**GrowthZone Community Platform**

The transition process to the new association management software is underway. It should take 8 weeks to get our database up and running. It won't be live then, but it will be available to test and go from there. GrowthZone recently purchased a company that had a community platform and wanted to integrate it. The platform is now available for beta testing. This would be a 3-year contract for \$3600, which is matched up with the management software. After three years, it could jump to \$5,000 a year. They have working video conferencing (not necessarily for webinars), direct messaging, and group/one on one video chatting. The Steering Committee voted to move forward with the expense, even

though it was not in the budget for the year due to Tradewing not responding to any communication from the MLA office.

**2026 Conference Site** The Maryland Live Casino would want us to move dates to Monday-Wednesday to maximize cost savings of 50%. This is not a sure bet because it is in central Maryland, and many systems may not approve overnight expenses and expect employees to commute each day. There is also some hesitation on having the conference in a casino location. Ocean City Convention Center is \$36,000 which is cheaper than the Hyatt, but the date needs to be moved to May 20-22, 2026. This could conflict with Memorial Day traffic in the area. Hyatt Cambridge did meet us with pricing negotiation, as well as ensuring we have a microphone in each room. That's what everyone agrees to for 2026 and 2027, since Hyatt is a two year contract.

**MLA Manual Revision** Teonja and Josh are actively revising the manual. It's been converted to word document and will be uploaded to google. Some sections have already been reviewed. Some sections have been sent out to those who directly work with it (The Happenings, Conference, etc.). The Strategic Vision will replace Strategic plan, and the personnel will be updated.

**MLLI Update** The planning committee is meeting with all parties for curriculum/content planning. Applications will open early next month. The application is done now but Josh wants to review it and the price point which may be \$2800/applicant. With 25 people, that price point would more than cover expenses. However, Josh did not consider buying graduation gifts, which may impact the price. Tif suggested padfolios.

**MLA Chats** Nay has this all planned out. There are two facilitators for the October session on AI Trends in the library (Laura Bandoch and Thomas Vose). Nay will be putting out a call for future session facilitators so they can be set in stone for the year.

**President's Report** Teonja went to the statewide staff development meeting to ensure that they are promoting MLA when talking to staff, especially affiliate members. There are talks about potentially joining The Crab with the Marketing committee. Teonja is working with SSD on conference programs related to adults with intellectual disabilities. Delaware Association of School Libraries is doing a day long training session and wants to have a panel of different state representatives to talk about things that are exciting and happening (particular for Maryland, the Freedom to Read Act) on September 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a request for an interview from WJZ on Freedom to Read and how it will impact the upcoming school year. Teonja thinks someone from MASL would be a better person for the interview since Teonja isn't familiar with school issues specifically.

**President Elect's Report** Dave is dipping toes back into things and catching up on the streams of activity that are going on. Dave will start making the rounds to all the groups and wants to make it to as many division and group meetings as possible. Dave will sit on the statewide blueprint for public trust future.

**Past President's Report** We did get the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom state helpline grant. Tif will be facilitating this. Tif is also presenting at SLRC's fall conference and continues to be LAIG chair. There is a meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> in Chicago for library advocacy.

**Executive Director's Report** Josh went to ASAE conference in Cleveland and to MACO in OC. He has a mentee from Florida through a library school there. There will be MLA Office shakeups and will potentially be outsourcing bookkeeping. It would cost significantly less than doing it in-house. MLA could then maybe use the savings to hire someone for 30 hours instead of 24 hours to help do management of social media, admin, etc.

**ALA Councilor's Report** Joe sent out a report via email a few days ago. At ALA in San Diego, Joe did go to the Councilor's meeting, and it was useful to build relationships. ALA will be in Philly in 2025 and encourages Dave and Teonja to go. During Council, it was approved to form a workgroup. a Societal Statements policy so when a hot button topic comes up, it gives an organization time to breathe and consider how it impacts the organization. ASAE has done this. Joe encourages MLA to adopt a similar policy.

**Conference Director's Report** The theme was finalized: MLA/DLA: The Beach Edition. The group collected some more potential keynote speakers. Chelsea is working with Paula to see what speakers' budgets are. The immediate planning team will be visiting OC on September 5<sup>th</sup> to get an idea of what the space looks like. The social committee will start after that. Josh will release hotel information soon on Hilton Suites Oceanfront. The immediate team will release information on how to form learning objectives so first-time presenters feel supported.

**Adjournment** 2:24 PM.