

Maryland Library Association

Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome: 1:04 PM

Changes to the Agenda: None

May/June Minutes Approved via Email: Josh Stone will reconnect with Conni Strittmatter and see what's happening with those minutes and will be approved via email.

Treasurers Report: Cheryl Nardiello shared the Balance Sheet as of June 30, 2024, compared to June 30, 2023. MLA is only 0.01% off compared to the same time last year. On the Budget vs Actual YTD, MLA overspent by \$6,094. There was a motion to approve budget depending on audit. Lou Sica motioned. William K. Wallace Seconded. All were in favor.

Business Agenda

FY24/FY25 Budget: CALD membership is a favor MLA does for them every year. MLA will be revisiting the cost with CALD this year as credit card fees are going up. MLA will be bringing MLLI back this year for income and will be more expensive this year. The MLA/DLA Conference this year is at a new location. This new location (OC Conference Center) will allow MLA to predict costs better. There is a 4% COLA for MLA office members in the budget. Kate is going down to 10 hours a week until she retires. The MLA Office may need to hire a new bookkeeper before the end of FY or outsource it (depending on costs). Under organizational expenses, Association Management Software and Tradewing are included. Motion to approve the proposed budget was given by Lou Sica. It was seconded by Genive Purchase.

Presidential Goals: Teonja Jung wishes to update MLA manual, construct social media and fundraising policy, continue to restructure MLA units/workgroups, engage with members from all members and library types to create active members, evaluate/revamp Leadership Day, work with Josh and Conference Chair to plan conference at a new convention center, advocate for funding, and, finally, engage members of affiliate organizations. There was a motion from Nay Kepper to accept these goals. It was seconded Lou Sica.

Unit Workplans: These are due October 1st. They will all be aggregated by Laura Bandoch. Units will submit an evaluation of these at the end of the year.

AMS Update/Plan: AMS stands for Association Management Software. Growth Zone will be the new software. Growth Zone has built-in newsletter and email templates with automatic email ability. This will allow MLA to revitalize The Happenings newsletter that automatically uploads onto the website. The website builder part of Growth Zone is more modern than our current AMS. There are built-in ways to sell sponsorship and ads. The event registration features have bulk registration options. The payment process will be easier. Growth Zone also comes with its own payment processing built in which has flat fees (except for AmEx) for credit cards. If you're using a mobile device, it works with Apple/Google pay. There is also a member app that comes with Growth Zone. Affiliate members will be able to add or remove their own members. This is MLA's last year with Tradewing. Growth Zone has built-in CEUs on the platform. Growth Zone is \$10,000 for the first year with a 3-year contract. There is a 2-4% increase if we renew the contract which is industry standard. The onboarding process is 90 days and will mostly take place in August and September. MLA will have Naylor until November. MLA may want to consider what new member onboarding looks like. Growth Zone will allow members to make group folders and store documents, but they are not live documents.

MLLI Update: Josh Stone signed a contract with the facilitator, who is the former state librarian of Utah and went on to form a consulting business. MLLI will be at the Maritime Convention Center. At some point soon MLA will be getting applications out.

PDP Officer: This position currently oversees the scholarship applications, which means that they cannot apply for the scholarship due to ethical concerns. There was a motion to remove the officer from this task and have the applications go through MLA office. The Steering Committee will then approve the applications and announce the scholarship recipients. The new AMS could have an automatic email update for scholarships.

ALA IF Grant: MLA applied to ALA IF to enact an Intellectual Freedom Help Line. The grant was submitted Saturday, 7/13 in the evening. MLA/School Librarians/MAPLA/CML will all be supported by this grant.

MLA Chats: These will be a less formal way for members to network around topics. They will be 1.5 hour long virtual free sessions for members. They will be happening quarterly. The survey that was sent out to hear topic suggestions will close August 2nd. There will be sessions in October, January, April, and July. In September, an email will be sent out that includes the topics and dates. These chats are being modeled off the framework of "Let's Talk About Stuff" from MLA/DLA Conference. There are no plans to record sessions. These will be MLA members only because MLA wants to incentivize becoming a member.

President's Report: Teonja Jung is spending summer getting organized. The audit group implementation has taken up time. Teonja is also making sure all leadership roles are filled in committees. Josh Stone and Teonja are working on getting the MLA manual updated.

Vice President / President-Elect's Report: David Dahl is excited to be back on Executive Board after taking a year off. He is catching up on changes that have happened and making sure he knows what's going on. David attended Leadership Day and saw people at MLA/DLA. There is a Crab write up on Dave for the in-depth interview.

Executive Directors Report: There were 750 MLA members prior to launching affiliate membership in March 2023. There are 3,420 members now. Josh Stone attended a webinar on membership trends in associations and Irene's retirement celebration at Busch Library. He is working with Leah Sims to organize new newsletters and member onboarding.

ALA Councilor Report: Joe Thompson was an excused absence from the meeting and a report will be provide via the listserv before the next meeting.

Legislative Update: The state legislature is not in session. There is some behind the scenes prep happening. The appropriations for FY25 at the national level are still in the works. There is legislation for Title IX to rollback of protections. No MD senators have signed onto the legislation. The House resolution did pass, but no word on if it will move to the Senate. Biden would assuredly veto it if it ended up on his desk.

Conference Director Report: There are a lot of new people to on-board. The conference is going back to OC Convention Center May 7-9, 2025. There is a site visit on September 5. The call for proposals will be sent on September 9th. Keynotes will be finalized by November. The virtual conference orientation will be on April 29th. The conference will be loosely themed Beach/Coastal.

Unit Reports

IFP: They met in June and talked about program ideas for the years. The Defending Our Collections series will repeat this year. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 7th.

SSD: They will be holding their first meeting of the fiscal year on August 1st at 1:30. They are working on Creating Engaging Teen Spaces and Programs event.

OSIG: They are posting on MLA Connect more. A Doodle poll sent out for the next meeting. Sabine will not be at the next executive board session.

YSD: They are working on getting edits to the division name over multiple platforms. The Fall BEST Tapestry will be graphic novels and is \$25 for members and will have 8 CEU credits for those attending. There will be 12 CEU credits for facilitators.

LDD: Their first meeting was last Thursday, July 11th. They got to know each other and talk about the recent conference. They talked about LDD sponsored sessions at the conference. They are working on a partnership with the EDI group to co-lead a book discussion series with them. They will have a guest speaker to talk about sustainability in libraries on Thursday, September 12th. They will have more book discussions this year as well.

ACRL: There were some unexpected leadership changes that they are sorting through and will meet at the beginning of semester.

LGBTQ+: There are new co-chairs and want to do program that will lead to CEUs.

ASRD: They don't meet until September and are looking to do an unconference about disability programming.

Nominations Chair: The committee is selected. They are behind on their timeline to send email by two days, but please be thinking of potential folks who would make good leaders. Talk about what it means to be a leader in MLA, explain what the benefits are, get people thinking about running for leadership positions while in your groups. You can self-nominate.

BCMLA: They are potentially creating a mentor program and are working on a logo. They are having more quarterly meetups in person.

Crab: An issue put out yesterday, 7/16. September 5th is the deadline for the Fall issue.

MIG: They continue to put articles in the Crab. The next meeting is in September. Katie Marley and Laura Bandoch are working on taking their session on AI in Selection and Cataloging from MLA/DLA to MD Tech Connect.

EIG: They are working on goals for the fiscal year.

Adjourned: 2:51 PM. Next meeting September 18th.