

Maryland Library Association

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Call to order:** 1:04 PM

**Changes to the agenda:** None.

**Minutes for August Meeting Approved via Email:** Approved!

**Treasurer's Report:** The long-term reserves are up \$16,000. Our total assets are \$300,110 with no real liabilities. The income from donations for Nettie Taylor Leadership was about \$2,000 in September. Membership dues were \$21,042 in September. YSD brought in \$575 from the Black-Eyed Susan Tapestry. RAIG brought in \$25 from the Read Indigenous program. September's total income was \$25,539. Credit card fees were \$199.43 in September. \$750 in scholarships were given out in September. We spent \$6,250 for MLLI 2025 in September. There was \$756.69 of personnel expenses in September. In summary, there was a net income of \$13,371.16 in September 2024. Laura motioned to approve the budget, pending audit. Joe seconded.

### **Business Agenda**

**GrowthZone Update:** Josh is still going through the onboarding process with them, which is going more slowly than originally thought. If by the second week of November it looks like we won't be live, Josh will reach out to the current database company and extend the contract another month. Josh is working to get the new community platform up and running, including video. It seems fairly simple to use. Josh showed a preview of some of the pages on the new MLA website.

**MLA Chats:** The chat went well with about ten attendees. There was a mix of public and academic libraries. It seems like many people had to leave at the hour mark, which is something to keep in mind for future chats. Laura will share links from AI session on MLA connect.

**MLLI Update:** SMRLA let us use their SurveyMonkey due to google login issues for the application. We ended up with 41 applications from SurveyMonkey, and 3 from the original google survey. Josh will upload onto the google sheet for us to see. The subcommittee will review and select 24 people to be in the March class. The decision will be made by early November.

**Fundraising:** The bylaws and manual do not have a lot of info on how to handle this. It seems like groups want to sell swag related to their division/group. Teonja will send out a survey and see what people mean when they say they want to fundraise.

**CML Annual Meeting:** November 2<sup>nd</sup> is the annual conference. The speaker is Lisa Varga who is Library Journal's Librarian of the Year. This event will be at the Bowie Branch.

**President's Report:** Teonja manned a booth at Poe Fest with Josh from October 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. Teonja will be attending the UMD Homecoming Gala. BCPL had staff day on Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> and Teonja manned an MLA table there. Teonja will be going to Charles County in January, St. Mary's in December, and Pratt in April for Staff Day events to promote MLA. She found a place for the January meeting, which will be at the Busch Library in Annapolis. Teonja reminded the group that Dawn Lavelle will be attending the November meeting to talk about the Futures Cohort.

**President Elect Report:** Dave went to MD Statewide Digital Equity Summit on October 15, 2024. They discussed approaches on ways to obtain testimonials for 101 Reasons I Love the Library campaign. The group will identify county by county who will be spearheading local efforts. Dave saw some previews of logos and templates for signage that the quotes and testimonials will be placed in. These will be finalized at the next meeting as well as the messaging strategy. January-February will be the campaign season for this.

**Past President's Report:** Tif is getting ready to go to Chicago for the training for Office of Intellectual Freedom grant. Tif is working with Liz on different advocacy training that can happen throughout the year. Tif presented at Queen Anne's County Staff Day based on information learned from the Law for Librarians training. Tif wants to do it as a standalone program in the future.

**Executive Director Report:** Josh is working to fill the new position of Member Engagement Specialist. There have been a lot of good applicants. There are four more interviews to go. Josh is going to MAPLA meeting October 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Kate is going to retire after the new person is hired and onboarded. Bookkeeping is going to bill.com, which links up with QuickBooks. Josh will try this out for a few months to see if it's helpful. If not, then we will try to outsource or see if we must hire a part-time bookkeeper.

**ALA Councilor Report:** The full report in the Fall Crab. Joe tried to make the report a narrative but noted how he voted and how the vote went overall. Joe is also working on ALA 150 group. The group is also trying to put together a program for Lib Learn X in Phoenix.

**Conference Director Report:** Conference proposals submissions were extended to Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>. So far there are 78 proposals. Over the next month, divisions/groups/panels

will be able to deny/accept programs. Lady Brion has accepted as a keynote speaker. Amanda Jones was unavailable, so we are seeking a new keynote. Some possibilities are Debbie Reese, Tracy Thomas, or Glory Edim. The committee is working on the logo but leaning towards bright colors. DLA still has proposals coming in. BCMLA is looking to do something in the Fruitland area: either the Calvin B Taylor House Museum or the Germantown School Community Heritage Center. Karaoke may happen off site at, perhaps the Sand Bar. Yoga will be bring your own yoga mat. The silent auction will still happen. The next conference meeting is on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** 2:03 PM.