

Maryland Library Association
Minutes
Executive Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 20, 2023
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/96070262083?pwd=VTV2eXNQRMNsZU8y>

In Attendance: Joshua Stone (Executive Director), Conni Strittmatter (Secretary), Teonja Jung (Vice President), Tif Sutherland (President), Joe Thompson (ALA Councilor), Melissa Lauber (PSD), Cheryl Nardiello (Treasurer), Brianna Hughes (ACRL), Sharon Morris (BCMLA), Amy Meyers (Marketing), Cathy Hollerbach (Awards), Meg Faller (RAIG), Kelsey Hughes (PDP), Lisa Kenyon (Author Awards), Tori George (TIG), Jakki Williams (TIG), Julie Fitzpatrick (CRAB), Carl Olson (GIIG), Tamar Sarnoff (MSLA), Rachel Miller (LDD), Katelyn McLimans (CSD), Tracy Miller (FoLIG), Laura Bandoch (MIG), Nay Keppler (Past President)

Excused Absence:

Call to Order and Welcome

Tiffany Sutherland

- Tiffany Sutherland called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

Changes to the Agenda

- Cathy Hollerbach moves to add an agenda item to discuss additional awards for this year
 - Tiffany Sutherland seconds
 - All in favor

July Minutes Approved via Email Vote

Conni Strittmatter

- Conni has been behind. The notes are ready to post and she will send them to Bob Kuntz shortly

Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Nardiello

- Balance Sheet
 - Compared to last year this time, our operating account was about 22.2%
 - We had about \$3,300 more in long term reserves this year compared to last year
- Budget vs. Actuals
 - The format of budgets vs actuals is different from the last few years to make it easier to read and understand
 - Income or August was \$3,000, or 1.25% of the budget
 - Fundraising income is already at 19.78% of the budget
 - \$36,200 has come in for memberships, due to a good number of Affiliate memberships

- Gross profit came in at \$45,267.50, or 12.61% of the budget so far
- Credit card fees came in at \$450.86
- Scholarship expenses were at \$500
- We have spent \$400 on the Centennial Carnival, 6.28% of our fundraising budget for the year
- Personnel expenses include what looks like a bill from last FY that was put into this current year for employee insurance
- Total expenses come in at \$16,349.30
- Net income is at \$28,918.20
- Questions & Comments
 - Teonja motions to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit
 - Joe Thompson seconds
 - All in favor

Business Agenda

- MLA Statement Regarding CCPS
 - We do not yet have enough email votes to support this
 - Andrea Berstler, who is the director of Carroll County Public Library, has feedback she will provide
 - Tif would like to get the vote settled today if possible
 - Joe Thompson, also in Carroll County, has two thoughts to share:
 - The Southern Poverty Law Center has called this group "extremist," but it may not be helpful to call them out this way in our letter because it could lose some of our audience
 - Tracy Miller suggests we just name the group (Moms for Liberty) instead of naming them just an extremist group.
 - Tamar suggests we name the group as having extremist views rather than calling the group extremist
 - Does it matter what the polling says about how parents feel about book banning? Joe suggests that we are standing behind what we know is right (intellectual freedom) and the polling doesn't necessarily matter
 - Kelsey wonders if there's a way to make it a yes/and. Yes, we believe in this no matter what folks say, AND also Carroll County is not even reflecting the majority of their own constituents
 - Tamar also emphasizes that the group is a minority group, a small group of people wanting to make decisions for the community
 - Tracy and Nay like saying "a small group with extremist views" to emphasize both points above
 - Josh has been working on making our website a bit more locked down, which requires you to log in to access certain materials
 - Tiffany will make edits based on the discussion and run it by Andrea before getting the final votes needed
- Centennial Carnival
 - November 3rd is the Centennial Carnival, which is the culmination of the Centennial year. Make sure this is on your calendar.
 - Registration to attend and to sign up for a booth is open
 - Sponsorships are doing well
 - Teonja will send out an email again soon with an extra discount on booth sign up

- A booth is for an organization, division, or group to offer fun/easy carnival style games. Prizes can be knick-knacks from around your library. Josh may have extra prize items to give out at the MLA office
 - The booth with the most game tickets will win a trophy
 - Tif's "Best Booth" will get a presidential booth trophy
 - Ideas for booths that groups could consider
 - "guess my favorite author" (like guess my weight)
 - Rubber duckies in a kiddie pool, prizes written on bottom
 - Prize/roulette wheel
 - Knock down the bottles (but use withdrawn books)
 - Guess the James Patterson Title (cover the title, just show the cover)
 - There will be some elected officials coming
 - This Saturday is the bowling event. We are four shy of the amount needed, which means we will not make money. Email Josh to let him know that you are able to come by the end of today
 - Leah and Amy are working on a brochure to have available at the carnival
 - We will have special MLA Centennial carnival stickers, bookmarks, and buttons
 - Past presidents have been sent their special promo code for a discount
 - Quinn Evans is the primary sponsor which has allowed us to have tote bags
- Sustainability Interest Group
 - The sponsor of this petition sent it out to Marylib and has gotten enough signatures, all of whom are MLA members
 - Laura suggests Sustainability should be part of the strategic plan rather than an interest group
 - Joe notes that the purpose of an interest group is to get people involved and possibly move it along to a different kind of unit in the future
 - Teonja reflects that Interest Groups have a tendency to form and just hang there without fully realizing what they are created for. She suggests that (with or without approving this one) that we take a pause on new interest groups until we look at our structure since we have been talking about a reassessment. Teonja volunteers to take this on
 - Joe reminds the group that we need to be ready as an organization to sunset an interest group if we see that they have been inactive
 - Kelsey suggests an audit of the interest groups
 - Tiffany suggests we not vote on the Sustainability Interest Group today. Tiffany will go back to the sponsor to let her know we are looking more closely at Interest groups
 - We didn't have time to thoroughly consider it. We are looking at the structure of our units and we want to make sure this interest is adequately
 - Brianna suggests we add language on the website where instructions for starting a new interest group lives explaining why we're pausing
 - Tiffany motions to pause consideration of new units until the audit occurs. Teonja seconds. All in favor
- MLA Connect Groups
 - Please use MLA Connect for MLA communication as much as possible
 - Kelsey asked if the functionality for virtual meetings has improved
 - Josh says it has a bit, but it is not the best still
- Unit Leadership Needed

- SSD, LAIG, and the LGBTQ IG all need leadership
 - SSD needs a VP
- MLA Merch!
 - Anything you can imagine with the MLA logo on it! mlaexec.redbubble.com
- MLA Awards Additions
 - Cathy would like to suggest adding two group awards: project of the year and libraries change communities award
 - Joe Thompson motions to create these two new awards. Tiffany seconds. All in favor.

President's Report

Tiffany Sutherland

- Tiffany is spending time learning how to be president of the organization since they missed their year as vice president
- They attended the BCMLA meeting recently as well as the conference committee
- Much of their time has been focused on being present for Carroll County as well
- Tiffany, Natalie Edington, and Andrea Berstler (who are the leaders of the Leg Panel) met to discuss how to move forward without current leadership for LAIG.
 - They are going to organize Advocacy 101 in various regions of the state.
 - They are looking for someone to help write updates on legislative topics for the CRAB
- Please reach out if you need Tiffany to attend a meeting

Vice President/President Elect's Report

Teonja Jung

- Teonja has now been in her position for about one month. She is learning her role and attending meetings when needed, as well as supporting Carroll County
- She now has the role of starting to audit interest groups

Past President's Report

Nay Keppler

- Nay is currently focusing a lot of branch needs in her system, but has been meeting regularly with Tiffany and Teonja as well
- Nay has been helping the Emerging Adults and LGBTQ Interest Groups get off the ground through planning and interim leadership

Executive Director's Report

Josh Stone

- Josh met with the Freedom to Read coalition to help push legislation on Freedom to Read. There has been support from Penn America and Penguin Random House (who attended the last meeting)
- Citizens for Maryland Library has been involved in getting statements and support sent out for what is happening in Carroll County and beyond
- Josh is on the FSU iSchool advisory board. He is proposing some internship opportunities at MLA. Maryland residents get in state tuition at their iSchool virtually
- We now have over 2,000 members, which is almost four times our pre-affiliate membership average. Affiliate members now include:
 - Allegany

- Anne Arundel
- Baltimore County
- Carroll
- Cecil
- Charles
- Enoch Pratt
- Harford Community College
- Maryland State Library Agency
- Montgomery
- Prince George's
- Queen Anne's
- Southern Maryland Regional Library Association
- St. Mary's
- Talbot
- University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions
- Washington

ALA Councilor's Report

Joe Thompson

- Joe is now the representative for MLA to the ALA Council. His role will include attending conference and council meetings to vote on resolutions on our behalf
- Some resolutions will come to him ahead of time and he will get our input. Others don't come up until conference and he will do the best he can to represent MLA
- LibLearnX is in Baltimore this year. Registration opens October 16th - <https://2024.alaliblearnx.org/>
- Joe is also very involved in tracking legislation around freedom to read nationwide. Feel free to reach out to him about anything ALA or Legislation
- Citizens for Maryland Libraries will be putting out registration for the annual Trustees/CML Annual Meeting very soon. It'll be on Saturday, October 21 at the Bowie branch of PGCMLS. You are all invited to register and attend. Ellen Oh will be the keynote.

Legislative Update

Natalie Edington

- **State**
 - Libraries will have a number of bills in the 2024 state legislative session. The Maryland Association of Public Library Administrators Inter-Governmental Relations Task Force (MAPLA IGRTF) is taking the lead on drafting the bills.
 - SLRC Funding: Will ask for an increase to the five-year funding cycle for the State Library Resource Center (SLRC).
 - Freedom to Read: Bill is being developed by diverse committee of public, academic and school library leaders and representatives from MLA, Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL), EveryLibrary, Penn America and Penguin Random House. The proposed legislation addresses public, school, and academic libraries and includes protections for collections, staff and library funding. Governor Moore requested and supports this bill.
 - Collective Bargaining: Will likely introduce a bill again.
 - Maryland Library Legislative Day is Tuesday, February 13, 2024.
- **Federal**

- Appropriations: Federal budget year ends 9/30/2023. Appropriations bills have not yet passed. If the appropriations bills are not passed, one of several things could happen: 1) an omnibus bill is passed (combines two or more appropriations bill into one bill that can be passed with one vote in each house of Congress); 2) a government shutdown (some say a few weeks or a couple of months); or 3) a continuing resolution is passed (keeps government funded at FY23 levels for a set period of time; this is most likely).
- Right to Read Act (HR2889 / S1307): This bill puts school librarians in school libraries; provides liability protections to teachers and school librarians; provides \$500M for Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grants; and provides \$100M for Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL). In MD, only Representative Trone is co-sponsoring the bill. There has been no further movement.

Conference Director's Report

Anita Crawford

- The title of this year's is "Seeds of Change"
- If you want to have a meetup at conference, let Josh know as soon as possible

Unit Reports

- ACRL (Brianna Hughes) Their next meeting is tomorrow afternoon. Tomorrow is a discussion about students who transfer into 4-year colleges. They are excited about the USMAI affiliate membership. She is curious to see if this brings any new members to the meeting tomorrow – they have seen a number of new people sign up for their mailing list
- PSD (Melissa Lauber) They just had their September meeting. Next meeting is December 2nd at 9:30 at the Sollers Point branch of Baltimore County. Photos of the discussion boards from the unconference are on MLA Connect. Andrea Berstler is interested in speaking at their next program at the end of April in the Creative Commons in Carroll County. They are using MLA Connect to communicate about meetings and notes
- CSD (Katelyn McLimans) October 16th's meeting will be in person at the Kent Island branch with a hybrid option. Tomorrow is the Black Eyed Susan Tapestry program. October is the Story Time bootcamp, which is a new professional development opportunity from CSD. There is space for 60 attendees and they have 25 people signed up so far. Registration is open. Spring Black Eyed Susan Tapestry will be some time in March. Kids Are Customers, Too will be in April at the Miller branch of Howard County
- SSD (Teonja Jung) SSD currently needs a new vice president. They are working on programs for conference and planning some stand alone programs for this year. The next meeting is October 5th, which is hybrid. All details will be posted on MLA Connect
- LDD (Rachel Miller) Last week was their bi-monthly meeting. They discussed Adam Grant's book, *Think Again*. They used the assessments with the book to see how they are currently thinking and will compare with new results in the future to see if they've made any changes. The next book discussion will be *How to Be An Ally* by Melinda Epler. They are in the early stages of planning their standalone for the year, which may be a repeat of a successful conference program
- Author Award (Lisa Kenyon) The MD Author Award Committee is almost finished with our first round of reading and have a few strong candidates for final consideration. This year is adult fiction, and we have an interesting range of genres.

- FoLIG (Tracy Miller) They met at the beginning of the month to discuss scanning. They are looking for facilitators to future meetings. They meet on the first Monday of the month at 10am
- TIG (Jakki Williams) Their first meeting was last Tuesday. They discussed how to get all the interest coming in through Discord to be more active. There will be an information table at Teen Connect coming up. Jakki and Tori will be meeting to plan more in person shortly.
- PDP (Kelsey Hughes) - PDP office hours went well, still need to circle back to find out next steps to get the manual approved and posted, things have been busy.
- MIG (Laura Bandoch) They are planning a conference session. They have submitted their first ever feature for the CRAB. They will be submitting an article for every issue.
- IFP (Laura Bandoch) Banned Books Week is coming up October 1-7. They are doing a social media push of everyone holding their favorite banned/controversial title to help raise awareness. Coming up is a Frontline Panel Discussion – frontline workers who may or may not be librarians who often handle the start of a materials complaint. This will be November 6th at the Urbana branch.

Adjournment

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Tiffany motions to adjourn the meeting. Teonja seconds. Meeting adjourned.