

Maryland Library Association

Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome: 1:00 PM

Changes to the Agenda: Teonja added one item to the agenda, which was to welcome Danielle Voelker who is our new MLA Member Engagement Specialist.

September Minutes Approved via Email Vote: The minutes were approved via email and posted to the website.

Treasurer's Report: There is \$135,355.70 in the bank account and our total liabilities and equity is \$274,441.05. Josh plans on reaching out to Charles Schwab soon to talk about our investments and start planning for the future. There was not a lot of income in the month of October. Membership was most of the income in October, bringing in \$11,563.30. Our total income is \$100,900.27 YTD. Cecil County handles payroll and processes on a quarterly basis. Naylor is the current Association Management Software and will be moving over to GrowthZone, but we are paying for Naylor through the end of January. Our total expenses in October were \$37,248.49 less of \$25,685.19 for the month. However, for the year we are only at 20% of total expenses. There was a motion to approve the report pending audit, which was provided by William K. Wallace. It was seconded by David Dahl.

Business Agenda

Welcome Danielle! Everyone put their names and positions in the chat so Danielle could start to see who we all are.

GrowthZone Updates: Some data is now on the new site. Danielle has been working with GrowthZone to get some pages re-ordered and edited. We'll be ready to launch the new site by late December or early January.

Unit Roster Updates: The MLA Office has all the data, but the migration also pulled historic data as well. Units should send current group rosters over to Josh and Danielle so they can get people into their groups before the launch of the new platform. Send any updates for the website as well by December 2nd.

IF Helpline Grant Update: MLA was awarded this ALA grant. Tif went to Chicago the last weekend of October to get training on how to execute the grant. The Steering Committee is Tif Sutherland, Josh Stone, Teonja June, Ashley Teagle, Lloyd Jansen, Andrea Boothby-Rice,

Jacob Girding (school librarian in Charles), Tim from MSLA, and Allison Jennings-Roche. The committee is currently writing a job description for volunteers. The next task will be to figure out what to do about inquiries from the form. No pilot date is set, but it will be after the new year. We can use the funding for programming as well. Send any questions or comments to Tif and Josh.

Reframing Library Organizations for the Future: Dawn will be joining the meeting at 2:00 PM.

President's Report: Teonja attended her first LATI graduation in early November. She talked about MLA and being engaged. Teonja will be talking to St. Mary's County library staff on December 6th. She is going to Chicago to attend an ALA Advocacy workshop around the middle of December. Teonja sent out a fundraising survey and only received one response so far.

Vice President's Report: There was not too much to report. Dave attended Citizens for Maryland Libraries. In late October, he went to a statewide blueprint for public trust meeting. There will be a Crab article to get the word out about the campaign.

Past President's Report: Tif is mainly working on the Helpline grant and moving back into the role of LAIG chair. Tif presented at SLRC's DEI conference about legislative process in Maryland and how to get involved in advocacy.

Executive Director's Report: Josh interviewed many people and hired Danielle. MAPLA was in OC and Josh attended. Josh has been completing a lot of GrowthZone work and working on obtaining sponsors for the MLA/DLA conference. He attended the CML annual meeting. He is meeting with Mark Winston and Liz Sunderman to talk about a BCMLA mentorship program.

ALA Councilor: See a detailed update in the latest issue of the Crab.

Legislative Update: Natalie gave a federal update. Angela Alsobrooks won the open Senate seat. Andy Harris, Glenn Ivey, Steny Hoyer, Kweisi Mfume, and Jamie Raskin won their re-elections to the House. Johnny Olszewski, Sarah Elfreth, and April McClain Delaney will be new to the House. Natalie sent out an email about the bill with concern. Josh is meeting with statewide library organizations next week to make sure we're all on the same page.

Conference Director's Report: There were 118 conference proposals this year. People will have to go offsite for lunch/dinner so there may be less programs this year. Josh and Chelsea will do a final approval based on the schedule that needs to be set. They had a discussion about the logo. We will be hosting the conference website on the new website

and are going to see if the platform's app is good to use instead of Sched. DLA is inviting the president of AASL for one of the programs. Social committee holding pub quiz in the convention center. Karaoke is being hosted at the Sandbar. Yoga will be on the beach (with a rain backup!). We are hoping the payment process will be easier with GrowthZone. There will be a Bookmobile on the boardwalk behind the convention center and life-sized games. The goal is to have early bird registration go live in January (which is when the new site will hopefully be launched).

Unit Leader Reports

OSIG: They held Canva training in partnership with MSLA and 35 people attended. They are posting almost daily on Facebook, sharing posts from libraries statewide, as well as CML and Maryland Humanities. They are posting daily on LinkedIn as well, building an ever-larger following and posting more on MLA Connect to a still lukewarm response. Sabine attended CML (Citizens for Maryland Libraries) Annual Meeting with three of her board members

Professional Development Officer: There has only been one program since Anita took over a month ago which is the LDD program on psychological safety. Any program not selected for the conference could always be a standalone program.

IFP: IFP is considering 6 different programs for Conference and working with Helpline grant. The next meeting is December 4th at 2:00 PM. A PEN American Report stated that Maryland was 9th in country for public school book ban for the '23-'24 schoolyear. There were 64 book bans (tied with South Carolina). 59 of those were in Carroll County, 4 in Frederick County, and 1 in Montgomery County.

ASRD: December 12th at the Sollers Point Branch is the next meeting. They are working with Howard County on an English Language Learner program. They had many conference programs to go through.

FOLIG: They are meeting monthly to have discussions but are rotating facilitators, basing conversations on Library 2025 publication. They talked about sustainability in the last meeting.

ACRL: They did not meet in October and the November meeting is November 21st. They are going through conference programs and talking about trends in academic libraries.

Marketing: They are meeting on November 21st and go over a list of items that will be good for marketing to handle during the conference. Nominations are open for Excellence in Marketing until January 20th.

Sustainability: They meet every other month on the first Thursday, with the next meeting being on December 5th. The meeting will be over in time for the Webjunction webinar on Climate Change Communication. Two programs were suggested for Conference, one requires funding, and the other is about seed libraries. They are working on collecting information on climate action/sustainable practices in Maryland Libraries survey.

SSD: The next meeting is the Thursday, December 5th lunch meeting. They have found a candidate for each office. SSD is working on getting a Creating Engaging Teen Spaces program.

Nominations: There is a nomination for every position except one group. Everything is on track.

RAIG: They met in October and discussed the year ahead. The Book Buzz is being planned for conference. RAIG contributes regularly to the Crab. Their Instagram is going fine.

LDD: They had a book discussion on November 11th with 14 attendees. They reviewed proposals for the upcoming conference. They supported the inaugural Sustainability Interest Group meeting. They plan to co-lead with the EDI panel for another book discussion in 2025. LDD posted 2-3 times on MLC Connect with information/engagement. LDD notified Nay Keppler about their incoming officers. The next program will be Psychologically Safe Leadership on February 20, 2025.

Awards Committee: They chose a bunch of the winners but still have some things that need to be ironed out. The list will be shared with the Advisory Council in the January meeting. The winners will be announced before conference.

Crab: December 5th is the deadline for the next issue. The next issue will include a recap of the SLRC conference. There are now 5 copy editors.

MD Author Award: A winner was chosen, who is a YA/Children's author.

MIG: MIG met on November 13th to go over conference programs, as well as discuss braille books, dyslexic-friendly font, printers, circulation goals, and on order MARC records/patron requests.

BCMLA: They had a meetup on November 19th, which 11 people attended. The meetups are usually Book discussions around professional development. They went over proposals for the conference.

EDI: William and Conni are working on monthly observances best practices. They will be assisting in choosing identity terms for an upcoming MLA survey. An EDI Division proposal was sent out to membership.

LAIG: Tif had the opportunity to present at SLRC's Fall DEI Conference, where the Maryland state legislative process was discussed and outlined how library workers can actively engage in library advocacy. The presentation covered various avenues for involvement, including individual efforts, participation through their organizations, and engagement with MLA. The session will be presented again at SLRC's Circulation Conference in February, as well as at the MLA/DLA conference in May. LAIG has an established monthly meeting schedule, held on the first Friday of each month at 10:00 AM, strategically timed after the monthly Legislative Panel meetings. The unit's first meeting will take place on December 6. Each meeting will follow a structured format that includes: report-out from Legislative Panel Meetings, a learning Component and a discussion. This format ensures a comprehensive approach to advocacy, combining informational updates, practical educational opportunities, and member-driven dialogue. In preparation for this year's meetings, a survey was distributed to MLA members to gather feedback on their expectations and preferences for LAIG meetings. This survey aimed to identify the topics, formats, and types of content that would be most beneficial to members, ensuring that the meetings are relevant, engaging, and aligned with their needs. The insights collected will guide the planning of future meetings, allowing LAIG to support its members better and address key advocacy challenges. The responses reflect a broad interest in learning about library advocacy, particularly funding, legislation, promoting services, community outreach, and building support. Key areas of interest were Library Services and Outreach, Advocacy Skills and Legislation and Funding. Topics requested for future workshops include: Advocacy success stories, Building community support, especially in challenging environments, Understanding when and how to ask for funding, and Tips for effective communication. Challenges faced in advocacy efforts include: lack of training or knowledge, navigating bureaucratic red tape, especially in state library systems, and uncertainty about where to start with advocacy efforts. The preferred learning formats include workshops, webinars, online courses, and networking events. Several participants expressed a desire for more flexible meeting scheduling to accommodate work commitments. Suggestions for supporting advocacy efforts: include providing more opportunities for discussion and training, especially in terms of practical application., offering informational resources like articles and guides, consistency in messaging, particularly through shared templates and resources for email and social media outreach, and one respondent specifically mentioned a desire to hear from experts like EveryLibrary.

LGBTQIG: The group proposed a panel discussion for conference where they would discuss going beyond the basics for supporting LGBTQ+ staff and patrons. The group sponsored an individual's conference proposal to present on supporting the LGBTQ+ community beyond June. They are working toward an article about found family for the Winter issue of the Crab and discussing a winter meet-up.

Dawn presented Transformation for Libraries: The Futures School (Foundations in Natural Foresight) to build interest in participating in the February 2025 cohort.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM. The next meeting is January 15, 2025, at the Busch Library in Annapolis.