

Maryland Library Association
Minutes
Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/96070262083?pwd=VTV2eXNQRMNsZU8yK0kxb1g0TE5uQT09>

Call to Order and Welcome

Tiffany Sutherland

- Tif called the meeting to order at 1:05pm

Changes to the Agenda

- Josh notes that some information in provided documents has been adjusted slightly.

January Minutes Approved via Email Vote

Conni Strittmatter

- These are posted

Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Nardiello

- Altogether, we have total assets of \$288,087.16, which is around 17% higher than last year
- Conference income comes in at \$55,974 so far, or around 34% of our expected income
- We've had 6 jobs placed on the jobline for an income of \$400
- CSD has brought in \$2,505 for Kids are Customers and BEST
- Totally income for the FY so far is \$193,136.50, or around 43% for the year
- Total paid out for the conference for sponsored items is 114.95
- Legislative reception included 867.77 in payments
- There were \$229 in expenses for MLA buttons
- Personnel expenses December-January was at....
- Total expenses for February was \$23,629.19 with a total expense for the year of \$163,400.41
- Joe motioned to approve the budget. All approved

Business Agenda

1. Election Results

Joshua Stone/Mary Anne Bowman

- a. Josh has contacted all winners at this time
- b. VP Elect – David Dahl
- c. Secretary – Laura Bandoch
- d. ACRL VP/Pres Elect – Katherine Strain
- e. ACRL Secretary – Shaune Pyle
- f. CSD VP/Pres Elect – Jessica Letizia
- g. CSD Secretary – Karen Earp
- h. LDD VP/Pres Elect – Ana Carroll
- i. LDD Secretary – Kalyn Au
- j. PSD VP/Pres Elect – Sara Szymanski
- k. PSD Secretary – Melissa Lauber
- l. SSD VP/Pres Elect – Maria Jacob
- m. SSD Secretary – Nicole McLain
- n. Black Caucus VP/Pres Elect – Genive Purchase

- o. Black Caucus Secretary – Cecilia Thomas
- 2. Library Futures Cohort Teonja Jung/Joshua Stone
 - a. We will be taking part in a cohort reframing conversations around libraries
 - b. We signed up for the cohort starting next February, 2025
 - c. This will be all virtual, 3 days of sessions – February 4-6, 2025
 - d. We need 30 people involved in this. Teonja suggests all those who are on the executive board for the incoming year be in the cohort
 - e. Everyone involved will need to apply
 - f. Teonja will share the link
- 3. Orioles Fundraiser Tiffany Sutherland
 - a. MLA has partnered with the Baltimore Orioles for a fundraiser for MLA
 - b. The game is Saturday, June 1st
 - c. All tickets purchased through MLA will provide funds to MLA in return
- 4. Maryland Day at UMD Joe Thompson
 - a. MLA and CML have been partnering with University Libraries since 2008 to host an informational tent at Maryland Day at University of Maryland
 - b. This will be April 27th from 10-4
 - c. Joe is looking for staff to work at the tent for 2 or more hours
 - d. You can sign up here - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050D4DA5AC28ABF85-48560652-cmland>
 - e. If you are interested in helping develop an activity to help engage attendees, let Joe Thompson know
- 5. EDI Panel Documents Andrea Thomas
 - a. After we discuss these documents, we hope to merge these with the similar documents in the current PDP manual to create a more complete accessibility plan
 - b. Documents include:
 - i. The accessibility checklist includes how to make programming more accessible – parking, wheel chair accessibility, meeting room accessibility, signage, technology, etc.
 - ii. Event Planning Norms
 - iii. Meeting Code of Conduct
 - c. Kelsey notes that the PDP manual has brief mentions of accessibility considerations but these are more in depth, which will be helpful for program planning
 - d. Some of these apply to things beyond programming, which may make more sense to live elsewhere
 - e. Josh and Teonja will be updating the MLA manual, which could be a good place for these EDI panel documents
 - f. Andrea Berstler agrees that these documents are likely separate from PDP's manual, likely belonging in a broader document like the MLA Manual
 - g. The documents will be sent out via google docs for members of the exec board to provide comments and feedback. Once that is complete, we will work to determine where each aspect of the documents should live
- 6. Unit Restructuring Teonja Jung/Tiffany Sutherland
 - a. Teonja outlined the changes to the bylaws related to the unit audit
 - b. Nay Keppler motions to approve the changes to the bylaws related to the unit audit. Melissa Lauber seconded
 - c. Teonja shared the document with the audit group's recommendations about Interest Groups being overseen by a division
 - i. We are going to look more closely at the Library Advocacy Interest Group separately so it is currently omitted from this document
 - ii. We would like to make these changes begin July 1

- iii. Rename CSD to Youth Services and PSD to Adult Services and Reference
 - iv. GIIG and NMIG will dissolve
 - v. Materials Interest Group – Support Services Division
 - vi. Teen Interest Group – Youth Services Division
 - vii. Emerging Adults, Reader’s Advisory, Outreach Services, Maryland Adult Programming, LGBTQ+ would all go under – Adult Services & Reference
 - viii. Future of Libraries Interest Group – Leadership Development Division
 - ix. Katelyn McLimans mentioned there were varying opinions at the previous CSD meeting about changing it over to the Youth Services Division. Some members asked if it could stay CSD to continue the focus on early childhood programming
 - 1. Teonja indicated that the name doesn’t mean they must talk about teen services, for example, at all the meetings
 - 2. Katelyn agreed that CSD does already provide programming around other ages than early childhood via Kids Are Customer and Black Eyed Susan Tapestry as well
 - 3. Kelsey Hughes indicates that it is going to be important for what will be Youth Services Division to provide a voice for all of youth, since right now the only voting voice at the Executive Board comes from Children’s Services and Teen Interest Group doesn’t get a vote. So Early Childhood, for example, could become an interest group in the future
 - x. Andrea Berstler motions to approve the recommendation by the audit committee to place Interest Groups under divisions and to sunset GIIG and NMIG pending the membership vote on the bylaws revision in Spring, 2024. Teonja seconded.
 - 1. There was hesitation because of leaving LAIG off – do we need to wait to vote until we determine LAIG’s future?
 - a. Teonja removed that from the document being approved
 - 2. Kelsey mentioned that LGBTQ+ needs to be under LDD.
 - a. Teonja has corrected the document to reflect this
 - 3. All approve
7. Additional Bylaws Revisions
- a. Article III, Section 2
 - i. Rearranged existing information a bit to better align with the structure of the bylaws overall. Defined “affiliate membership”
 - ii. Removed "Institutional Membership" because we are planning to roll any unique aspects of institutional memberships into the affiliate membership
 - b. Article III, Section 3
 - i. used to be section 4, now 3 because I moved honorary membership to be under section 2. Part b now references "individual" and "affiliate" members and their payment due dates and delinquencies. Please adjust as needed! Part c just adds "individual and affiliate" to better refer to the two types.
 - c. Article XIV - cleared up that the vote for changes to the bylaws needs a simple majority, added clarity of what is being sent at least 60 days' prior to the vote
 - d. Tif motions to approve and take the bylaws to a vote to membership, Rachel seconds
 - e. All in favor, none opposed

President’s Report

Tiffany Sutherland

- Tif has been writing a lot of letters and talking with a lot of legislators to represent MLA and our stance on library related bills in Annapolis this session
- Attended meetings about the unit audit and MLLI committee
- continuing to visit Affiliate members. I also talked with a UMD iSchool class about MLA

Vice President / President-Elect's Report

Teonja Jung

- Continued leading the audit group
- Attended library day in DC last month
- Attending PLA in April
- Working on the MLLI committee with Tif
- Plans to volunteer at Maryland Day in April

Past President's Report

Nay Keppler

- Spoke to a UMD class on a panel about librarianship and MLA
- Participating in the LGBTQ+ interest group. There is an incoming co-chair – Shannon Carney. There will be a meet up this Saturday at Red Emma's from 2-4

Executive Director's Report

Joshua Stone

- Legislative Day went well. Thanks to all who attended and to Carroll county for working to make it happen
- Worked on bill communication with Tif, especially on the Freedom to Read Act
- Hosted an informational session on the Freedom to Read Act
- Has a site visit planned in Hanover for the 2026 conference – the 2025 conference will be at the convention center in Ocean City
- Helping find a location for the next MLLI cohort
- Tradewing up for renewal. MLA put out a survey recently to collect feedback about MLA Connect. The most negative/constructive feedback was about video conferencing and how well MLA has promoted it
- Part of Josh's contract with MLA is to obtain a professional certificate. He will be attending trainings to obtain that over the next couple years.

ALA Councilor's Report

Joe Thompson

- Tif kicked off ALA LibLearnX at the opening session
- At ALA LibLearnX, attended Council meetings as the ALA Councilor
 - ALA Personal dues have been simplified
 - Irene Padilla was honored at the Council Meeting for all the work she's achieved in her time as State Librarian in Maryland - <https://www.ala.org/aboutala/sites/ala.org/aboutala/files/content/Tribute%20Resolution%20Honoring%20Irene%20Padilla.pdf>
 - There were two competing resolutions about Israel and Gaza – one specifically condemning the destruction of cultural institutions and another calling for a ceasefire. To keep with resolutions more focused on the work of ALA, they passed the one condemning cultural institutions

Legislative Update

Andrea Berstler

- We have hit crossover day – bills in one chamber have moved over to another
- Bill reconciliation is when bills from both chambers must come together
- SLRC funding has come out of the Senate but not the House yet. We are optimistic this will pass. Because it has a fiscal note, it often takes more discussion
- Adjustment to wording for the Lifelong Learners Act is moving along

- Freedom to Read is in reconciliation now, then will head to the Governor's office to be signed. He has indicated he wants to see it on his desk to sign. This bill has been a big group effort with individuals from MASL, academic libraries, public libraries, Pen America, EveryLibrary, and legislators. Andrea will communicate when we have a date for when Gov. Moore will sign the bill
- Leg Panel will continue working on advocacy training sessions and modules

Conference Director's Report

Anita Crawford

- Anita thanked Julie Fitzpatrick for her work on the Crab. Anita is submitting highlights of sessions happening at MLA annual for an article in the Crab.
- As of Monday, we have around 300 conference registrations
- We will continue to promote to get more registrations
- Most of the preconference have at least 10 people registered, which helps us break even on those sessions
- The hotel defaults to Tuesday-Friday, so registrants will need to change it to Wednesday-Friday if that's what they want
- The virtual conference has about 12 people registered now. Continue to promote this opportunity to ensure we at least break even on costs
- Chelsea Shockley will be moderating the conversation with Hilton Carter
- Carroll County is providing a photographer for the conference
- Poster sessions have gotten plenty of submissions, being handled by ACRL
- If you see any issues with the website, please send to Anita and Josh so they can address it
- There will now be our own app in the app store for the conference rather than going through the Sched App
- We hope to get our own wireless network for the conference
- Orientation for the conference will be early May

Unit Leader Reports

- Tamar Sarnoff (MSLA) – thanks to all who participated in Legislative Day. We're waiting on the approval of the federal budget, which means we do not know what allotment of IMLS funding MSLA has yet. Mary Rayme is working on putting the IMLS program showcase onto Niche Academy for all to watch. MSLA has developed a funding distribution plan for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Irene's retirement will be celebrated on June 21st. This will be a ticketed event at the Busch Library in Annapolis. A save the date will be coming out soon. Maryland's 205th anniversary is coming soon. You will be hearing more about that in the coming weeks. Please consider providing programming that aligns with this initiative.
- Sabine Simonson (OSIG) - it's been quiet. I am hosting Ashley Biggs from MSLA in Easton in April for an outreach event about LBPD. And lastly I have been better posting on MLA Connect. See you all at the next meeting and have a great start of Spring!
- Ashley Teagle (EDI Panel) - Will Wallace from Wicomico Public Library has volunteered to co-chair the Panel starting July 1. Tif and I met briefly to discuss potential co-chairs to ensure Will has the support of an experienced MLA member. Co-chair Andrea Thomas has developed a member solicitation letter so current EDI Panel members can continue to work on strengthening the diversity of the Panel's membership, particularly as it relates to the type of library members represent. The EDI Panel is also working on establishing a new meeting time and day pending the outcome of a poll of the membership. Tif will assist with requesting representation from ACRL and from the iSchool. The EDI Panel continues to make progress on our strategic plan:
 - An Accessibility Checklist, Event Planning Norms, and Meeting Code of Conduct are up for a vote by the Executive Board at the March 20 meeting.
 - The Panel has decided to prioritize working on establishing EDI benchmarks for MLA for the remainder of the fiscal year. A subcommittee has been formed to work toward the development

of a survey for MLA membership.

- Melissa Lauber (PSD) – We held our last meeting on March 14, 2024. Our upcoming program is Networking 101 facilitated by Andrea Berstler on March 21st at 1pm at the Commons of Carroll County Public Library. Our next meeting PSD’s annual conference debrief on Thursday at 5:30pm in Michner’s Bar at the conference. June 6th will be a virtual meeting at 9am. PSD submitted an article for the CRAB, which may become a quarterly article. Melissa helped out at the booth at LibLearnX
- Rachel Miller (LDD) – Andrea Berstler worked with LDD on the program *Ted Lasso’s Lessons on Leadership (How to Lead a Goldfish)*. Attendees learned effective leadership strategies, demonstrated by the character Ted Lasso, that can be used in their everyday lives. LDD’s bi-monthly meeting was March 14th. The book discussed was *Stop Waiting for Perfect: Step Out of Your Comfort Zone and Into Your Power* by L’Oreal Thompson Payton. We were able to share a book discussion with the author that was hosted as part of Knowledge Builders webinar series. This supplement added to a productive discussion about topics, including perfectionism and imposter syndrome. LDD’s May meeting is canceled and we are encouraging our members to attend the annual MLA conference. We will resume regularly scheduled meeting in July and share discussion topics and titles with the group in early summer.
- Laura Bandoch (MIG) - MIG met in February 14, 2024 and discussed the impact of AI in libraries (particularly selection), what lessons can be learned from Barnes & Noble’s turnaround, when are holiday stickers applied to spines of books in various libraries, as well as Harford County’s newest Toniebox collection. Laura Bandoch and Katie Marley continue to work on the MIG conference session. Natasha Finnegan wrote an article for the Crab concerning weeding and emotional considerations when performing collection maintenance. The next meeting will be April 10, 2024. There are 29 people on the MIG email list.
- Katelyn McLimans (CSD) –
 - Recent Activities
 - BEST Spring Edition held on March 7th- Had 52 registrants and an excellent keynote address from author Wendy Shang
 - Held our monthly Division meeting on March 11th- Previewed MLA/DLA Conference sessions sponsored by CSD
 - Upcoming Activities
 - Kids Are Customers, Too! is coming up on Thursday, April 4 from 9:30-4:00 at the Miller Branch Library. Registration closes 3/21. Full event details can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/kidsarecustomers/home>
 - Blue Crab Young Reader Award Committee- This year’s award winners have been selected. Awards will be announced at the Kids Are Customers, Too! Conference on April 4th.
 - April In-Person/Hybrid Division Meeting- Our April Division meeting will be one of our bi-annual in-person meetup meetings with a virtual option for those who cannot attend in person. It will be held on Monday, April 8th from 12:00-2:00 at the North East Branch Library in Cecil County, with a tour to follow. Interested CSD members can come early for an optional pre-meeting brunch at 10:30 at a local restaurant.
- Meg Faller (RAIG) - RAIG held our quarterly meeting on January 5th. Attendees shared titles they were passionate about and made plans for the conference in May and we discussed a standalone program centered around indigenous authors. We also discussed up and coming genre “queernorm”. Next meeting is April 5th. Task group developing the newly restructured ‘Book Buzz’ and to work’ in preparation for the conference
- Julie Fitzpatrick (CRAB) –
 - Spring issue just submitted to Bucky, publication date is 4/15. If we finish edits early enough, we may publish as early as 4/5, since the monthly Night Sky Notes column from NASA has timely information for the 4/8 Solar eclipse.
 - Spring issue will feature Conference plans, including updates from Anita, last call for silent auction baskets, and a summary of conference poster information and link to ACRL-MD’s poster webinar from February.

- No new columns this quarter. Melissa Lauber was planning on talking to the steering committee of PSD about a regular column.
 - If any other groups are considering writing a column, please reach out with any questions to julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org. All are welcome!
- This issue was more manageable than the last, but we are still weighing the possibility of recruiting more copy editors.
- Individuals, groups, or libraries who have news, upcoming events, or recaps of recent events to share with *the Crab* - please send them by the June 5 deadline for the July 15 issue.
 - Suggestions are always welcome for the “Library People” feature - please feel free to suggest someone whose work within Maryland libraries and/or MLA stands out as exceptional in your eyes.
 - We are especially looking for 2024 MLA/DLA Conference content
 - any photos (we will also have some from the official Conference photographer)
 - summaries of social events and meetups
 - recaps of and/or photos and slides from presentations, if presenters are interested in sharing. This is a great way to make the information available to those who are unable to attend.
- Melanie Diggs (BCMLA) - BCMLA held a Membership Mtg on Wednesday, March 6, 2024. Items discussed during this meeting included:
 - Legislative Updates
 - MLA Conference 2024 Updates
 - Membership Announcements
- Book discussion- Stop Waiting for Perfect: Step Out of Your Comfort Zone and Into Your Power by L’Oreal Thompson Payton facilitated by Cecilia Thomas (Charles County Public Library); engaging and enlightening discussion. The next Book Discussion will be held in May: Playing a New Game: A Black Woman’s Guide to Being Well and Thriving in the Workplace by Tammy Lewis Wilborn
- Other News:
 - BCMLA Spring MeetUp— On Saturday, March 16, 2024, several BCMLA members attended the Black Girl Saturday School: Jam Session at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, which included a tour of the exhibit, Black Woman Genius: Elizabeth Talford Scott-- Tapestries of Generations. The Experience, with photos, was shared by BCMLA President, MT Diggs, in the BCMLA Listserv.
 - Next BCMLA meeting will take place on April 3, 2024, at 1 pm.
- Tracy Miller (FOLIG) - Met remotely in February & March via the MLA Zoom Account. February Topic: Facilitated by Ashley Biggs & Janet Salazar. Minutes are on MLA Connect. There were 8 attendees. March Topic: . The meeting was facilitated by Ann McIntyre & Mary Rayme. Minutes are on MLA Connect. There were 11 attendees.
 - MLA Connect
 - Share articles about futuring topics regularly
 - Share meeting announcements, agendas, and minutes
 - The CRAB
 - Tracy is writing a regular column for the Crab. The subject of the Spring column was
 - Conference:
 - FOLIG is sponsoring two preconferences and a regular session at conference.
- Lou Sica (SSD) - · The SSD Steering Committee met virtually on 2/1.
 - SSD President Lou Sica wrote an article for the Spring CRAB highlighting our conference programs and upcoming standalone program.
 - We are co-sponsoring a program with TIG, Creating Engaging Teen Spaces & Programs for staff at all levels. The program will be held at the BCPL Arbutus Branch on Wednesday 6/5 from 9-12:30. Please see the MLA website for more information or to register.
 - The next SSD meeting will be held at 1:30PM on Thursday 4/4 at the BCPL Arbutus Branch. There will also be a Zoom option. Email Lou at lsica@bcpl.net for details.

- Our conference offerings are Growing With Your Community, Let's Talk About Stuff and Building a Public Library Digital Equity Strategy from the Ground Up. Join Erica Coady from the Howard County Library System and Lisa Jones from the Baltimore County Public Library for Growing With Your Community on Thursday May 9 from 9:45-10:45. Our two presenters will each share their experience in creating community gardens. From the small to large, growing plants and veggies can be a great way to engage with your communities and give back what you grow to support them.
- Join Laura Bandoch from the Harford County Public Library, Rhesma Khan from the Elsmere Library and Robin Soma-Dudley from the Anne Arundel County Public Library for Let's Talk About Stuff on Thursday May 9 from 11-12. The panelists will each discuss a new or exciting service happening at their system (for example-the gun safety locks at AACPL). Afterwards there is time for an open discussion in which attendees can share what's happening in their libraries related to any area - circulation, technology, programming, new services, post COVID changes, supervising, etc.
- Join Alexandra Houff and Andrea Lowman from the Baltimore County Public Library for Building a Public Library Digital Equity Strategy from the Ground Up on Thursday May 9 from 1:30-3:30. Faced with the familiar chicken-egg conundrum of tackling digital equity and teaching digital literacy to those who are the least equipped for both, learn how our library combined old-fashioned outreach with emerging technology solutions to address the issues we are hearing about from our branches and our customers. Also learn how we leveraged relationships with local and national like-minded NGOs and government partners to increase capacity without over-burdening staff.

Adjourn