

# Maryland Library Association

## Steering Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 22, 2024

10:00am - 12:00pm

Zoom:

<https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/96070262083?pwd=VTV2eXNQRmNsZU8yK0kxb1g0TE5uQT09>

### Call to Order

Tif Sutherland

- Tif Sutherland called the meeting to order at 10:05am

### Changes to the Agenda

- No changes to the agenda

### Minutes for December Meeting Approved via Email

- Tif will share the minutes to the group for approval shortly

### Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Nardiello

- Balance Sheet
  - We were slightly down January 31<sup>st</sup> compared to this time last year. We will have more income coming in from the conferences soon
  - Long term reserves were up 2.45%
  - Our total assets were down 5.35% this year compared to last year. We should recover with conference fees
  - After liabilities, our total assets equal \$238,437.77
- Budget vs. Actuals
  - Annual Conference Income came in at \$14,234, which is 10% of the budget for the conference for the year
  - Fundraising income came in at \$3,650 for the legislation reception
  - The MLA store on redbubble brought in \$19.02
  - Membership dues for January came in at \$3,655
  - Total income so far is at \$23,290.79, or about 30% of the budget for the year
  - Total investment fees paid out amounted to \$325.21
  - Committees expenses totaled \$1,797.18, which included some legislative reception items and plaques for awardees
  - Two awardees received a total of \$1,000 in scholarships
  - Personnel expenses came in at \$12,895.26 in January, totaling \$98,182.81 for the year
  - Expenses totaled \$16,706.77, which gives us a net income for January of \$6,584.02

### Old Business

- Legislative Day Recap – Josh & Tif
  - Joe Thompson coordinated with Ryan O'Grady to encourage library students to come to legislative day. Three attended
  - Tif has heard good things from staff who attended the day
  - They got good feedback on the Freedom to Read Bill
  - Representation from around the state was great
  - The breakfast was well attended. Over 100 pre-registered
  - It cost us more than we expected because we had more people than expected
  - We made somewhere between \$1,000-\$1,500

- Delegate Jones came to the breakfast and gave a nice rallying speech about the Freedom to Read Bill
- Photos are up on MLA's Facebook and new Instagram account
- Maryland Matters interviewed Josh and Tif after the Senate floor proclamation
- For next year, we should keep track of who attended from the house or senate. This can help us determine the success of the event
- We could consider brining a podium or portable mic and speaker
- Josh suggests budgeting for MLA staff to spend the night the night before to simplify set up
- MLA Unit Audit – Teonja & Tif
  - The next step is to invite Conni to the next meeting to talk about the impact of these changes on the bylaws
  - The goal is to report back at the March meeting
- MLA Elections – Josh
  - The ballot is up and ready for voting
  - 93 ballots have been cast so far
  - Elections close March 6<sup>th</sup>. Josh will send a reminder out on Monday to vote

### **New Business**

- Freedom to Read Bills – Tif & Josh
  - Yesterday was the first hearing for this bill
  - Those in the hearing did a great job of staying calm and moving the hearing along in a good direction
  - The hearing was pushed later for media and security considerations
  - Tomorrow, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, is the Senate hearing
  - A lot of the difficulty in advocating for this bill is explaining what librarians do, which most people don't fully understand
  - Tif may be there to testify and Josh hopes to at least be in the audience
  - There is still a good feeling that this bill will pass
  - Josh is working with Thomas Vose to do an informational webinar on what is actually in these bills. This will likely be on March 5. Anyone who wants to attend can register to do so. This will be under MLA rather than a library system or school, which gives more flexibility in what they can say in the webinar
  - Josh is working on sending MLA's statement out to various news outlets
- Virtual Conference Update – Josh & Chelsea
  - Registration is open for the virtual conference
  - Scheduled for April 10th, 9-4
  - Promotion will go out this week
  - This is not joint with DLA – just an MLA conference
  - This year is a bit of a test – the hope is to make this annual or every other year
  - Sessions will focus on front line staff
  - The cost is under \$500. Registration is \$50 each, so only a handful of registrations will break even
  - Josh will send Chelsea details for promoting the conference, then Chelsea will send it out to Marylib
- End of Year MLA Recap – Josh
  - At a past Board orientation, Nay Keppler and Kelsey Hughes suggested creating an “end of year MLA recap” to membership
  - This could be an infographic with programs offered, money raised, events hosted, legislation advocated for, number of members (and growth of membership), updates on any big changes, presidential outgoing/incoming accomplishments and goals, election

- recap, etc.
  - This could help members better understand MLA and what the organization does
  - If you think of anything else you may want to include, let Josh know
- Irene Retirement Celebrations – Josh & Tif
  - There are going to be four retirement celebrations. Some are invite only, some are for specific groups (like the UMD iSchool), and some are open to all.
    - MSLA In Office Celebration (closed)
    - Conference Celebration
    - UMD iSchool (closed)
    - Open (ticketed) celebration in June at the Busch Library in Annapolis
  - Interviews are set for April 15 and 16
- Orioles Fundraiser – Tif & Josh
  - June 1<sup>st</sup> MLA is hosting an Orioles Fundraiser
  - \$34 per ticket, \$5 per ticket goes back to MLA
  - We sell the tickets, then give the money to the Orioles in mid-April and they send the tickets to those who purchased tickets
  - Attendees do not need to be MLA members – we can “sell” these tickets to anyone to help MLA raise money

### **President’s Report**

**Tif Sutherland**

- Tif was interviewed for a Washington Post article. We have done a great job this year of making additional media contacts, all of whom have been pro library so far
- Tif has continued to work on going to as many unit meetings as possible
- See above for more updates about the past month for Tif

### **President Elect’s Report**

**Teonja Jung**

- Teonja has worked on the unit audit
- Going to COSLA (Chief Officers of State Library Associations) in DC in March to speak
- She hopes to sign our Futures Cohort up in March. We don’t have 30 yet. Josh would like the whole board to be on this cohort

### **Past President’s Report**

**Nay Keppler**

- Spoke with many delegates and senators at legislative day
- Nay has been helping with the LGBTQ+ Interest Group, but plans to step away after the Fiscal year
- Next week, Nay will speak at one of the UMD iSchool classes about MLA involvement

### **Executive Director’s Report**

**Josh Stone**

- Part of Josh’s contract with MLA (which needs to be renewed in about one year) is to receive a CAE (Certified Association Executive) Certificate from ASAE (American Society of Association Executives) within the first two years of his time here.
  - He is working on it now. He needs 100 credit hours of training prior to taking the exam, which is offered twice/year (May and December). His goal is to take it in December of 2025.
  - There is a conference every year, this year in Cleveland, which will help him gain these hours. The conference is expensive, so Josh would forgo PLA and ALA in order to use those funds for the ASAE conference
- Attended the CML Board meeting and LibLearnX in January

### **ALA Councilor’s Report**

**Joe Thompson**

- Attended in person council meetings at LibLearnX and saw Irene’s celebration at the council meeting
- There were two competing resolutions related to Gaza – one by the International Relations Committee, which called for the protection of libraries and cultural institutions, and another

from two councilors that was much broader and asked for a ceasefire. Joe did not vote for the broader one because it went outside the scope of ALA, but did vote for the one from the IRC

- The council approved narrowing ALA's 12 core values into 5. The next step will be to describe and interpret those 5 to better explain them
- Joe is helping organize MLA and CML's participation in Maryland Day at University of Maryland. He will put a call out for volunteers to help with this. It is on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- On April 17<sup>th</sup>, Joe will be on a panel for University of Maryland along with Emily Drabinski
- Joe will be attending the COSLA event in DC as well

### **Conference Director's Report**

**Chelsea Shockley**

- The website and registration are live. They are making changes as needed
- They are working on updating Sched
- The virtual conference will be promoted through Marylib and Tradewing
- The hotel room issues for Tuesday evening have been resolved
- The conference team did their hotel tour this month. Josh is going to work on wifi updates with the hotel to help with pushing people to sched and the website since we won't be using a brochure
- We may have a small, simple print out, just not a brochure
- The café and office space have been renovated
- There have been some issues with bulk registration. Leah made a google form that groups can fill out. If anyone needs to bulk register, reach out to Josh or Leah. They will also include that in future updates.

### **Adjournment**