

Maryland Library Association
Minutes
Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 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 1:04pm

Changes to the Agenda

- Anita will report for Chelsea for the conference
- Mary Anne would like to add nominations to the agenda under business
- Joe Thompson moves to approve the amended agenda. Andrea seconded. Approved

November Minutes Approved via Email Vote

Conni Strittmatter

- Minutes were approved and posted.

Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Nardiello

- As of December 31st, we saw a total liabilities and equity of \$231,237.55, about a 10% difference from this time last year, which is a typical fluctuation
- Gross profit for all of December was \$6,859.90.
- We brought in \$300 through jobline
- Memberships brought in \$1,259
- Total expenses for the month equaled \$33,860.88
- We had some expenses for registrations for LibLearnX
- Library Leadership training expenses came in at \$3,750
- Office expenses were \$950.96
- Total personnel expenses were at \$28,279.73
- Our Net income came to a negative balance of \$27,001.08
- Teonja Jung motions to approve the budget subject to audit. Nay Keppler seconds. All in favor, motion passes

Business Agenda

1. LLX Updates

Tiffany Sutherland, Joshua Stone

- a. MLA will have a booth at LibLearnX this weekend. Set up is Thursday and Friday. The booth is open through early Monday. The booth will have a prize wheel with stickers and other materials from library systems as prizes
- b. Thursday evening is the MLA meet up at LibLearnX. 6pm at the Pratt Street Ale House
- c. Melanie Townsend Diggs asked if there is a cheat sheet or guidelines of what we should be telling people. Leah made materials with good information that will be at the table to guide those working at the booth and to hand out to people who walk by. Josh shared the flyers Leah made, which will be invaluable at the booth

2. MLA Elections

Mary Anne Bowman

- a. Nominees are:
 - i. VP/Pres Elect – David Dahl (UMD), Andrea Boothby-Rice (Wash. College)
 - ii. Secretary – Laura Bandoch (Harford) & Rachel Miller (BCPL)
 - iii. ACRL VP/Pres Elect – Katherine Strain
 - iv. ACRL Secretary – Carl Olson, Shaune Pyle, Hannah Jones
 - v. CSD VP/Pres Elect – Jessica Letizia, Baltimore County Public Library- jletizia@bcpl.net
 - vi. CSD Secretary – Karen Earp, Somerset County Public Library – kearp@somelibrary.org
 - vii. LDD VP/Pres Elect – Ana Carroll (BCPL)
 - viii. LDD Secretary – Kalyn Au (Enoch Pratt)
 - ix. PSD VP/Pres Elect – Sara Szymanski (Carroll)
 - x. PSD Secretary – Melissa Lauber (Charles)
 - xi. SSD VP/Pres Elect – Maria Jacob (BCPL)
 - xii. SSD Secretary – Nicole McLain (BCPL)
 - xiii. Black Caucus VP/Pres Elect – Genive Purchase (Pratt)
 - xiv. Black Caucus Secretary – Cecilia Thomas (Charles County)
- b. Teonja Jung motions to approve these nominations for elections. Nay seconds. All approve.
- c. Josh will get these posted by February 5th and the election will run through February.

3. MLA Statement Regarding CCPS

Tiffany Sutherland

- a. Tiffany relayed the information about what Carroll County Board of Education voted to approve – a policy change to no longer allow “sexually explicit” materials in libraries or instructional materials
- b. Andrea mentioned that MASL has put out a statement about this as well. MASL is also doing an advocacy alert about HB25, which is trying to do the same thing Carroll County did statewide
- c. Our statement would go out via email and social media. It can be used if any of us need to speak on the situation
- d. Conni motions to approve the statement. Anita seconds. Joe Thompson and Andrea Berstler abstain. The motion passes.

4. MASL/ALA Resolution

Joe Thompson

- a. MLA is a chapter of ALA. The structure of each chapter is different throughout the country. In some cases, the ACRL affiliate is a part of the chapter (like here in Maryland), and in some cases the AASL affiliate is a part (which it is not in Maryland). Sometimes, they are not.
- b. This resolution is attempting to find ways to ensure all chapters and affiliates get the support they need from ALA and their state chapter
- c. Josh does not feel this will necessarily affect us because we already have a good working relationship with both our school and academic library associations/affiliations. However, this could be a bad thing for ALA and the other state chapters because not all have the resources we do, nor does the ALA chapter relations office have the resources to carry this out
 - i. Both AASL and ACRL under ALA have their own membership dues, which could be adjusted to raise more money to meet the needs mentioned here
 - ii. The resolution also wants to rewrite the ALA Councilor’s description to require that the position facilitates two-way communication between our school and academic affiliates
 - iii. This would possibly cost a lot of money and set many up for failure
- d. Joe notes that those who are voting on this have not really had much time to think

through the implications. Joe is leaning toward motioning to refer this to the Budget committee of ALA (BARCS)

5. Unit Restructure/Audit

Teonja Jung, Tiffany Sutherland

- a. Nay is overall very happy with this. She wanted to ensure that the current leader of the Emerging Adults Interest Group was able to attend, which she was
- b. Conni mentioned there are a lot of interest groups under Adult Services and Reference
 - i. Teonja emphasized that the interest groups are maintaining their autonomy and leadership. The division is more a contact, resource, and guide, not “overseeing” them
- c. Melanie noted the LGBTQ interest group is under LDD in the proposal. She wondered about whether the EDI Panel could be a unit that could take something like LGBTQ Interest Group and any other identity interest groups under their wing. And/or, if there would be future interest group or affinity group for other identities.
- d. Andrea Berstler feels strongly that the Legislative Interest Group should be under the Leg Panel
- e. Brianna Hughes says ACRL is happy to absorb GIIG and has already talked with Carl Olson about how to move forward
- f. Anita re-emphasized that the purpose of this restructuring is to make sure leaders within MLA have the supports they need – that they know where to go. So it’s okay if not all the structures 100% align
- g. Conni emphasized the distinction between a panel and a division – that a panel serves the association and a division serves the member and library systems to provide resources for them to serve customers. We may want to consider this distinction when assigning interest groups under them
- h. Andrea suggests we can have both an EDI panel *and* an EDI division if there is a distinction between a panel and division as noted above
- i. Teonja and team will work on a final document with final recommendations, incorporating feedback from this group and others. The goal is vote on this in the Spring

6. MLA Connect

Joshua Stone

- a. Our license is up for renewal in May
- b. Josh is working on a survey to ask members how they’ve liked the service
- c. Please send any feedback to Josh
- d. Anita notes that you cannot actively edit documents in MLA Connect so it’s less collaborative than we would hope
 - i. We could use google docs and post a link to MLA Connect instead. It would be helpful to create some best practices for use
- e. Teonja asked if video conferencing will be able to work in the future
 - i. Josh mentioned it *has* gotten better, but it’s still not the best solution
- f. MLA Connect also has an Association Management Software, which could help us with our website. It would be a bundle and possibly save us money
- g. If we do renew it, we should be more proactive about using the platform and pointing people to the platform

President’s Report

Tiffany Sutherland

- Don’t forget the MLA Hangout at 6pm Thursday at the Pratt Street Alehouse

- In early December, Tif went to Chicago for an advocacy conference for chapter leaders. It was one of the best trainings they have ever been to in their 15 years of librarianship. There were reports on the intellectual freedom and legislative landscape throughout the country. Some association leaders did trainings on initiatives they've run, like One-Click Politics, and strategies used to defeat anti-library legislation
- Tif has done visits to counties throughout the state to talk about MLA, who we are, and how to get involved. Tif's goal is for either themselves or Teonja to visit each affiliate member throughout the year
- Tif will be on the interview panel for the new state librarian upon Irene Padilla's retirement. They would like to have this process completed by June

Vice President / President-Elect's Report

Teonja Jung

- Teonja has been visiting interest group meetings, which has been a valuable experience
- Tracy Miller shared the opportunity for us to be a part of a professional development cohort called "Reframing Library Organizations: Implementing Strategic Foresight Tools to Create Future Ready Library Operating Systems". In March, we will solicit members of this group to sign up, then open to others if we don't hit the needed 30 people. This would start next February (2025)

Past President's Report

Nay Keppler

- Nay has worked on the Tradewing/MLA Connect survey with Josh
- She has joined the Maryland Civics Education Coalition and is finding ways to get involved in that

Executive Director's Report

Joshua Stone

- Conference registration for MLA Annual will open on the 23rd of January
- The website will be launched at that time as well
- Josh is also helping prepare for LibLearnX

ALA Councilor's Report

Joe Thompson

- The MLA steering committee has approved a tribute resolution to honor Irene Padilla, which will take place at an ALA LibLearnX Council meeting

Legislative Update

Andrea Berstler

- Legislative session has started. We are watching several bills:
 - HB25 – Delegate Mangione from Baltimore. This would extend what Carroll County's School Board passed into a state law. Our goal is for this bill to die in committee because we don't want to draw too much attention to it. It will be heard in Ways and Means on January 31st. If any of your delegation is in this committee, reach out and emphasize that this bill is poorly written, undermines libraries, and defines the materials too broadly.
 - HB208 (SB250) – this will also go to Ways and Means for the house and Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for the Senate. This addresses some of the language and definitions from the original building lifelong learners act to make it more accurate. We want

to support these bills. There are no fiscal notes. We shouldn't need to do much advocacy for this.

- SB248 - The Regional Resource Center's Governance Bill. This allows the regionals to hear more from their communities, not just the public libraries they serve. This will also go to Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. We are in support of this bill as well
- The SLRC Funding bill is important for us this year. Last year, they did not get the incremental increase in funding so we are pushing for this to go through this year. We do not have a HB or SB number for this yet. Leg Panel will send out details with talking points as soon as they have the bill numbers
- Freedom to Read Legislation. The Governor's office reached out to Irene Padilla saying he wants to see this. A collaborative committee with public library directors, representatives from MASL and ACRL, Penguin Random House, Pen America, and EveryLibrary. They wrote a bill with everything they wanted. Delegate Deena Jones from Annapolis also wrote a bill. They collaborated on a new draft of the bill. Rather than codifying ALA's principals into law like Illinois' does, Maryland's include our own set of principals to include. The bill focuses on collections within a library and the staff who serve the community with those collections. It doesn't protect funding, but that could come in a separate bill in the future. We don't want to make a big deal out of it until it hits the floor and is introduced to both chambers. Please don't mention it to the press – we don't want to steal Delegate Jones' thunder on this since it is her bill.
- February 13th is library legislative day. The day will start with a reception at 7:30-9. Be sure to invite delegates and their staff – often the staff are the ones better at remembering things. Leg Panel is hosting a webinar to prepare on Feb 9th
- There will be some advocacy workshops posted on MLA Connect soon

Conference Director's Report

Anita Crawford

- The conference theme is "Seeds of Change." The logo resembles a seed packet
- The website is replacing the brochure in general. There may be some printed materials, but no more printed brochure. This will allow for more flexibility
- Check out the winter CRAB issue with more details about the conference
- Registration will open shortly
- There are some sessions that will be happening virtually rather than in person at the conference. Information on those will be out shortly
- Next conference meeting is in person at the location

Unit Leader Reports

- Melanie Townsend Diggs (BCMLA) – Shirley Mason of BCMLA won the BCALA Support Staff award presented by Baker & Taylor. BCMLA held a Membership Mtg on Wednesday, Jan 10, 2024 (date changed from 1st Wednesday of the month due to the New Year's Day holiday). Items discussed during this meeting included: Recap of Winter Meet-Up w/Black Librarians and BCMLA– Held on December 9, 2023 from 1-2 pm at the National Harbor. Attendees patronized Mahogany Books and enjoyed meeting colleagues and receiving giveaways, thanks to Shannon Bland, founder of the Black Librarians Group and Melanie Diggs, BCMLA President, and ate a late lunch together at Nando's Peri-Peri. Hope to gather again in March 2024 in Baltimore
Updates on progress of Social Committee planning for MLA Conference and programs, including acknowledging Pratt's full sponsorship of the BCMLA Meet and Greet.

Legislative Day @Annapolis, 2/13/24, information and Legislation updates shared by guest, Andrea Berstler

Book discussion- All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson. William Wallace from Wicomico County Library System led a very engaging discussion and several members shared their takeaways.

Next BCMLA meeting will take place on Feb 7, 2024 at 1 pm.

- Amy Meyers (Marketing) – Excellence in Marketing Award Nominations close January 24th. Submit them here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScL2RSKm4-pylPVi58nbsmcEO1qUX_gFOR-rFwE9-3-G1nQNQ/viewform
- Katelyn McLimans (CSD) - CSD has two spring trainings coming up: Black Eyed Susan Tapestry on 3/7 from 9:30-1:30 (virtual), and newly open- Kids Are Customers, Too! (Celebrating I believe its 25th year) on 4/7 from 9:30-4:00 in person at the Miller Branch Library, with keynote speaker Jessica Anne Bratt
- Melissa Lauber (PSD) - Our spring program Networking 101 with speaker/host Andrea Berstler has been approved and will take place on March 21st from 1:00pm-4:00pm at the Commons of Carroll County Public Library. We met virtually on December 14th, my thanks to Leah Sims in the MLA office for helping us pivot to all virtual at almost the last minute. Our next meeting will be on March 14th at 9:30 AM at the Sollers Point Branch of BCPL
- Julie Fitzpatrick (CRAB) - Winter issue just published last Tuesday (due to holiday) and shared via Marylib.
<https://www.mdlib.org/files/docs/crab/winter24.pdf>. Spring issue will feature plans for Conference & hopefully the artwork that Anita shared at our meeting can be included on the cover and within.
Continuing to add new columns:
Winter issue: SSD column and Vice President's Message were new to the winter issue. ALA Councilor's column was also reactivated starting with this issue. Thanks to Lou, Teonja, and Joe for these.
If any other groups are considering writing a column, please reach out with any questions to julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org. All are welcome!
If the issues continue to be lengthy (Winter *Crab* was 76 pages) then we may recruit 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 March 5 deadline for the April 15 issue.
- Natalie Edington (Leg Panel) – Appropriations: On Thursday, Congress passed a third continuing resolution (CR) and Biden signed it on Friday. This prevented the partial government shutdown that would have begun this morning. This latest CR maintains again FY23 funding. Funding for some appropriation bills is extended until March 1, while funding for others, including the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and Related Agencies (Labor HHS) bill that contains funding for libraries, is extended until March 8.
Prior to the CR, Congress had reached an agreement on “topline” spending levels, but they still need to agree on how to allocate funds, write the bills and pass them. This is continuing to be a big challenge.
Voices for Libraries 2024: Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) is coordinating a national advocacy event in Washington, DC on Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7. On Wednesday, there will be Briefing Day with a reception in the evening. On Thursday, advocates will participate in visits with legislators.
Registration for the Briefing Day is \$89 and space is limited. Participation in the legislator visits does not require registration and is free. Registration and find hotel information may be found at <https://www.cosla.org/v4|24>.
State Librarian Irene Padilla has asked me to serve as the State Captain and coordinate Maryland's participation. I will be following up with more information.
- Laura Bandoch (MIG) - MIG met on December 13, 2023 and will meet again on February 14, 2024. Laura Bandoch and Katie Marley are working on the MIG MLA/DLA presentation: AI in Selection and Cataloging. Laura Bandoch met with a representative of Ingram to discuss how the company is handling AI. An article was submitted for the winter Crab issue. Another article will be submitted for the spring issue. There are

28 people on the MIG email list

- Amy Meyers (Marketing) - Current focus is on the MLA Excellence in Marketing Award. Nominations close on January 24 — please encourage submissions so we can recognize the creative efforts of staff! Members are making regular MLA Facebook posts. Long term plans include working with MLA staff to create communication and branding expectations and guidelines. Meetings are the third Thursday of each month on Zoom. We are always looking for members to help spread the word about MLA. Please contact Amy Miller Meyers (amymill@carr.org) for more information.
- Rachel Miller (LDD) - LDD recently met for our January discussion which focused on the book Bold Move by Dr. Luana Marques. We discussed anxiety in the workplace and ways leaders and organizations can effectively support their staff. Attendees also shared their own strategies for coping with and overcoming anxiety, at work and in our personal lives. Our next discussion will be on Thursday, March 14th and the book will be Stop Waiting for Perfect by L’Oreal Thompson Payton. Knowledge Builders will be hosting a webinar on Thursday, February 1st with the author and we are encouraging our membership to attend it if possible. We will possibly be able to offer a recording of this webinar as a supplement for our March discussion. Andrea Berstler will be presenting the session Ted Lasso’s Lessons on Effective Leadership (How to Lead a Goldfish) on Thursday, February 29th . Registration for this program will be open until Thursday, February 22nd.
- Brianna Hughes (ACRL) - No December meeting was held. January meeting is on Thursday, 01/18 11am-12pm. Other meetings this spring are 02/15, 03/21, and 04/18. ACRL-MD executive board will be having a mid-winter retreat to work on various administrative projects such as updating division bylaws and executive committee documentation. We submitted to the nominating committee 1 nomination for VP/President elect and 3 nominations for secretary
- Sabine Simonson (OSIG) - Posting almost daily on Facebook, sharing posts from libraries statewide, as well as CML and Maryland Humanities. Sharing posts on LinkedIn, still getting good response Co-sponsoring program at the MLA/DLA conference together with CML: "Journey Through and Beyond the Fence: Assisting incarcerated individuals in the Reentry and Workforce Development Process." Hosting quarterly Outreach meeting in partnership with MSLA Marketing and Outreach group: February, 1, 2024 at 2PM: Topic: MSLA Community of Practice: Marketing/Outreach Meeting Time: Feb 1, 2024 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/5770178916?omn=99448446229> Meeting ID: 577 017 8916
- Kelsey Hughes (PDO) - taking the feedback from the last meeting, clarifying a few process questions that came up, and hoping to get the final manual and forms up on the MLA site soon. Have received lots of great proposals for trainings, we are doing well with having almost all divisions having met their quota to plan a non-conference training, and even some interest groups. It's never too late to reach out to me at mla.prodev@gmail.com to discuss options and make plans!
- Tracy Miller (FoLIG) Met remotely in December & January via the MLA Zoom Account
December Topic: Social. Facilitated by Ashley Biggs & Janet Salazar. Minutes are on MLA Connect. There were 8 attendees.
January Topic: Environment. 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 Winter column was about strange sighting.
Conference:
FoLIG is sponsoring two pre-conferences and a regular session at conference.

- Lou Sica (SSD) We had our annual December lunch meeting on 12/7/23. The main focus was working on the article for the Winter CRAB.
SSD President Lou Sica wrote an article for the Winter CRAB highlighting the history and purpose of SSD as well as current activities.
SSD Vice-President Moneik Frazier and SSD President Lou Sica were the two featured Library People in the Winter CRAB.
We are working on co-sponsoring a program with TIG on creating engaging teen spaces, outreach and programming for staff at all levels. The program approval form was submitted to the Professional Development Officer.
The next SSD meeting will be virtual via zoom at 1:30 on Thursday 2/1. Email Lou at lsica@bcpl.net for details.

Adjourn