

Maryland Library Association

Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Welcome: 1:03 PM

Changes to the Agenda: None

July Minutes Approved via Email Vote: Approved and posted to the website.

Treasurer's Report – Cheryl Nardiello shared the balance sheet as of August 31, 2024. There is less money in the operating account, but more money in the long-term account, with a difference of \$988. Income for August for affiliate membership \$30,400. The total income was \$34,786. The biggest expense was the deposit on Growth Zone Package, but overall expenses are way under. The budget was approved pending audit.

Business Agenda

GrowthZone Update – GrowthZone is the new Association Management Software. Members will be able to sign up for an account, manage accounts, and interact with groups. We are in the middle of the implementation process, which started on August 20th. It is moving along well, and Josh sent data over to them last week. GrowthZone will be slowly implementing it. Once that is complete, we will start validating that everything migrated correctly. Once Josh sees that, he will put out marketing for the new platform. Josh will probably be calling out for help on that, so let him know if you want to assist. Josh shared the new edition of the home page on GrowthZone for the website. Some things like the calendar/news will pull from database. There are two different functions for group pages – directory/interactive functions and the front landing pages of various groups. Will be replacing tradewing (MLA connect) with Juno. Josh also showed the new MLA connect landing page. We will have to decide if the directory includes all active members or not. Once the new MLA connect gets going, Josh will show more detailed samples. Josh showed the behind-the-scenes pages as well. The marketing automation will be a good page, and an ad hoc committee will probably be set up to address the path we use for it. We are looking to create a tiered set of emails for new members (intro email, division email, conference email, etc.) so they do not receive an info-dump email one time at the beginning. There are forms/surveys in the backend that can be used for things such as the MLLI app, conference proposals, etc. We are hoping to eliminate SurveyMonkey, google form, etc.

EDI Division & Interest Group: Connie and William presented on the formation of an EDI Division, which would be able to assist affinity groups better than any current Division. When sending out the proposal for membership to review, clear delineations of expectations for officers/leadership will be included. This will differ from the EDI Panel, as the EDI Panel is there in an advisory role to the organization. The EDI Division will serve the members in training. After a robust discussion, it was agreed to let people know they can endorse a form without ever wanting to be a leader in MLA.

ALA IF Hotline Grant: MLA received a \$10,000 grant from ALA to implement an Intellectual Freedom Hotline. Tif will lead the project with lots of help from members such as Teonja, Josh, Lloyd, and Ashley Teagle. Tif is going to Chicago for training in regard to this project. Tif wrote up a press release which will be put out soon.

MLLI Update: Applications went out. We ran into a snag since individuals had to upload a document to the google form which involved creating/logging into a google account. The form was moved from over to SurveyMonkey. Before the migration, we received three applications via google form. Since the form is on SMRLA's SurveyMonkey now, Josh will have to check in with Ashley to see if any more came in. If anyone has questions, reach out to Josh, Ashley, or Joe. This is the third reinvention of the institute. MLA will have other leadership training that is more accessible, such as middle management training and virtual options. However, MLLI will be in person.

In Person Meeting: The January 15, 2025 meeting will be in person. Teonja will find a place.

Reframing Library Organizations Cohort: We need 30 people and currently have 26 people. Dawn will be coming to the November meeting to go over what to expect so hopefully 4 more people will sign up.

President's Report: Teonja was on a panel for DASL and talked about Freedom to Read. She wrapped up meetings with Divisions/Interest Groups and did her first news interview with WJZ. She started to contact library systems to get onto Staff Day agendas to promote MLA.

Vice President/President-Elect's Report: Dave is attending conference committee meetings and legislative panel. David is representing MLA on the public trust committee, which came out of the statewide blueprint report MSLA released. This report stated that public trust in institutions was something that needs to be improved.

Past President's Report: Tif has focused on preparing to execute the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom [OIF] grant that MLA was awarded. This grant provides a significant

opportunity for our organization to enhance our advocacy efforts and promote intellectual freedom within our communities.

Executive Director's Report: Leah has left MLA for greener pastures and is now with the National Library of Medicine as a research librarian. Kate is doing 10 hours a week and is retiring soon. Josh has been looking into outsourcing bookkeeping. He is going to do a 30 day trial with bill.com (lots of nonprofits use it). The goal is to try to combine Leah/Kate's positions to a 30 hour a week job with benefits or stipend towards benefits. Josh attended Association of Management Professionals last month. Citizens for Maryland Libraries had meeting a few weeks ago, and has an upcoming conference November 2. He went to OC with Kate/Chelsea/Paula for a conference site visit. Josh signed contract for 2026/2027 conference to go back to Hyatt Cambridge. He is waiting on proposal from OC for 2028.

ALA Councilor's Report: Joe sent out summary of council actions to listserv. ALA council meets twice a year (midwinter and summer). There could be a standalone meeting to resolve a specific issue. The ALA VP vacancy led to a special meeting recently.

Legislative Update: The meetings have been moved to Wednesday afternoons to have more involvement in non-public libraries. More people showed up to the meeting after this change. Federal government update: September 30th is the drop-dead date for approved funding. There could be a government shutdown if nothing is passed. Maryland update: The only thing certain is SLRC funding bill, which is being approached from governor's budget, but will also seek legislation. The Maryland legislature is not approving any multi-year bills due to the economy. The Freedom to Read seeks an update to expand more protections for school library media specialists, as well as expand what is protected beyond materials to displays and meeting room usage. There is also campus protest legislation that will impact academic/academic libraries. MLA is not going to take any stance on union legislation. There is talk about how boards are selected but it is still nebulous.

Conference Director's Report: There was a site visit to the OC convention center two weeks ago. The convention center recently installed new projectors/screens but are unsure of what the tech will cost. There is no carpet in vendor hall, which is on the first floor. We are able to be at the conference center later than thought, so pub quiz can happen there. There are no restaurants on site, so we need to be mindful of that when planning schedule. We only have had one proposal so far. We will still have MLA breakfast, luncheons, etc. like we have in the past as there is catering on site. Josh reached out to Amanda Jones (author of *That Librarian*) for keynote. We are also seeking Lady Brion as spoken word artist/activist for another keynote (MD Poet Laureate).

Unit Leader Reports

Professional Development Person: Anita came up with some ideas on how to streamline some things on the backend. If you have a program you're trying to submit for outside of conference, you will fill out a google form. You don't have to come up with something brand new, you can always re-present the same program. Zoom is a really great way to reach people. In-person is also wonderful. One LDD program is in the works now. PDP manual is not online yet, but it will be online with the new website.

RAIG: The first meeting of the year was in July. They presented a program on indigenous authors program in August.

IFP: They are working on a preconference with Josh, presented by authors of Prepared Libraries, Empowered Teams. The three authors are interested/open to the preconference session. Mike Kiel/Arthur LaRue will facilitate IFP MLA Chat session. Send banned book post ideas to Mou for Facebook page.

Marketing: They need members and meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month on zoom. They will invite people in quarterly for special projects. They want to have an offering for the festival of trees in Timonium (tree/wreath). They want to bring the Excellence in marketing in line with other conference awards.

LDD: Nicole Bega from the Sustainability Interest Group came talked about being able to consider existing groups in our communities that we could/should partner with. The next meeting is November 14 (book discussion The Four Tendencies) co-led by EDI. In February they want to have a program on the psychologically safe leader and are still promoting the October 30th deadline for officers.

ACRL-MD: They had a change of leadership this summer, so they now have a new secretary. They will be meeting 9/19 for the first meeting of the year.

SSD: They had a great meeting in August (met at Exploration Commons). New members joined because they specifically wanted to see the space. They won't be able to proceed on AI program due to a speaker conflict. The next meeting is October 3rd in PGCMLS.

Awards Committee: All the information about the awards has been updated on MLA website. November 15th is the deadline for nominations.

YSD: They are trying to recruit someone to take on leadership for the next 2-3 years. Active membership is wonderful, but trying to recruit for positions is difficult. BEST is coming up October 21st (Graphic Novels). The program upped the CEUs to 8 for attending and 12 for facilitating. It is virtual. Kids are Customers planning committee has formed. TIG will assist because they usually try to do a teen/tween track. Blue Crab is meeting/reviewing books.

MIG: They met last week and are trying to figure out a conference program (could re-hash the AI program).

ASRD: They met on September 12th and discussed 2 potential programs: Programming for Non-English speakers and Job Resources for Emerging Adults (with EAIG). After the meeting, they hosted "Serving Adult Patrons with Special Needs Unconference" with 25 attendees

Crab: Julie is finishing up final collation and editing drafts for October 15 issue. On the cover, we're planning on highlighting MACo, LPBD's Regional Library of the Year award, MLA's new Sustainability Interest Group, and news from the Youth Services Division. Julie had a productive discussion with Teonja in August about the possibility of working more closely with the Marketing Committee to facilitate production of the Crab and help them with marketing. The Crab is continuing to welcome new columns, and thanks to those who are already contributing! If any other groups are considering writing a column, please reach out with any questions to julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org. Individuals, groups, or libraries who have news, upcoming events, or recaps of recent events to share with the Crab - please send them by the December 5th deadline for the January 15th issue.

Adjourned: 2:47 p.m. Next meeting November 20th.