

Maryland Library Association

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

1:00pm - 3:00pm

MLA Connect:

<https://mla.tradewing.com/events/CsAD3rFCXnmbFHgzw>

In attendance – Josh Stone (Executive Director), Conni Strittmatter (Secretary), Nay Keppler (Past President), Cheryl Nardiello (Treasurer), Joe Thompson (ALA Councilor), Teonja Jung (Vice President), Anita Crawford (Conference Chair)

Call to Order

Tif Sutherland

Changes to the Agenda

Minutes for August Meeting Approved via Email?

- Conni will retrieve the minutes from Nay via email and will send them to Bob shortly.

Treasurer's Report

Cheryl Nardiello

- Balance Sheet Comparison
 - o Assets stand at 42.13% higher than last year
 - o Longterm reserve are up 3.76%
 - o Overall assets are up 22.56%
 - o Liabilities and equity come in at \$298,023.41 for an increase of 22.56%
- Budgets vs Actuals
 - o After expenses and ticket revenue, we made \$258.41 from the carnival
 - o In the general ledge for the centennial carnival, have \$4,725
 - o The Nettie Taylor Leadership has brought in \$32
 - o Jobline income was at \$100
 - o Retired/Friends/Trustees Membership came in at \$290 for September, \$551 total
 - o Student/MASL/AIMS Membership came in at \$184 for the year
 - o Affiliate Membership brought in \$14,000 in September, \$52,600 for the year
 - o Total membership dues came in at \$15,363 for September
 - o Membership dues for all year is at \$56,581
 - o Income total from unit programs came in at \$1,735 for the month and \$3,320.50 for the year so far
 - o Bank and Credit card fees came in at \$366.76 for the month and \$1,033.36 for the year so far.
 - o The audit came in at \$3,500 in professional fees
 - o Total expenses came in at \$4,603.20 for September, for a total of \$25,982.48 for the year so far
- Questions and Comments
 - o Anita asks if the affiliate membership comes with the jobline benefit
 - Josh says not yet, it's still separate
 - o Does advertising in the newsletter have a line?
 - Yes – it's 30102
 - There have been adverts but we don't see any income
 - Josh is going to look into it

- Josh let us know that MLA just received an invoice for personnel expenses from Carroll County so we should see more expenses in there next month
- Joe Thompson asked if we would have a presentation from the agency that manages our long term reserves. They have in the past.
- Nay motions to approve the budget for audit. Joe seconds. All in favor.

Old Business

- Centennial Carnival – Josh
 - This is November 3rd – coming up!
 - Many at MAPLA assured Josh that they still plan to register
 - Josh asked Andrea Berstler to put out one more call for interest in a booth
 - Nay is checking if Quinn Evans has signed up
 - We have 43 people registered to attend the carnival. The goal is 150
 - All expenses have been covered in sponsorships. Any additional registrations will be fundraising profit
 - Carnival games will be in the big meeting room space
 - The teen area of the branch may have a Mario Kart tournament
 - There is a green screen that can serve as a photo booth
 - Poe and the Oriole Bird will both be there
 - Elected officials will attend
 - Leah made a playlist of music from the past 100 years
 - Booths so far include Frederick, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Calvert, Howard, MLA-SSD, MLA-IFP, Harford, and CML
 - Speakers will include Mary Baykan, Tif Sutherland, Josh Stone, and Irene Padilla. They will discuss the past and present of MLA.
 - Anita asked if BCMLA might be interested in speaking or sharing in some way
 - Teonja will reach out to BCMLA about including information about the timeline that they have worked on about the history of Black Library workers in Maryland, or to see if they'd like to speak
 - Josh had a nice bookmark made of important historical moments for MLA
 - Josh will be working on a division of roles for those helping with the event
 - Nay asked how MAPLA/directors are marketing the conference
 - Not all affiliate members are on Marylib, so it might be helpful to ask them to promote it to their staff as a networking event

New Business

- MLA Working Group Audit – Teonja & Tif
 - The committee had their first meeting
 - The first step will be to have a meeting with all unit leaders to learn more about how their unit is functioning from each of them.
 - After these sessions, the committee will meet again to assess the information from the unit sessions
 - Currently, the incoming president chooses the conference director chair and co-chair. Anita suggests that the selection on the co-chair should be a collaboration between the vice president and the chair of the conference committee, which would help with the conference planning
 - Joe suggests that this is how it *should* happen
 - We may want to consider putting something about who should be consulted when selecting people for positions
 - Could we also consider adding that the conference director and co-chair

have their registration waived for the conference into the bylaws?

- Intellectual Freedom Issues – Josh & Tif
 - o There was another board of education meeting in Carroll county where this topic came up
 - o It's clear this has not been resolved or gone away yet
 - o Harford County is starting to see some challenges as well
 - Joe Thompson mentioned that media specialists in Harford are starting to work with EveryLibrary
 - o Joe suggests we have someone scheduled to go to each of those meetings to articulate the importance of libraries, information access, and freedom to read. We could enlist people from MLA, CML, MASL, and other similar agencies
 - o Could there be a monthly check in meeting with MASL president?
 - o Josh has changed all documents with officer contact info to be behind the login wall. The org chart is still there, but it has a generic MLA email
 - o Andrea Boothby-Rice presented at the Montgomery County Library Board meeting recently about how boards can be advocates for libraries during this time
- Unionization
 - o Josh would like to avoid this being discussed with MLA's Leg Panel
 - Joe agrees that this would count as a local library issue that we don't touch unless asked
 - Anita mentioned that it doesn't necessarily line up with our strategic plan to be involved in these conversations, either

President's Report

Tif Sutherland

- The EDI panel met yesterday. Ashley Teagle had recently talked with an academic librarian about the possibility of MLA creating an Open Access Journal for academic librarians to publish content.
 - o This would be another way for academic librarians to meet tenure at their place of work
- Tif met with Nicole who petitioned for the Sustainability Interest Group to let her know that we are pausing on adding new units for now while we do an audit
 - o ALA just started a round table on this topic, which is similar to our interest groups
 - o The group discussed the audit and any thoughts we all have on how units should function. Ideas included
 - Looking to ALA to better mirror their unit model
 - Making interest groups more under a division for guidance and supervision
 - Avoiding over taxing any one leader by keeping the interest groups separate
 - Finding ways to maintain the interest in those leading interest groups

President Elect

Teonja Jung

- Teonja will be writing an article for the CRAB to discuss her career path and how MLA has helped her throughout
 - o Anita suggested we consider recommending support staff for the "member highlight" portion of the CRAB, building off of what Teonja is writing about
- The first meeting for the emerging adults interest group was great. There was a lot of enthusiasm with 14 people in attendance. Teonja plans to continue to attend.

Executive Director's Report**Josh Stone**

- Josh and Joe attended the ALA chapter meeting. ALA is undergoing some changes at the executive director level.
- The Manager's Academy kicked off yesterday, October 17. The first cohort has 32 people.
- He attended the MSLA open house and MAPLA
- Josh is on an Advocacy Advisory Board for the iSchool in Florida. He will be coming back with more ideas for us to collaborate with our local iSchools.

ALA Councilor's Report**Joe Thompson**

- Registration for ALA LibLearnX has opened – it's in Baltimore!
 - o Josh has not received a code yet from ALA for MLA members to receive discounts

Past President's Report**Nay Keppler**

- Nay presented virtually at Montgomery County Public Library's staff day
- Nay is testing a Racial Equity Module by the National Library of Medicine for library staff
- Nay is working with Dr. Clark from HCLS on the LGBTQ interest group
 - o The next meeting is the 30th

Conference Director**Anita Crawford**

- We are moving forward with Hilton Carter as a keynote speaker
- Jennie Pu is our other possible keynote speaker. She is the director of Hoboken County Public Library, which was designated a book sanctuary
- They are working on the website to make it more dynamic. It will take over the job of the brochure that has been sent out in the past
- The site will also have a conference-at-a-glance to help in asking for conferences to attend
- They plan to adjust the opening reception (or look for other opportunities) to have more involvement from the various divisions so people can ask more how to get involved. The goal is to find more ways to engage with newer MLA members
- There will be a pre-conference before the pre-conference that will likely be geared toward school librarianship
- Michael Gannon will continue to do pub trivia and will have a signed photo for the silent auction
- October 25th is a hard end date for accepting conference session proposals
- Rebekkah Smith Aldrich is the Delaware keynote speaker

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 2:56pm