

Maryland Library Association
Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting
January 21, 2009
MLA Office

Attendance: Darrell Batson, Margaret Carty, Elizabeth Cromwell, Jim DeArme y, Denise Davis, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Marion Francis, Todd Krueger, Mary Mannix, Monica McAbee, Sandra Meyers, Dana Newman, Elizabeth Pratt, Stuart Ragland, Julie Ranelli, Lucy Holman Rector, Ruth Schaefer, Donna Sebly, Mary Somers, Susan Waxter, Mary C. Wilson, Dianne Whitaker, Ada Woods,

Excused Absences: Mary Baykan, Linda Frydl, Patty MacDonald, Sydney McCoy, Simmona Simmons, Pamela Taylor

Absent: Kay Bowman, Ashley Dahlen, Stefan Freed, Bob Kuntz, Daria Parry, Andrea Shore, Meredith Solomon, Pat Turkos, Carole Wade, Lynn Wheeler, Annie Young

Call to Order: Darrell Batson called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Changes to the Agenda (Move item from Consent Agenda for discussion): Lucy Holman Rector asked that one item be moved to the Consent Agenda for discussion: the Awards Committee report.

Approval of the Consent Agenda Items: Julie Ranelli moved that the Consent Agenda be approved as changed. Elizabeth Cromwell seconded the motion. The Consent Agenda as changed was approved unanimously.

Minutes from November 19, 2008: Ada Woods requested that her name be moved from Attendance to Excused Absences. Monica McAbee moved that the 19 November 2008 minutes be approved with the one correction. Marion Francis seconded the motion. The minutes, with the correction, were approved by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Waxter reported that the MLA investments are doing a bit better; that although some income is down, programming revenue has increased; and that overall, the Net Income is up. A brief discussion of the reduced membership revenue followed.

Susan also noted the auditor's report and the IRS tax forms (handouts available). Members reviewed the two documents. These two items had been under Old Business, but were moved to the Treasurer's Report because Susan was leaving early.

President's Report: Darrell discussed the economic difficulties and legislative issues that are of primary importance to MLA members. He invited Denise Davis to report further on legislative issues.

Denise reported that the Legislative Panel will identify issues of importance to public libraries. The panel is especially aware of the budget/economic issues as they impact

pensions. She reminded members that February 4, 2009, is Maryland Library Day in Annapolis. Our duty as board members is to keep focused on legislative issues and to contact legislators with our concerns. She identified other issues on state and national levels. Finally, she noted that ALA has met with the Obama transition team to see if libraries can be included in the Stimulus Package in the economy.

Darrell noted that Jim Fish and he will be attending the ALA Midwinter Conference. He also pointed out that LaTanya West has resigned as President of LMD and has been replaced by Dianne Whitaker.

Darrell invited Jim Fish, Vice President, to report. Jim stated that he will be sending out an email shortly to all board members, asking for suggestions for priorities for MLA in the year of his upcoming term as President. He is looking for systems thinking in the search for realistic issues for MLA. He urged board members to discuss this with their divisions, committees, and panels for further input and to reply to him by March 1, 2009.

Darrell invited Marion Francis, Immediate Past President, to report. Marion's major concern is the impact of budget cuts on librarians' pensions. A brief discussion followed.

Finally, Darrell congratulated board members for their programs' success and urged members to continue their efforts to maintain the high quality of programming for which MLA is so noted.

Conference Director's Report: Elizabeth Cromwell reported that the conference programs are in place. She will be meeting with her committee today. The conference is in good shape, with Barnes and Noble as the bookseller this year. Although she has some attendance concerns, she did note that a hotly competitive miniature golf tournament should be a draw.

Executive Director's Report: Margaret Carty urged board members to review the Educational Programs Revenue and Expense Comparison document (handout included), for divisions to compare various programs that have been particularly successful. She also noted the Web report (handout included), and advised board members to keep their Web pages up-to-date.

Other activities included a meeting she attended in Ocean City for the conference, to firm up logistical details. She attended a MAPLA meeting, as well as a MANO Legislative Preview meeting. She also went to a Maryland State Teachers Association open house, during which Governor O'Malley made an appearance. Finally, she met with Peter Franchot, Maryland State Comptroller, to discuss library funding.

Margaret reminded members that February 4, 2009, is Legislative Day in Annapolis. Other news includes the opening of two new libraries in Maryland, one in Finksburg and the other in Taneytown. She will be attending the upcoming CML meeting. Finally, Margaret noted that ALA sent out an email urging readers to take a look at MLA's talking points for legislative issues on Capwiz as an example of effective advocacy.

Consent Agenda Items for Discussion: Lucy Holman Rector announced the MLA Award winners to the membership as stated in her report.

Old Business:

- **CSD-Blue Crab Award:** Darrell reported that the MLA Steering Committee had discussed CSD's request for MLA to assume the \$1,000 as a line item to CSD's programming budget and that the Steering Committee had recommended that the MLA Executive Board approve this. Elizabeth Cromwell moved that the Executive Board approve the CSD request. Marion Francis seconded the motion. Unanimous approval followed.
- **Audit and IRS 990 Review:** This item of Old Business was discussed under the Treasurer's Report.

New Business: Natalie Edington gave a demonstration of Capwiz and how it can be used by members for library advocacy.

Adjournment: Jim Fish moved that the meeting be adjourned. Natalie Edington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on March 18, 2009.

Respectfully submitted by Donna L. Sebly, Secretary.