

Maryland Library Association
Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting
September 17, 2008
MLA Office

Attendance: Craig Abresch, Darrell Batson, Kay Bowman, Margaret Carty, Elizabeth Cromwell, Denise Davis, Jim DeArme, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Marion Francis, Linda Frydl, Tod Krueger, Monica McAbee, Sandra Meyers, Irva Nachlas-Gabin, Dana Newman, Daria Parry, Elizabeth Pratt, Stuart Ragland, Ruth Schaefer, Donna Seibly, Andrea Shore, Mary Somers, Pat Turkos, Susan Waxter, Mary Wilson, Annie Young.
Guest: Jim Klima.

Excused Absences: Mary Baykan, Derek Buker, Ashley Dahlen, Stefan Freed, Patty MacDonald, Mary Mannix, Sydney McCoy, Lucy Holman Rector, Simmona Simmons, Meredith Solomon, Pamela Taylor, Carole Wade, LaTanya West, Lynn Wheeler, and Ada Woods.

Call to Order: Darrell Batson, President of MLA, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., with words of welcome to all.

Introduction of New Members: Darrell introduced two new members of the Executive Board/Advisory Council, Linda Frydl of RAIG and Todd Krueger, chairperson of the Maryland Author Award Committee.

Changes to the Agenda (Move item from Consent Agenda for discussion): There were no changes to the agenda.

Approval of Consent Agenda Items: The Consent Agenda Items were approved unanimously, with no changes.

Guest discussion: Jim Klima, registered investment advisor for MLA, gave a brief report on the state of MLA's investments, providing Board members with a Performance Summary. So far, MLA's investments are down only 3%.

Minutes from July 16: The July 16 minutes had one addition – Natalie Edington was added to "Excused Absences." Marion Francis moved to approve the minutes with the one addition. Jim Fish seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Waxter handed out a Treasurer's Report and explained its highlights. Dues are up; program income is down, but overall, the budget looks good. Further, the Budget and Finance Committee is up and running. Susan will meet with the auditor on Sept. 30.

President's Report: Darrell Batson noted that MLA is in a kickoff time, just beginning its year. He reviewed the MACo conference experience. He reminded MLA members that the financial situation is not cheerful, with cuts at DLDS, which may impact the MLA Conference. He urged members to be careful with expenses.

Denise Davis, legislative liaison, added a brief report on the state of libraries throughout the state. She stressed that she will work to preserve library funding on a state level. Marion Francis spoke of possible furloughs in some counties due to budget constraints. Darrell urged MLA members to use their unit reports to draw attention to MLA's good work.

Conference Director's Report: Elizabeth Cromwell reported that her committee would be meeting this very afternoon. While finances may be tight, she stressed that MLA will be creative in securing funds for the conference. She is currently working on an outreach project to library schools for sponsorships of the conference.

Executive Director's Report: Margaret Carty brought board members up to date on several items:

- She noted the Annual Review of Performance of the Board as a Group report, copies of which were available on the side table.
- Unit Work Plans are complete and have been compiled for MLA board members.
- The Web report is also available, and MLA members may want to look closely at this.
- She attended the Citizens for Maryland Library (CML) board meeting. The CML has committed to helping with the design of the display for the MACo conference next year.
- Margaret urged members submitting unit reports to do so prior to the first of the month of the Executive Board meeting. This will give her time to compile the reports and send them to Board members. The next unit reports will be due then before November 1.
- She reported on the success of the *Lion King* excursion and added that both the Kennedy Center and Center Stage have approached MLA to discuss reduced prices for performances this season. Margaret passes around a season play list for the Kennedy Center.
- Margaret pointed out that the Baltimore Book Festival is fast upon us, and the volunteer schedule is not as robust as it needs to be. Anyone interested in working the festival should call the MLA office to sign up.
- Margaret has a busy schedule for October, with MAPLA on Oct. 2-3, the cruise to Bermuda on Oct. 4-9, a meeting with the Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) later in October, and the Pop!Tech conference on Oct. 22-26.

Old Business:

- Mileage reimbursement – Margaret pointed out that on August 20, the Steering Committee approved the mileage reimbursement rate to be raised to \$.50/mile.
- The Annual Board Review, as stated earlier in the meeting, has been completed.

New Business: The Work Plans 2008-2009 are complete and available for MLA board members. Elizabeth Pratt noted that the Legislative Panel has submitted a revised Work Plan for the year.

Adjournment: Darrell adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

The next Executive Board/Advisory Council meeting will be held on November 19, 2008.

Respectfully submitted by Donna L. Sebly, Secretary