

**Maryland Library Association**  
**Minutes**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2023**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

<https://marylandlibraries.zoom.us/j/93442067028>

**In Attendance:** Josh Stone (Executive Director), Monica McAbee (RAIG/IFP), Carl Olson (Treasurer), Ashley Teagle (EDI Panel), Tiffany Sutherland (LAIG), Kevin Jayce (TIG), Tamar Sarnoff (MSLA), Julie Fitzpatrick (Crab), Rachel Miller (LDD), Sharon Morris (BCMLA), Jennifer Jones (PSD), Sabine Simonson (OSIG), Natalie Edington (Leg Panel), Cathy Hollerbach (Awards), Kenneth Wayne Thompson (Vice President), Teresa Miller (LGBTQ+IG), Laura Bandoch (MIG), Chelsea Shockley (SSD), Kelsey Hughes (Conference), Summer Rosswog (CSD), Lisa Kenyon (Author Award)

**Excused Absence:**

**Call to Order and Welcome**

**Nay Keppler**

**Changes to the Agenda**

- No changes to the agenda

**November Minutes Approved via Email Vote**

**Conni Strittmatter**

- Approved and posted

**Treasurer's Report**

**Carl Olson**

**Balance Sheet**

- Bank balances reached \$106,968.43, down about 32.55% from this time last year
- Accounts receivable is largely unchanged
- Long term reserves came in at \$127,954.04, down about 8%
- Total current assets are at \$238, 617.47, down about 21% from last year
- Retained earnings of \$262,409.28, up just over 4% reflecting careful expenditures
- Total liabilities and equity balances in at \$238,617.47

**Budget vs. Actuals**

- Annual conference income is currently at \$46,445, reaching 22.12% of the budget
- Fundraising income is holding at \$692
- Jobline income of \$2,525 is at 84.17% of the budget
- Membership dues is at \$46,090, or 54.22% of the budget. Affiliate memberships are just starting to roll in
- Group income is at \$12,091.25, breaking just over 50% of the annual budget
- Gross profit is in at \$112,334.47
- Annual conference expenditures is at \$1,196.59, just under 1% of what we anticipate
- Bank and credit card fees are \$3,369.13, just over 42% of the annual goal

- Committee expense makes the board at \$1,024.09. That comes in just over 20% of the budget
- Scholarships are in at \$1,250
- Office expenses are in at \$11,384.50, or 69% of the budget
- Personnel expenses stand at \$97,826.78, or 57.5% of the budget
- Program expenses are at \$1,710, coming in at 42.75% of its budget
- Total expenses are \$137,791.06, or 33.88%
- Net income is currently a loss of \$23,791.10. It is well within our power to make this up by the end of the year

### Questions & Comments

- Kenneth Wayne moves to approve the budget for audit. Ashley Teagle seconds. All in favor, no opposed

### Old Business

#### 1. Affiliate Membership

- The vote for the affiliate membership was passed by membership
- There were a couple of hiccups with the membership database that prevented MLA from moving existing members to new affiliate membership without losing data
- Earlier this week, Josh sent out details to MAPLA and will soon will send to the academic libraries as well to remind them there is still plenty of time to sign up for the affiliate membership and still get the member rate for the conference. MLA will invoice the system signing up and as long as they have the invoice paid by June 15<sup>th</sup>, the organization will be able to get member discounts
- Counties already signed up for affiliate membership – Baltimore County, Carroll County, St. Mary's County, Queen Anne's County, and Montgomery County.
- These counties will bring in over \$36,000 in membership dues
- MSLA will also sign up for an affiliate membership

#### 2. MLLI

- MLLI will not happen this year. The committee is looking at the whole structure and goals for the program and build it from the ground up
- Based on what they hope to accomplish, MLLI will come back in 2025
- The team has about nine people working on it
- Sonia Alcantara-Antoine from Baltimore County Public Library has joined the team, who is the incoming president of the Public Library Association
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#### 3. BCALA Renewal

- We renewed the organizational membership with the Black Caucus of the American Library Association

### New Business

#### 1. Centennial

- Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Michael Busch branch of AACPL will be the big MLA Centennial bash. Expect a save-the-date soon. The theme will be a carnival
- This summer, there will be a few social events. Events being considered are a diner fundraiser and bowling.
- We're also hoping to do a tattoo fundraiser in mid to late summer. We will find a tattoo shop that will create a few literary flash pieces people can choose from
- We will bring prints of old MLA marketing materials to conference

## **2. MLA Merch**

- i. Busy Beaver Buttons based out of Chicago does buttons and pins we can give out and/or sell
- ii. We are considering doing centennial themed tote bags to sell at the centennial bash
- iii. Josh is looking at print on demand for merch

## **3. Managers Academy/Summit**

- i. Josh has been in talks with the state library to start something called the Manager's Academy
- ii. This program could launch in October
- iii. This month, MLSA is hosting a Manager's Summit to discuss issues in management/middle management
- iv. In July, MLA will host a similar summit to introduce the Manager's Academy
- v. This go round will focus on public libraries due to the specialization of the facilitator
- vi. Costs are coming
- vii. The program will include a 1 or 2 day in person session, a few zoom sessions, then in person closing
- viii. The facilitator is Jennifer Pratt, who use to be the executive director of SEFLN

## **4. Elections**

- i. Elections opened March 6<sup>th</sup>. We already have a lot of votes in
- ii. Elections will close at the end of this month
- iii. Nay will send out a reminder shortly
- iv. Thank you to everyone on the nomination team and Ryan O'Grady for all the work they did on getting nominations and information in to Josh

### **President's Report**

#### **Nay Keppler**

- Nay just attended the LATI graduation. The MLA president or vice president attends to discuss what MLA can do for the new LATI graduates
- Legislative day in Annapolis included a declaration on the senate floor. Nay represented the docket of legislation MLA and Maryland Libraries are supporting. The Legislative Panel does a great job of preparing staff for this day
- MLA signed onto the Freedom to Read Foundation. Nay met with the IFP and EDI to discuss additional things MLA can do on the topic of freedom to read and banned books
- Cathy and Nay have been contacting the award winners.
- Be sure to register for the futures conference!

### **Vice President/President Elect's Report**

#### **KennethWayne Thompson**

- KennethWayne is working on sponsorship and fundraising for the centennial bash. He is working on talking to some folks about giving sizeable donations to the centennial and MLA in general

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### **Josh Stone**

- See above in New and Old business for the Executive Director's report

### **ALA Councilor's Report**

#### **David Dahl**

- David Dahl was unable to attend this meeting

## Legislative Update

Natalie Edington

- On the state level, nothing has been fully passed yet, but some we're following have been passed in the house or the senate.
- Federally, please send "dear appropriator" letters as per Natalie's recent email. The ask is for the library services and technology act and the innovative approaches to literacy.

## Conference Director's Report

Kelsey Hughes

- There are less than two months left until the conference
- Conference orientation will be May 2<sup>nd</sup> ahead of the conference, virtually. This helps people know what to expect when they get to conference
- The team is working on slide templates for presenters and streamlining session evaluations
- Early bird registration closes on May 21<sup>st</sup>
- As of today, there are 184 people registered for the conference
- We will not have COVID requirements from last year
- Silent Auction has gotten a lot of higher cost baskets. They will be putting a call out for lower cost baskets soon.

## Unit Reports

- Tiffany Sutherland (LAIG) – LAIG helped prep for Maryland Library Legislative day. Tiffany is looking for ideas for training, something new and not what we've done before.
- Ashley Teagle (EDI Panel) – MAPLA will discuss the Illinois legislation hoping to prevent book bannings in April. EDI Panel is working on a disabilities centered program. They have submitted paperwork to PDP for a program in April. Ashley hopes to have an EDI statement for MLA for the executive board to look at during the next meeting. They are also working on MLA event planning norms and an accessibility check list
- Monica McAbee (RAIG/IFP) – They are on track for the pre-conference at MLA Annual. RAIG has two conference programs on track as well. There is also a standalone virtual program in late April on Readers Advisory around trending genres – eco-fiction, hope punk, modern gothic, quozies (queer cozy mysteries) - [https://www.mdlib.org/ev\\_calendar\\_day.asp?date=4%2F27%2F23&eventid=171](https://www.mdlib.org/ev_calendar_day.asp?date=4%2F27%2F23&eventid=171)
- Tamar Sarnoff (MSLA) – MSLA will join MLA as an affiliate member. Laura Hicks is joining MSLA from MSDE as the new data coordinator. MSLA has secured an increase of over 7% to their overall budget from IMLS. Please attend the futures conference at the maritime center April 18 and 19. Carrie Sanders is working on programs on accessibility and inclusion along with Lashawn Myles at LBPD. Look out for additional virtual sessions coming from MSLA in the coming months
- Sharon Morris (BCMLA) – they have committed to serve as project advisors on phase two of a grant called "Serving Communities: Sustainable, Inclusion-centered Library Leadership Practices." The grant is being written by Cornerstones of Science via Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century. BCMLA will participate in project training to serve as a dialogue facilitator and contribute revisions to the content from phase 1. Their work may culminate in an in-person meeting at MLA Annual 2024.
- Jennifer Jones (PSD/MAPIG) – The Social Media trends program went well – 24 registered and 17 attended. PSD has nine conference programs. They are planning an unconference on emerging adults in September, 2023. MAPIG has a meeting coming up April 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Please let Jennifer know if you notice anything strange on the conference site – she is leading the team working on it.
- Chelsea Shockley (SSD) – SSD has welcomed three new members – Lisa Jones, Tracy Montgomery, and Shirley Mason. SSD is working on ways to record meetings or find other ways to increase accessibility to the content for staff who can't make it.
- Kevin Jayce (TIG) – Jake has been working on the Kids Are Customers, Too conference with CSD. Kevin and Jake are working on passing the TIG mantle onto Tori George from Calvert and Jackie Williams from Washington County. TIG has increased the program sponsorships at MLA from one last year to four this year.

- Summer Rosswog (CSD) – Kids Are Customers, Too is now full with 115 registrations. There is a waitlist in case of cancelations. Jamie Campbell Naidoo will be coming to discuss LGBTQIA+ collections and services for families during this time. There are three breakout sessions for the younger ages, and three for tween/teen ages. This will be at the Miller branch of Howard County. The Blue Crab Awards will be announced at Kids Are Customers as well. CSD is now asking potential presenters to give them an overview of the presentation at a meeting, which allows for CSD to ensure it is quality and EDI centered.
- Cathy Hollerbach (Awards) – They are in the process of reaching out to everyone to make sure they know they won. Cathy already has people reaching out about being involved in the committee for next year. She has submitted an article to the Crab for the spring discussing all the winners
- Rachel Miller (LDD) – Last week was the LDD bimonthly meeting. They discussed the book “Just Work” by Kim Scott. LDD will not meet in May due to conference. In July, LDD will have joint discussions with the EDI panel. They will be looking at the book “Professional Troublemaker” by Luvvie Ajayi Jones
- Teresa Miller (LGBTQ+IG) – They are meeting every two months. The next topic will be about gender and customer service. Conference sessions are all set. They are working on a basket for the silent auction as well as a bookmark/craft table.
- Julie Fitzpatrick (Crab) – The next issue’s draft is due on Monday. The library volunteer award winners will each have a column highlighting them. The IFP has submitted two columns. Kelsey Hughes is doing a top-10 things to look forward to at conference.
- Sabine Simonson (OSIG) – OSIG is cosponsoring one program on book festivals and author events. There are a lot of members who sign up for MLA and suggest interest in OSIG, but then never show up to meetings. They are considering some in person meetings to tour some outreach vehicles at various systems. Social media is going well.
- Laura Bandoch (MIG) – MIG’s third meeting discussed Polaris Communities, discovery layers, packaging DVDs, and more. The group has had a lot of members float in and out. The agendas are topic driven based on what people need to discuss at that moment. Andy from Harford Community College discussed with the Maryland Inter Library Loan group – they hope to work with them. MIG has two conference sessions planned.
- Carl Olson (GIIG) – One of the GIIG conference speakers cancelled, but the co-speaker can still attend so the program will not need to be cancelled. GIIG will have their first ever virtual standalone program in April.
- Tracy Miller (FOLIG) - Met remotely in February via the MLA Zoom Account and discussed Economics. We talked about ideas for a Future Room at the MLA Conference in May. This would be an interactive, immersive experience where participants would imagine the role of libraries in alternate futures. One future would be very bright and rosy (a librarian has been elected president! There is so much money!) and one would be very dark (details here need to be worked out). We talked about the importance of having a dark scenario that still inspires thought and not hopelessness! Tracy is working on crafting scenarios which she will share with the group for feedback. The meeting for March was cancelled. FoLIG is using MLA Connect to share articles about futuring topics regularly, and share meeting announcement, agendas, and minutes. Sign up for the Library Futures Conference happening April 18 & 19! It’s going to be so cool! <https://sites.google.com/view/futures-conference/schedule/schedule>.  
Sponsoring 3 Programs at the annual conference:
  - Future of Ebooks (co-sponsored with Materials Interest Group)
  - Kill the Library preconference
  - Tech Playground in the vendor area

## Adjournment

- Jennifer Jones motions to adjourn. Summer Rosswog seconds.
- All in favor