

Maryland Library Association  
Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2019 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**In Attendance**

Lisa R. Kenyon, Maryland Author Award; Sabine Simonson, OSIG; Margaret Carty, MLA; Joseph Thompson, Past President; Conni Strittmatter, FoLIG; Melissa Gotsch, LAIG; Kimberly Miller, ACRL; Carl P. Olson, Treasurer & GIIG; Kirsten Bodvin, CSD; Amy Moser, SSD; David Dahl, ALA Councilor; Meg Faller, RAIG; Lisa Swain, MAPIG; Natalie Edington, Legislative Panel; Tyler Wolfe, Conference Co-Chair; Sara Brown, IFP; Kelsey Hughes, TIG; Bryan Hissong, LLTC & MLLI; Denise Davis, Nominations & Elections Chair

**Online**

Megan Sutherland, LAIG; Pam Taylor, PSD; Janet Salazar, Fundraising Committee; Carrie Raines, Marketing Committee

**Excused Absences**

Naomi Keppler, Conference Chair & LDD; Andrea Berstler, President; Mary Anne Bowman, Secretary & Bylaws; Martha Zimmerman, PDP; Ryan O'Grady, Technology Committee; Carly Reighard, MIG; Susan Grant, TSIG

**Call to Order**

Joe Thompson

- 10:08am

**Changes to the Agenda**

- Elizabeth Howe is not in attendance, we will postpone the agenda items about archives.
- David Dahl moves to approve the agenda. Amy Moser seconds. Agenda is approved with this amendment.

**Minutes May 15, 2019**

Mary Anne Bowman (5 min)

- Kristen Bodvin moves to approve the minutes. Carl Olson seconds. All approve.

**Treasurer's Report**

Carl Olson (5 min)

- FY19-20 budget was unanimously approved via email by the FY18-19 Executive Board members. This was reported at the June Steering Committee meeting.
- Not all conference expenses have been entered yet. Current assets are up slightly from last year. Liabilities are slightly higher from last year, but balance out. Annual conference income was 100% higher from last year. Fundraising was 60% less. Membership dues are about 7% up from last year.
- Committee expenses were below last year. Fundraising expenses were considerably higher. Personnel expenses were right around what was budgeted. Office expenses were low what was estimated - \$22,000 estimated, came in at just under \$13,000.
- Overall, income was about 10% higher than budgeted.
- Discussion about fundraising expenses being higher but income being lower than expected. Margaret does not predict a problem with this because fundraising goes up and down every year.

- Margaret discussed the fundraising cruise that will contribute to a higher income this coming year. Rooms are selling out rapidly. You need to send in a deposit of \$450. Most of the rooms left are balcony rooms. The entire trip is \$2,650.
- Motion to approve the financial report, subject to audit – Amy Moser moves, Kimberly Miller seconds. All approve.

#### **Unfinished Business**

- No unfinished business.

#### **New Business**

- No new business

#### **President's Report**

Andrea Berstler (5 min)

- Andrea was absent from today's meeting. Joe Thompson updated us that Andrea has been working to have someone in every needed leadership role in committees and other groups.

#### **Vice President/President Elect**

Morgan Miller (5 min)

- Morgan was absent from this meeting as well. She is excited to get started in this role.

#### **Executive Director**

Margaret Carty (5 min)

- Margaret attended MAPLA. Officials from the Governor's office attended to discuss Governor Hogan's new Read Across Maryland initiative. Many are already planning financial literacy programming to tie into both Read Across Maryland and Financial Literacy Month.
- She attended the Citizens for Maryland Libraries Board meeting, which is held quarterly.
- Margaret is currently working on the compilation of quarterly and unit reports, as well as the board evaluation from all the divisions, committees, and groups and will send those compilations out to us all once completed.
- Margaret reminded us of the importance of the board evaluation. They do look closely at the results and respond to any questions or concerns included in them.
- MLA's audit will be August 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Margaret will be attending MACO August 14<sup>th</sup>-August 16<sup>th</sup>. MLA has four booths together in the "Governor's Village." We always have a lot of technology there, which impresses the officials. Carroll County is bringing Pepper the robot. They have been training Pepper to recognize Governor Hogan's face so she can greet him when he comes by.

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

David Dahl (5 min)

- David explained what a councilor is for ALA. Each region or state has a chapter with ALA. The Councilor is the representative from that chapter that sits on ALA's board. They attend both conferences for face to face meetings and engage online via listservs. They discuss reports from various ALA committees, approve things from those committees, and discuss and approve resolutions for ALA from members and committees.
- David attended a chapter leader's forum while at ALA Annual. Virginia mentioned that they changed their membership model to focus on organizational membership. This membership type makes every person in the organization with that membership a member of that chapter.
- At the council meetings, there was a resolution put forward to take away Melvin Dewey's name from the ALA award named after him. This passed. Many were pleased with this passing.
- The ALA advocacy website is being continually revamped to include more tools and templates for systems to adopt however works best for them.

- There is a group in ALA called SCOE to determine how ALA's governance model can be redesigned to make it a more modern association for a modern profession. One of the possible changes would be to possibly eliminate the role of the council, which could be tricky because the council would have to vote on this measure two mid-winters in a row. The council would be replaced by a variety of assemblies that would not have any direct governance responsibility, but would be formed groups that could push or advocate for other governing groups of ALA to push things forward. It's not clear yet who would be open to be on these assemblies. They would have a direct line to the ALA executive board.
- Denise Davis asked if these changes would reduce a chapter's voice in ALA. She cited an occurrence in the past when a chapter felt they were not adequately at the table and have withdrawn from working closely with ALA. She feels it's important that through these changes, the new structure allows chapters to have a voice. David says the Public Policy and Advocacy Office makes a point to work closely with the chapters and systems within the chapters as they get involved to support local issues.

#### **Past President**

Joe Thompson (5 min)

- On behalf of Mary Anne Bowman (Chair of Planning) - please be sure to get your group's annual report to Mary Anne as soon as possible. Plans for the coming year are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. All forms you need are available on the MLA website under forms.
- ALA was great. Joe thanked everyone who volunteered to work at the booth – more than 30 MLA members worked at the booth.
- The Thursday evening social event was a great partnership with DC Library Association, DC Public Library, Delaware Library Association, and Virginia Library Association. Julius Jefferson, the incoming president of ALA, attended this event. He loved it and said he'd love to see this kind of social event happen before every midwinter and annual conference. Because this coming midwinter is in Philadelphia, MLA will be involved in the social event again.
- Joe and Andrea will also be going to MACO.
- Put October 26<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the Annual CML Conference. This will be held at the newly renovated Enoch Pratt Central Library and will have tours of the new space and excellent programming from Heidi Daniel, John Szabo, Siobhan Reardon, and Mary Baykan.

#### **Conference Director's Report**

Nay Keppler (5 min)

- Tyler Wolfe is filling in for Nay Keppler. At today's meeting, we are going to settle on a theme – either "The Future in Focus" (20/20) or "The Roaring 20's."
- The goal is to keep the success of last year rolling.
- Be sure to take care of your division's VPs. Their role on conference committee is a lot. While they are in charge of this role, it's important to work together on the tasks.

#### **Reports from Units**

Unit Leader (1 min)

- "Hey, just a minute"

Total = 15 min

- Joe explained that unit reports are due the first of the month of every executive board meeting. This segment called "Hey, just a minute" is meant for units to call out briefly something that you want everyone to be aware of, not to summarize your unit report.
- Kimberly Miller - ACRL Maryland is sponsoring a hike this Saturday at Patapsco State Park followed by lunch. Go to [mdlib.org](http://mdlib.org) for more information.
- Tyler Wolfe – Mentor Lib is live! It is a mentor directory for library staff in partnership with New Jersey. The goal right now is to get mentors signed up as much as possible now before it's promoted to potential mentees. Mentees can search by position, specialty, region, and more. They can select a mentor and reach out to the person to establish a potential mentoring relationship. There is no hard commitment when signing up to be a mentor – you can turn it off at any time.
- Carrie Raines – Marketing committee will be sending an email to the executive board to establish liaisons between marketing committee members and unit members.
- Pam Taylor – PSD has two reminders. September 26<sup>th</sup> - handling branch security issues, registration is open. September 12<sup>th</sup> is the next PSD meeting, followed by an LDD meeting. More information on [mdlib.org](http://mdlib.org).
- Sabine Simonson – Check out the MLA Outreach and PSD Facebook pages. They post many things relevant to all of us.
- Denise Davis – It's time to start thinking about recruiting for the upcoming elections. Please send nominations to Denise by September 1<sup>st</sup>. You need a nominee for Vice President/President Elect and Secretary. You need a minimum of one nominee per office. You need to send the person's name, contact information, and a statement of intent to run including why they want to serve in this role. Denise will be on vacation for a couple of weeks in August, so she will follow up by the end of August with anything sent while she's away.
- Joe Thompson – If you are with an interest group or committee, talk with Morgan Miller about who your leadership will be in the coming year. These are not elected positions, but will be decided by the current group leadership in conjunction with the incoming president.
- Lisa Swain – MaPIG also has a facebook page to follow. If you have any interest in grant writing and could do a workshop, let Lisa know.
- Carl Olson – Because 2020 is the census, he is looking to put together a session on how to get involved.

## **Training**

### **Archives**

Elizabeth Howe (10 min)

- Elizabeth could not make it to this meeting. We will table this training for another meeting.

### **Legislative Panel (Advocacy)**

Carrie Willson and

o Natalie Edington (20 min)

- Carrie Wilson is not in attendance.

- The legislative panel is an advisory panel for MLA. Their membership reflects a variety of librarian types – schools, academic, law, and public. There is also representation from the Intellectual Freedom Panel. The Legislative Panel also began LAIG for MLA. It's a subgroup of the Legislative Panel that focuses on building new advocates while the Legislative Panel focuses on what to advocate for.
- They do not get into hyper local issues, but will provide advice and guidance on how to handle it. The Panel focuses primarily on state and federal issues and follow ALA's lead. The majority of the work is focused in January-April during the legislative session in Maryland. They also coordinate Maryland's Library Legislative Day in February, as well as the National Library Legislative Day.
- They monitor legislation that has a potential impact on libraries and take action accordingly depending on whether we support it or don't. They will gather testimony when relevant. They use Engage, an online tool that ALA pays for and provides for each chapter. This tool makes it easy to contact lawmakers about advocacy related needs. It's a simple online form that will format the communication appropriately for you.
- They will advocate for funding – per capita increases and capital grants. They advocated for the Maryland State Library to be created in place of DLDS. They advocate for continuing funding for IMLS, LSTA, and Innovative Approaches to Literacy.
- The Legislative Panel is a team effort – make sure to act on the emails that are sent from Natalie about advocacy needs federally and in the state. We do have some supportive legislators but others that are more challenging. It's important not to give up on working with them. Stories about what happens in libraries can have a very strong impact in advocacy, often more than numbers.
- They encourage libraries to invite legislators and other elected officials and their aids to your library, even when you don't need to advocate for anything in particular. Building these relationships help when you do need to advocate for something important like IMLS funding. Read Across Maryland will be a great opportunity to do this.
- Joe Thompson added that Maryland Library Legislative Day ran very smoothly because of the Legislative Panel, who made sure we were all on the same page about what to advocate for.

### **Evaluation**

Andrea Berstler (5 min)

#### **Plus:**

- We worked well considering all the technical difficulties and absences.
- It felt very seamless for a new person

#### **Delta:**

- Maybe have a "tour" of this building at the July meetings since there will likely be new people attending.
- Make sure the login for technology is readily available so even with absences, we can operate properly.

### **Adjourn**

- Next meeting is September 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm.
- Amy Moser motions to adjourn, Kimberly Miller seconds.