

**Maryland Library Association**  
**Minutes**  
**Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 2022**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

**In Attendance:** Mary Anne Bowman (President); Carl Olson (Treasurer, GILG); Elizabeth Howe (Archives); Josh Stone (Executive Director); Tyler Wolfe (PDP); Lisa Kenyon (Author Awards); Jill Hutchison (CSD); Tracy Miller (FoLIG); Amy Meyers (Marketing); Megan Sutherland (Conference Director); David Dahl (ALA Councilor); Conni Strittmatter (Secretary); Kevin Jayce (TIG); Meg Faller (RAIG); Nay Keppler (Vice President/President Elect); Bryan Hissong (LLT); Lisa Swain (PSD, MAPIG); Teonja Jung (SSD); Teresa Miller (LGBTQ+ IG); Andrea Boothby Rice (IFP); Kelsey Hughes (Conference); Anita Crawford (LDD); Sabine Simonson (OSIG); Debby Bennett (Awards); Tamar Sarnoff (MSL)

**Excused Absence:** Andrea Berstler (Nominations, Leg Panel)

**Call to Order and Welcome**

**Mary Anne Bowman**

- Mary Anne Bowman called the meeting to order at 1:02pm

**Changes to the Agenda**

- David Dahl moves to approve the agenda
- Mary Anne seconds
- All in favor, motion passes

**Minutes January 19, 2021**

**Conni Strittmatter**

- Elizabeth Howe's name is missing from the attendance
- Mary Anne motions to approve the minutes with the above fix
- Nay Keppler seconds
- All approve, motion passes

**Treasurer's Report**

**Carl Olson**

**Balance Sheet**

- Total Bank Accounts was \$160,595.67, which is up almost 78% from this time last year
- Accounts receivable is at \$3,695
- Long-Term Reserves was \$141,694.72, up 6.08% from February 2021
- Total Current Assets, therefore, are at \$305,985.39, which is up almost 37% from last year
- Retained earnings were at \$252,120.31, up almost 12% from last year
- Total Equity was at \$305,986.10, which is a gain of almost 37% from last year

**Profit & Loss**

- Annual Conference Income stands at \$78,408.36, which is down slightly from this time the previous year, which was when we had just completed one online conference and wrapping up another
- Fundraising income was at \$1,761, up almost 43% from the previous year
- Membership dues stand at \$44,892, down just about 8.28% from the previous year
- Program group income stands at \$4,406.25, down almost 27% from the previous year
- Total Income and Gross Profit is at \$135,797.56
- Conference fees came in at \$3,298.95, 86.24% lower than last year
- Bank and Credit Card Fees are at \$2,745.65, 54% lower than last year
- Office Expenses were at \$9,105.84, up a bit over 10% from last year
- Personnel expenses came in at \$51,628, down about 32.17% from last year
- Net Income was at \$53,865.79, compared to a loss of \$1,788.55 last year

### **Budget vs. Actuals**

- Carl will send out the Budget vs Actuals shortly. We will do a vote over email.

### **Questions & Comments**

#### **Old Business**

##### **1. Elections/Board Nominations**

1. Josh sent out an email last week to let membership know the ballot is ready for elections
2. Please remember to vote soon!

##### **2. MLA Awards**

1. Kate picked up the awards earlier this week. This might be the last ones with the current MLA logo on them
2. Mary Anne and Josh will present the awards to winners at their workplace and celebrate with their coworkers. This will be content for social media as well
3. Some awards may still be presented at the conference, such as Distinguished Service which is being given to a Delegate and Wesley Wilson's Honorary Membership Award

##### **3. Black Caucus of MLA**

1. We got the approval from the head ALA office and sent the check for the affiliation fee
2. BCMLA is now the first caucus of MLA
3. BCMLA is planning a reception at the annual conference on the Wednesday evening, which will include speakers and refreshments

#### **New Business**

##### **1. ALA Annual Conference**

###### **a. DC Library Association**

- i. The board approved \$10,000 to go toward a Jason Reynolds event at the conference
- ii. Mary Anne and Josh learned that MLA will not be able to make a profit on this event, rather MLA would lose money
- iii. We have a space at the DC Public Library to host Jason Reynolds, but we cannot charge admissions to that unless we pay for that space. We would

have to charge close to \$60/ticket

- iv. We also cannot host a reception at the DC Public Library for free
- v. When looking over the contract, MLA would have to do a 50% deposit to cancel, which would be \$3,750
- vi. Somebody from DCLA signed the contract for both organizations, but MLA did not sign it. No attempt from DCLA was made to send the contract to MLA ahead of time or gain permission for DCLA to sign on MLA's behalf
- vii. We do still want to do something at ALA with Virginia and DC library associations, which would be a fundraising event. This could be a happy hour at a bar
- viii. The DCLA board is still interested in hosting Jason Reynolds, even if we back out, but it will likely drain their bank account
- ix. The two options we have are:
  - 1. We give \$3,750 as our part of the contract cancellation, which would be significantly less expensive than continuing with the event
  - 2. We follow our legal right to tell DCLA we will not pay because we never signed the contract
- x. Anita suggests there may not be so much ill will from DCLA since they are interested in continuing the program
- xi. Jill asks if there is an alternate venue that would make this viable as a fundraiser or at least help break even
  - 1. Mary Anne says we are running out of time to do so
  - 2. DCLA has been looking for a venue but has not found one yet to our knowledge
- xii. Tyler feels that, if they are moving forward and the contract is not being canceled, there is no reason for us to pay the cancellation fee
- xiii. Megan agrees that, if we pull out, we could still encourage MLA members to attend this and not schedule our fundraiser at the same time
  - 1. Mary Anne suggested we could purchase a block of tickets then post on Marylib to encourage sales
- xiv. Josh summarized the conversation: If DCLA continues with the event, we will not pay any fee and we will not be involved in the program. If they *do* cancel, we will pay our 50% of the cancellation fee
  - 1. Anita Crawford motions to approve
  - 2. Nay Keppler seconds
  - 3. All in favor, none opposed, motion passes

**b. Local Planning/Discounts/Booth**

- i. MLA Members get \$50 off registration
- ii. MLA could have a booth, but would need volunteers
  - 1. Nay worked the booth in the past. She signed up via a sign up genius. Volunteers got a free vendor pass. Talked with lots of people from other associations, but nobody signed up for MLA
  - 2. Sabine felt it was great networking
  - 3. Teonja has had a few people asking if MLA would have a booth this year
  - 4. Anita suggests giving away registration to an MLA training and/or a membership

- a. This could encourage some from DC to explore MLA membership

## **2. IFP Request for Support**

- a. On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the FCPL librarian for the Frederick County Correction Center was barred from entering the building and was told he had brought in contraband books. He is still employed but has been moved to another location in Frederick County Public Library. James Kelly (FCPL) is having conversations with the sheriff's department, with whom they've had an MOU since 1980. They had been told they could appeal the process originally – FCPL would like to maintain good relationship with the sheriff's department.
  - i. Anita asks if we should keep this confidential, needs to know basis, to prevent negative press which could harm the attempt to keep a good relationship between the two entities. Andrea Boothby Rice agrees
  - ii. Mary Anne reminds all that, based on the Maryland State Library board meeting, there are a lot of materials challenges occurring throughout Maryland

### **President's Report**

**Mary Anne Bowman**

- Mary Anne attended the Maryland State Library board meeting on Monday and LATI graduation this morning
- The last month has been focused on the above topics

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

**Nay Keppler**

- The first centennial planning meeting is tomorrow at 2pm
- Attended Legislative Panel earlier this month
- Josh and Nay met with Amy about marketing and the Canva membership
- Nay has been working on appointments for next year
- Nay is beginning to plan Leadership Day, which may look a bit different this year

### **Executive Director**

**Josh Stone**

- The eBook legislation did not pass. Josh, Michael Blackwell, and Joe Thompson met with some lawmakers in DC. Hoyer's office seemed very interested in this topic, which would help move to a federal approach rather than a state by state approach on this topic.
- Josh, Nini, and Bryan met to plan MLLI. Bryan will be stepping down from that role and Josh and Nini will be looking at revising that training in the future
- Josh is also looking at bringing a new leadership training in from his past role
- We currently have 370 registrations for the MLA conference – early bird registration ended yesterday
- He is working on an MOU with DLA to formalize our joint conference
- Josh spoke at one of Ryan O'Grady's classes at University of Maryland and talked about student memberships

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

**David Dahl**

- Council had a meeting recently to wrap up topics they didn't get to at the January meetings
- The resolution this board voted to sign about freedom of information and book challenges passed, MLA is an official endorser
- They continued discussion on TAG (Forward Together; SCOE)

- Council would discuss matters, but would not be the policy making, voting members of the board for ALA (which would now be a much smaller group)
- The goal of this is to make a more agile ALA
- This afternoon, there will be a legislative update from ALA
- Tomorrow, there is a virtual ALA membership meeting. There is a resolution submitted for ALA support for canceling student loan debt.
- Council will be meeting in a hybrid format at ALA Annual
- MLA22 is the discount code for ALA registration for Maryland library staff, which will get them \$50 off
- In the past, we have had an ALA booth at the MLA/DLA conference along with complimentary materials. Megan believes we should have room for it

### **Legislative Update**

**Andrea Berstler**

- Andrea could not attend the meeting, but sent the following update:
  - You can share that overall we have had a successful legislative session to date, including unanimous support for our funding legislation in the House. There are 2 pieces of legislation we are still watching to see how they do in committee and we are working with our contacts in the House and Senate to submit a request to the Governor's supplemental budget. More information will be shared with the MAPLA/Marylib listservs as it becomes available.

### **Past President**

**Morgan Miller**

- Morgan could not attend the meeting

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

**Megan Sutherland**

- Registration looks good so far, which should meet our hotel room obligations
- Megan encourages people to sign up to volunteer at the conference - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4ea8a72ba6fe3-mladla3>
- Some units are looking for room hosts as well. Megan will send the list of needs
- MLA/DLA has a website, on which you can build your own schedule or add your slides as a presenter
- Conference orientation will be virtual this year, which will prepare new attendees to better prepare for their conference experience

### **Unit Leader Reports**

**Unit Leaders**

- Tyler Wolfe (PDP) – PDP gave out the winter grants. Programs are coming through, though some have included some last minute changes. Kids Are Customers will be split up into a series this year rather than a one day event.
- Andrea Boothby Rice (IFP) – There is a virtual program on April 27<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Joann Gavin
- Sabine Simonson (OSIG) - OSIG is co-hosting 3 programs at the conference. Like us on Facebook and share the posts! Please.
- Lisa Swain (PSD) – PSD has been active over the last several months with “pick your own platform” programs. They have had somewhat low attendance. March 31<sup>st</sup> will be the next one. There are about 10 programs for the conference sponsored by PSD. We're also settling details for a “debrief happy hour” after Thursday's conference schedule ends
- Jill Hutchison (CSD) – CSD hosted the Spring edition of the Black Eyed Susan Tapestry, which is now twice/year. This is a half day virtual event, which has made it significantly more accessible. The next one will be in October – they are working the program approval form now. Monthly meetings

continue virtually, though the attendance has started to dip down to pre-pandemic levels. They are still working on the logistics and scheduling for the Kids Are Customer series, which will take place in Spring into the Summer, with a break for MLA Annual. There may be a discount for people who register for all sessions.

- Carl Olson (GIIG) - GIIG has two programs wrapping up the final forms. I will have the Budget vs. Actuals report recovered and on its way for a vote by the board before COB tomorrow.
- Teonja Jung (SSD) – They are working on a virtual grant program for June. There will be two programs at MLA Annual – Unconventional Partnerships on Thursday, and Let’s Talk About Stuff on Friday
- Anita Crawford (Membership; LDD) – Membership is at a slight standstill while Anita and Josh work on the logistics for the recommendations the team made for membership structure. Leadership Development Division had their meeting last Thursday to discuss the concept of Servant Leadership. The next book LDD will discuss is Feelings: A Story in Seasons by Manjit Thapp
- Tamar Sarnoff (MSL) – they sent out the professional development award in one lump sum to libraries to make it easier for them to use. Tamar will discuss at ALA how we’ve used the ARPA funding in Maryland. LBPH and MSL have had discussions with the post office about materials delivery time to customers who are blind. MSL is excited about new leadership training opportunities Josh has been discussion. MSL had administered a tuition reimbursement survey to find how to better help library staff regardless of their educational credentials. There is a LATI oversite committee meeting tomorrow, which is also a space this conversation will take place. MSL has developed a relationship with the Maryland State Fair and the Aquarium to help replace the loss of the Orioles partnership for summer reading this year. MSL is working on addressing materials and services challenges. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, Deborah Caldwell Stone will be a part of an all day summit on materials and services challenges and there will soon be a libguide on this topic.
- Elizabeth Howe (Archives) – Because of the centennial anniversary, there has been more interest in the archives. She will try to attend the centennial meeting tomorrow
- Debby Bennett (Awards) – This is Debby’s last official year as the Awards Committee Chair. Nay has asked two committee members to co-chair. Debby and Josh will be working on setting up procedures and documents for them so it’s easy for a new person to take over.
- Lisa Kenyon (Author Award) – The committee is ready to go for this year. They are also working on getting ready for next year by getting children’s librarians to make lists for possible titles
- Bryan Hissong (LLT) – In January, LLT started Leading Everyone to Everyone Leads to train people to facilitate Everyone Leads. There will be a Service Design follow up in September and October for those who attended last October’s service design training
- Amy Miller Meyers (Marketing) – Marketing has been looking at starting a Canva account for the board and others who may need to use it for MLA purposes. They determined it may not work out the way they originally hoped. Josh is looking at how to expand access to a Canva account to a larger group of people. Marketing is finalizing the excellence in marketing award as well as their MLA annual program.
- Tracy Miller (FoLIG) – They met at the beginning of March to discuss technology, government, economics, and labor. They have two programs happening with guest speakers coming in.
- Meg Faller (RAIG) – You can access RAIG’s book reviews through a regular segment in the CRAB every month, as well as through Instagram. They partnered with TIG to develop posts. RAIG just completed their standalone training for the year this week called A Voice for Everyone – a discussion about disability representation.
- Kevin Jayce (TIG) – TIG has been working on creating content for the RAIG Instagram, which has been a great way for new members to find a way to participate. Jake Ciarapica and Kevin are

planning their next meeting to be about advocacy for teens in collaboration with the Library Advocacy Interest Group

- Teresa Miller (LGBTQ+ IG) – They are working on developing some tools to evaluate LGBTQ+ services for libraries to use. The next meeting is coming up at the end of the month

### **Adjourn**

- Conni Strittmatter motions to adjourn
- Tyler Wolfe seconds
- Meeting is adjourned at 2:38pm