MLA-Support Staff Division
Minutes of 12/3/2020 zoom meeting

In attendance: Moneik Frazier, Maria Jacob, Gabriel Jones, Teonja Jung (VP/President-Elect), Nicole McLain, Amy Moser, Sharon Proakis, Lou Sica (Secretary), Robin Soma-Dudley (President)

Guests: Beth Cartier (MLA-Professional Development Panel), Georgeanne Montanari (recently added to SSD email list)

Introductions

- The SSD members in attendance introduced themselves and we met Georgeanne. Georgeanne has recently been added to the SSD email list and this was her first meeting. She works for the Anne Arundel County Public Library at their Headquarters and has about 40 years of experience working for AACPL in various positions.

Executive Board-Robin

- At their last virtual meeting, the MLA Executive Board discussed the budget and recent audit at length. The budget does look a little off this year without having an in person annual conference.
- MLA Executive Director Margaret Carty and the MLA Executive Board are very happy with the slate of officer nominees for FY22.
- They approved the membership of the MLA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee and that group will be discussing recruiting in libraries.
- Virtual Legislative Day will be held in February. Stay tuned for more information.
- In May 2020 Governor Hogan vetoed the Building Lifelong Library Learners Act, which includes eliminating overdue fees as a barrier to service. The Governor also vetoed the Kirwin education reform bill, which includes money for libraries. It is believed that there are enough votes in the General Assembly to override both the vetoes.
- The virtual 2020 Conference has had good turnout.
- MLA is now contracted with the Hyatt in Cambridge for the annual conference with DLA through 2024. The contract was through 2023 and the 2020 deposit has now been applied to 2024.

MLA Friday Conversation-Robin & Teonja

- Robin & Teonja were Joe Thompson’s guests for the Friday Conversation on 11/13. Please contact Robin if you’d like the link to watch it.
- They spoke about our division and the types of general audience programs we offer.
- They also spoke about their personal library experiences and career paths.
2021 Virtual MLA/DLA Conference-Teonja

- The focus for the last few months has been forms, forms and more forms, as well as scheduling, scheduling and more scheduling.
- All SSD forms were submitted on time!
- The conference will be the week of 5/3-5/7, 2021.
- Our Grant program will be held Tuesday 5/4 from 2:15-4:15.
- Our Curbside panel program will be held on Tuesday 5/4 from 12:30-1:30.
- Our program on the LGBTQIA community will be held on Friday 5/7 from 12:30-1:30.
- The Social Committee is working on virtual activities. The 2020 virtual Pub Quiz was a success and will be held again in 2021.
- The Conference Committee is now working on the brochure.

MLA Professional Development Panel (PDP)-Beth Cartier

- Beth is a member of the PDP and is the SSD liaison for the panel.
- Beth is available to help us with program planning or questions about MLA’s educational grants and awards. Her email address is ecartier@frederickcountymd.gov
- There are now two different Program Approval Forms. One for virtual programs and one for in person programs.
- The current Education Grants and Awards deadline is January 15 and the application form can be found on the Professional Development Panel page under Membership Groups on the MLA Website. See below for the criteria and guidelines.

Eligibility
1. Membership in MLA for a minimum of 6 months prior to the date of application is required for consideration.
2. Current members of the Professional Development Panel Educational Grants Subcommittee are not eligible.

Qualifying Activities
1. Grants of up to $100 are available for workshops, conferences, and pre-conferences.
2. Scholarship grants for library science courses and undergraduate courses at all levels qualify for awards up to $500, based on available funds and the number of applications. Non-credit bearing courses that are approved for certification renewal are also eligible.

Criteria
The review committee will use the following criteria in making award decisions:

- Quality of submitted application, including thoroughness and attention to detail. Handwritten applications will not be reviewed.
- The activity's potential value or return on investment.
The applicant's level of involvement in MLA.

The applicant’s previous MLA Educational Grant Award history. (Any MLA member may apply; however, priority may be given to those who have not previously received funds.)

The credentials of the activity’s sponsor.

Equity of distribution among staff of the various types of libraries (i.e., academic, public, school, and special), among different types of members (clericals, paraprofessionals, professionals, students, etc.), and among members from different geographical regions.

**Application & Reimbursement**

1. Deadlines for applications to be received in the MLA Office are January 15 and July 15 of each year.
2. The Educational Grants Subcommittee will announce the awards within one month after each deadline.
3. Applicants may seek funding for an activity that will occur during the next six months or that occurred during the previous six months.
4. Applicants receiving funds from another source must provide details of such funding and show that MLA funds are needed as a supplement.
5. The grantee will be reimbursed after the activity has been attended and when the grantee has submitted one of the following to the MLA Office: 1. an academic transcript for college courses, 2. a CEU form with all of the relevant information filled out, or 3. a brief statement outlining the program, your attendance, and what you learned from the activity.

**Facebook Update-Lou**

- In the 28 days preceding the meeting, our post reach was up 5% and our post engagement was down 12%. Our page was visited 15 times and we had 3 new page likes.
- Lou will post the standalone program to the Facebook page in early January.
- Lou will create an event for our Facebook page for future steering committee meetings.

**Other**

- SSD decided to save the childhood trauma program for an in person conference. Hopefully 2022.
- Our virtual standalone program, What is the Privacy Divide?, will be held on Wednesday March 24 from 1-2 PM. Registration is now open on the MLA website.
- We took a new group picture, Zoom style, which will be posted on our Facebook page.
- The steering committee decided to continue the following practice that was enacted several years ago. Any MLA member may be added to our email list at their request. In order to be considered an official steering committee member and added to our roster on the MLA website, an MLA member must attend two meetings. Annually, the SSD Secretary will email the email list to ensure that everyone wishes to remain on it. Anyone on our official membership roster who has missed two consecutive meetings without alerting an SSD officer will be contacted by the SSD Secretary via email to see if they wish to remain a member.