

**MLA Executive Board Minutes**

Friday, August 12, 2022

10am-12pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attending: Kim Hewitt (President), Michelle Filleul (Vice-President), Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Tina McAndrew (Secretary), Noelle Boc, James Lonergan (MBLC), Sarah Breen, Emelia Thibeault, Susan Caufield, Eileen Dyer, Pam Mcuen, Andrea Fiorillo, Kelly Linehan, Esme Green, Laurie Lessner, Lynne Soukup, Sharon Shaloo (MA Center for the Book), Joanne Lamothe (Past President), Jocelyn Tavares, Maura Deedy, Krista Mcleod

**Call to order:** 10:19am

**Motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2022 MLA Transition Meeting** made by Noelle Boc and seconded by Michelle Filleul. Krista Mcleod, Bernadette Rivard, and Eileen Dyer abstained.

**President’s Report** – Kim Hewitt

Kim reported that Nora Blake is replacing Ellen Rainville as the Bylaws Liaison per the Administrative Committee vote. Two staff – Rebecca Beckley and Kristen Collins - received bonuses for all the work they have done the past few years (without raises). Kim brought up the question of what MLA could be doing to help the Library profession’s challenges.

**Treasurer’s Report –** Bernadette Rivard

Bernadette reported MLA has had a relatively good year monetarily. The bonuses to Rebecca and Kristen were paid out. Flowers were paid for and sent to Rebecca. Conference income was $7,862; the Legislative Committee paid $600 for conference program expenses. Discussion was had regarding how to address conference sign ups that never paid. Members agreed those that didn’t pay and sign up for next year’s conference will have to pay for both years. **Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report** made by Esme Green and seconded by Laurie Lessner.

**Conference Update**

Joanne reported that a deposit was sent to the renovated Falmouth Sea Crest for next year’s conference which will be held May 8-9, 2023. A two day conference next year will be scheduled with additional volunteers needed. The Mass Mutual Center in Springfield was looked at for the 2023 conference but there is no attached hotel and parking challenges.

**Committee Reports**

Noelle and Emelia have resurrected the Personnel and Education Committee. Noelle created a mission statement; more members are needed to focus on DEI and hiring practices. A new website will better serve this and all committees to make it more user friendly.

* **MBLC** – James Lonergan reported a strong budget year with a huge increase to state aid in public libraries. MA Center for the Book is level funded. Next will be to look at the FY 24 Legislative Agenda. MBLC members will be meeting with representatives from MLA and MLS to talk about intellectual freedom and challenges
* **NELA -** Kelly Linehan reported the NELA conference information is online and ready for registrations

**New Business**

* **LITS and Digital Privacy Issues**

Members discussed the Library Freedom Project available through ALA which offers a series of one hour programs ($600 for three, $400 for two, max) assisting library staff in learning how to protect themselves. This training stems from staff in public positions being attacked in communities that are dealing with larger program and material challenges. Andrea mentioned using programs centering around protecting your privacy online and protecting yourself and staff’s lives. Questions arose as to whether this professional development would be offered to everyone or just members of MLA as well as whether the programming would take place in person or via Zoom. Kim stated this is in the very early stages and discussion will be had with the Administrative Committee about the logistics.

* **Website**

Discussion regarding an updated website which would be easier to use unlike Wild Apricot which costs $2000+/year. Many more options exist now than when Wild Apricot was chosen.

**Old Business**

Joanne mentioned the amazing piece for the Boston Globe that Kelly wrote about the library profession.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made at 11:17am by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Kim Hewitt.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina McAndrew

MLA Secretary