

**Executive Board Meeting**

**Friday, February 10, 2023**

**10:30 am – 12pm**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

Attending: Noelle Boc (Personnel Issues), Joanne Lamothe (Past President), Meena Jain (Program Planners), Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Tina McAndrew (Secretary), Kristen Collins (Association Manager), Desiree Zicko (PR), Andrea Puglisi (LITS), Will Adamczyk (Legislative), Krista McLeod (NELA), Kim Hewitt (President), Michelle Filleul (Vice President), James Lonergan (MBLC), Andrea Fiorillo (IF/SRC), Laurie Lessner (Conference), Sarah Breen (Assistant Treasurer), Felicia O’Keefe (YSS), Kelly Linehan (NELA), Sarah Sogigian (MLS)

**Call to order** at 10:32AM

**Motion to approve** the minutes of the December 9, 2022 meeting made by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Michelle Filleul. All in favor with the amendment of the spelling of Andrea Fiorillo’s name.

**President’s Report** –Kim Hewitt

Kim reported that Bernadette has been working nonstop to fix an unemployment payment snafu that she will discuss later. Many on this Board were interviewed by the Boston Globe regarding program challenges. Andrea mentioned the Reading Public Library received a letter of support re: the Globe article. Kim received an email at MLA regarding support of the work librarians do as well.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Bernadette Rivard

Bernadette reported someone wrote a fraudulent check from MLA’s account which required closing of the account and creation of a new one. Additional signers are now authorized on the account. The investment fund is doing better now

**Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report** made by Noelle Boc and seconded by Michelle Filleul. All in favor.

**Association Manager’s Report** – Kristen Collins

Kristen is working on the ALA NELA membership report and has started conversations about the website design.

**Conference Update** – Kristen Collins

As of now, the conference has 13 exhibitors and 3 sponsors with event registration going live in March. The co-chairs met to make sure everything is on track; currently a great line up of speakers with research started on the 2024 conference.

T-shirts are ready for purchase and the PR Committee is ready to publicize, gathering photos for when registration is live.

Kristen is planning on a Zoom speaker for October 2 – Cara Roselle Smith – who will speak about indigenous topics. This fee could be covered with event registration and sponsors.

**Committee Reports**

* **Legislative Committee** – Wil Adamczyk

There is a virtual event on March 8 for new Legislative Day attendees to prime them on what to expect on the actual day. Currently, there are 150 people registered for March 15 at the State House. Wil highlighted the schedule for Legislative Day

* **IF/SRC**– Andrea Fiorillo discussed Fight for the First - the response to the grassroot attack against libraries and schools which helps to organize countering the attacks, showing how to organize a counter protest, start a petition, etc. Andrea asked that we go back to our communities and tell them about Fight for the First and create our own local campaigns. Andrea is meeting with the MA Commission on LBGTQ Youth to find better strategies to combat attacks; Andrea is also speaking on 2/23 at 7pm at the Salem Athenaeum about harassment in libraries. Many thanks were made to Andrea for all of her work.

Krista thanked Bernadette, Sarah, and Kristen for their work in Membership and advertised that Membership Committee is looking for additional members.

**Update**

* **MBLC** – James Lonergan

James reported the 2023/2024 construction grant round was announced with many new changes. Research is being done to see if it is possible to increase the funding of construction projects underway due to escalating construction costs

* **MLS** – Sarah Sogigian

Sarah attended the Legislative Breakfast in Worcester this morning and said Eileen did a wonderful job representing MLA/MLSA. MLA is offering intellectual freedom training topics on Thursdays which are recorded for those that cannot attend. Sarah is coordinating Michael J. Bobbitt to present on racial equity in libraries and is working on the spring training schedule. There is also a job opening for a consultant at MLA.

* **NELA**– Kelly Linehan

Kelly announced that **NELLS 2** is looking for candidates and the policy/procedure manual and strategic planning work are underway

**New Business**

1. FY24 Budget

Bernadette summarized the budget. Escalation is causing deficits. Projected loss on conference but income in membership and office line items. $6,000 is budgeted to repay the state for unemployment taxes owed which was discovered only when MBLC sent its check to pay for conference and was notified by the state that the check was being held because MLA owed taxes. It was determined that $14,000 was owed to state for unemployment insurance. MLA was never notified; the money has been owed since 2015 and the state is charging interest and late fees. Repayment plan options to the state: $500/month = $6000 in next year’s budget or pay one lump sum from investment. More to come at April’s meeting. Thanks to Bernadette for all her work figuring this out

**Motion to accept budget** adding in $10,000 transfer to present a zero balanced budget made by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Krista McLeod. All in favor

This gets presented at conference for approval. If needed, this could be amended at the April meeting or via an email vote.

1. Fundraising

Kim led a discussion clarifying that committees do something to generate funds to pay for what their budget requires such as calendars, etc. and asked that no one goes to outside places for funds without asking the Board so that many MLA members aren’t asking the same people for money. It is important that we are united as an organization to make those asks – either through the administrative or executive board for approval.

This clarification will be in orientation pack for next transition meeting in the summer as it is a historic norm.

Kim asked that cochairs from each committee send to the administrative board any fundraising done in order to create list of norms and how it will be in the future. Bernadette explained that historically the budget is created 18 months ahead but things come up and the preferred way is to present an idea to the group so everyone is aware and then proceed with it. Vote is required from the executive board to amend budget before going ahead with a program. Members will compile any fundraising ideas done in the past and send to Kim and Kristen. Ideas should be pursued but the boards should be aware of them for discussion.

Discussion on honoraria collected by members of MLA for speaking which supports MLA and the work being done.

Kristen will be asking members for input on the website rebuild and what each committee will need, most likely through a membership survey.

**Old Business**

None

Adjournment 11:40 **Motion to adjourn** made by Michelle Filleul and seconded by Krista Macleod.

\*Next meeting: Friday, April 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Tina McAndrew

Secretary