I. Welcome and Introductions.
   A. Meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m. by President Stacey Hendren.
   B. A quorum was present with 90 members in attendance.

II. Adoption of Agenda.
   A. Hendren asked for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, the agenda was adopted, subject to emergency changes as determined by the Chair.

III. Annual Meeting Minutes.
   A. The Annual Meeting Minutes, as posted on the MLA website, were reviewed by the Minutes Review Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at the November 2020 board meeting. Hendren asked if there was any objection to continuing this practice, and none was made.
   B. Megan Krueger, Maggie Snow, and Stephanie Opstad (Margaret Stone as backup) volunteered to form a committee with Stacey Hendren as the Chair to review these minutes. The finalized minutes will be presented to the Board for approval at the November 2021 meeting.

IV. Reports.
   A. State of the Association.
      1. Hendren presented an update on the work from the final year of the strategic plan in the following strategic areas.
         a) Develop Leaders:
            (1) MILE Reunion - led by Olivia Hedlund, Tom Jorgenson, and Trish Vallaincort; brought together 50 of the ~250 MILE alumni to discuss MILE’s future and formulate a strategic plan for moving forward.
            (2) Subunit Leader meetings & trainings - led by Steve Harsin on a quarterly basis.
            (3) Student Round Table - created and chaired by Megan Demuse and Maggie Whitman, and their team of 6 leaders whose purpose is to foster connection and mentorship between students and established professionals, to promote diverse perspectives in the library profession, and to advocate for the voice of students and encourage opportunities for professional development and involvement.

         b) Strengthen Our Organization:
            (1) New Management Company: Synergos - many thanks to our new MLA staff: Joy, Jennifer, Tami, Brett, all the interns and many others.
(2) Membership action plan - led by Katie Sundstrom that created goals to help our organization better support our members with a committee that is committed to ensure accurate and usable data.

(3) Website Maintenance plan - led by Jody Wurl, to keep our website accurate and updated with increased communication opportunities.

(4) Google File Sharing program - with training and standardization practices put into place with the help of Sara Fillbrandt to ensure better communication through volunteer transition and a way to better archive our digital history.

(5) MNHS archive - completed our first physical donation of artifacts to the Minnesota Historical Society since 2005, and updated a donor agreement that was written in the 1970s. This initiative was led by Sarah Ring and the archives committee.

(6) ITEM joins as a division - which will be voted on later in this meeting - the potential for collaboration and learning by welcoming Minnesota’s technology educators into the organization is huge.

c) **Activate Library Advocacy:**

(1) Stronger Relationships - turned our library day at the capitol into a month’s worth of conversations with our legislators which strengthened established relationships and led to the discovery of new library advocates.

(2) Maintained funding for Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS), Multi-County Multi-Types (MCMT) and Minitex.

(3) Regional libraries received their full request for legacy funding, worked to increase broadband funding around the state, defeated problematic legislation and defended local control, intellectual freedom, and patron privacy.

(4) Advocacy work continues and we have unfinished business for the upcoming second year of the biennium.

d) **Engage and Educate Members:**

(1) Expected and new programming - to ensure there’s greater access throughout the state.

  (a) ARLD - held their annual ARLD Day virtually this year, along with the “Unpacking White Supremacy” series.

  (b) PLD - held listening sessions to engage with various subunits and committees.
(c) Instruction Roundtable held “Notes from the Field” sessions.

(d) Children and Young People’s (CYP) Section held their annual Unconference.

(2) Increased communication on multiple platforms including the MLA Roundup, Facebook, Twitter, as well as through the many formal and informal conversations and meetings that bring us together.

(3) Action steps taken from our Statement on Systemic Racism: engaged in Project READY, and the Board brought anti-racism discussions to every meeting, we acknowledge there is still a lot of work to do.

2. The 2021 Annual Conference theme for this year was “Join the Movement,” the conference committee was led by Amy Boese and Jonathan Carlson.

B. In Memoriam.

1. MLA has more than 100 years of history because of the strength and passion of library staff and supporters. A moment of reflection was taken to remember the legacy of colleagues who have passed this year.

C. Bill Asp Memorial Resolution.

1. Proposed by MLA and accepted at the American Library Association Annual council meeting on June 24, 2021. Resolution presented by Margaret Stone

   a) Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

      (1) Mourns the passing of William G. Asp on June 16, 2021, and;

      (2) Honors his memory by expressing profound appreciation for his countless outstanding accomplishments, for his loyalty to the profession, and for his friendship.

   b) All were in favor of endorsing the Bill Asp Memorial Resolution as read in full and the resolution was endorsed.

D. Treasurer’s Report.

1. Net Assets: In 2020, MLA had an operating reserve of $85,333.95, our strategic reserve ended at $40,509.82, and finished the year with a net loss of $21,011. MLA finished the year with net assets of $154,536.

2. Income: Membership dues continues to be the main income resource at $50,087; conference registration contributed $24,355; advocacy support was $48,350; Ethier thanked our Exhibitors and Sponsors who contributed $12,250 for the annual conference.

3. Expenditures: the two biggest expenditures we have every year is our contract administration with our management company($92,517), and lobbyist fees ($69,850). We spent $7,825 for conferences and other
4. Showing a graph of membership dues revenue YTD and historical data, we have seen a slight decline year to year, but we finished 2020 fairly strong and we are projecting a slight increase this year.

5. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

V. Legislative Priorities for 2022.

A. Legislative Committee Chair-Elect Liz Lynch recapped the process for developing the 2021 Legislative Platform with input from members (including MCMT, MLA, Regional Public Library Systems, and ITEM/Schools).

B. Proposed 2022 MLA/ITEM Legislative Priorities:

1. Support Lifelong Learners by Improving Minnesota School and Public Library Services.
   a) By securing increased funding and a corresponding formula change for Minnesota’s regional public library systems to provide the essential support needed by citizens, students, and lifelong learners to reach their educational, personal and professional goals.
   b) By defining a school library media center and its staff, and by encouraging school districts to increase student and classroom teacher access to licensed library media specialists.
   c) By securing increased funding for the multicount/multitype systems, in particular for their work to develop and support school media centers and their staff.

   a) By advocating for investment in infrastructure to repair, modernize, and construct public library facilities to ensure safe, accessible and welcoming library spaces for Minnesotans.
   b) By advocating for investment in public higher education facilities that improve access to library resources and digital learning space.

3. Expand Broadband and Digital Access to All Minnesotans.
   a) By encouraging investment in broadband to ensure affordable, high-capacity internet access is available to all.
   b) By expanding resources for the E-Library of Minnesota that enables every library and school in Minnesota to have access to the highest quality online resources, including research databases, career prep tools, and more.

   a) By monitoring and addressing legislation impacting libraries and by protecting intellectual freedom by opposing library censorship.

C. Virtual Library Legislative Week will be February 21-27, 2022.

VI. Bylaws.
A. Fillbrandt moved to amend Bylaws Article IX (9): Divisions.
   1. Under section 2, add “2. Information and Technology Educators of
      Minnesota Division” with the proviso that it will take effect on January 1,
      2022.

B. There was no debate and no discussion.
C. Motion was voted on by the membership (66 of 98 attendees voted), all 66 who
   voted were in favor with 0 opposed. The motion was adopted and the proposed
   Bylaw amendment and Proviso was approved.

VII. Member Dues Update.
A. The board has decided not to present the dues proposal at this time.
B. Please watch MLA Communication for further discussion over the next year
   about ensuring equity in MLA Membership Dues. This is a priority for MLA and
   we hope to have further discussion and buy-in from membership before we move
   forward with the proposal next year.

VIII. Board Election Results.
A. Presented by Nominations Committee Chair Pam O’Hara, who started with a
   special thanks to the nominating committee: Katherine Stecher and Molly
   Stanford.
   1. President-Elect: Julia Carlis, Branch Manager, Pleasant Hill Dakota
      County.
   2. Treasurer: Karen Pundsack, Executive Director, Great River Regional
      Library.
   3. Legislative Chair-Elect: Molly Stanford, Regional Librarian, Arrowhead
      Library System.
   4. Member-at-Large: Emilie Hanson, Youth Services Librarian, Hennepin
      County Library.
   5. Intellectual Freedom Chair-Elect: Heather Biedermann, Head Librarian,
      South Central College North Mankato.
   6. ALA Councillor: Hannah Buckland, State Library Program Specialist, State
      Library Service, MN Dept. of Education.

IX. Plans for 2022.
A. Presented by incoming MLA President: Steve Harsin. Thank you to all officers
   who will be joining the Executive Board.
   1. A special thank you to Stacey Hendren and Patti Bross for leading MLA
      through two difficult years, two challenging annual conferences, and so
      much change. We have seen an incredible transformation of our
      organization in the past year.
   2. Emerging Opportunities:
      a) Develop a new strategic plan.
      b) Merge ITEM & MLA.
      c) Expand and engage MLA membership.
      d) Grow the library profession in Minnesota.
      e) Hold the annual conference in-person in Duluth.
      f) Pursue the 2022 Legislative Priorities.
g) Meet the increase in intellectual freedom challenges.

h) Prioritize actions to address systemic racism.

X. Questions and Comments.
   A. Julia Carlis asked if ITEM will continue with co-presidents as a new division.
      Hendren clarified that the co-presidents will both serve on the Executive Board
      but will only have 1 vote between the two of them, just as ARLD and PLD do.
      This will be looked at more closely in 2022.

   B. Hendren closed with a thank you to the 2021 MLA Board of Directors.

XI. Adjournment.
   A. Meeting was adjourned by Hendren at 11:47 a.m.