

Minnesota Library Association  
Board Meeting  
Friday, May 17, 2019  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Present:**

Dara Rudick (MHQ), Leslie Johnson (Executive Director for MLA), Kirsten Clark (President), Patti Bross (President-Elect), Ryan McCormick (Past President), Ria Newhouse (Intellectual Freedom Chair), Jim Weygand (MLTA Chair), Megan Kocher (ARLD Chair), Hannah Buckland (ALA Chapter Councilor), Lisa Motschke (Secretary), Jonathan Carlson (Treasurer)

**Remote:**

Ann Hokanson (Legislative Chair)

**Absent:**

Deborah Bifulk (Member at Large), Angie Petrie (PLD Chair)

The meeting was called to order by Clark at 10:01 a.m.

**Welcome and Introductions – Clark**

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Carlson made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Bross seconded.  
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**MHQ/Executive Director Update – Rudick and Johnson**

**MHQ Recommendations on Timeline for Communications**

Johnson updated the Board on the timeline for communications. Items for the website or email will be posted within one week of receipt. For items needing approval before posting, MHQ will send confirmation of receipt in 24 hours, reach out for approval if needed, and then post within one week of approval.

Some MLA members were not receiving email announcements from MLA. These issues should be resolved, but Clark and Johnson will send a test email to confirm.

We're ahead of schedule for confirming exhibitors and sponsors, and we're on schedule with ads and tables for the MLA Annual Conference.

Update from Rudick: MLA membership numbers are back in line with projections, and have exceeded where they were in April last year. The numbers are almost caught up on YTD from last year.

Things are going well at MHQ. They are looking to onboard a membership manager, and a part time book keeper. Send any interested folks to Rudick.

**Approval of Financials – Carlson**

April 2019 financials included in the meeting packet.

1. Total Assets: \$227,241.63
2. Total Revenue YTD: \$72,178.46
3. Total Cost of Sales YTD: \$8,245.99
4. Monthly Expenses for April: \$15,987.52
5. Showing YTD Net Income/(Loss): \$4,874.88 net income

Reviewed dues chart and things are looking back on track. Bills from ARLD have been paid, but haven't made it into the financials.

Carlson made a motion to approve the financials; Clark seconded.  
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

## **Engage and Educate Members**

### **2019 Conference Update – Clark, McCormick, Bross**

Full committee meeting yesterday, things are moving along. One keynote speaker is confirmed, an invitation has been extended to the Secretary of State, but waiting to hear back.

Emails have been sent to all session proposers. The next step is to schedule the sessions and finalize the program. The proposals represented many different experiences and types of libraries from around the state.

Last year, attendees could complete a bingo activity for an entry into a drawing for a free MLA membership. This year the Conference Committee wondered if we could give volunteers an automatic entry into the drawing. This could incentivize people to volunteer for the conference. The Board discussed logistics and alternative ways to do this.

Bross made a motion to give MLA Conference volunteers one entry into a drawing for an MLA membership or the following year's conference registration. It would be open to any volunteer.

Clark amended the motion to clarify the drawing would take place at the 2019 Conference, McCormick seconded. Information about this drawing and the ways to be entered will be sent out with conference registration information. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

The Conference Committee is still discussing ideas for fun things to do in the exhibit hall. Send ideas to Clark. Buckland suggested a cultural activity; she had attended a conference with a beadwork activity. Clark will reach out to Mystic Lake to see if they know of someone who could help MLA organize something.

Speaker gifts are being finalized. There will be a food tasting and a final walk through the space in a few weeks.

### **ARLD Day Recap – Kocher**

It was great! There were 91 in attendance, slightly down from other years. Typical registrations are 110. The lowered registration puts ARLD a little behind. There were lots of conferences this spring, especially for academic librarians.

## **Strengthening our Organization**

### **Strategic Plan 90-Day Plan – Clark**

Check in on the strategic 90-day plan. There will be a meeting to discuss a new website on June 4. Everything is generally on track.

Send any updates to the current website to Johnson now, so the new site will have the most current information.

### **Branch Out – Clark and Johnson**

Branch Out was a paraprofessional conference that moved around the state. The people who used to run it don't have bandwidth to do it anymore. The organization has some money from past events, and asked MLA if they wanted to take it over. The last event was held in 2015 and was an every other year conference.

McCormick feels it's worth pursuing even if we don't have the capacity to schedule a conference right away. Branch Out is willing to give us their remaining accounts, branding, and attendees list. This conference was valuable to outstate library staff, and could help show the value of MLA to paraprofessional staff.

We don't have a lawyer on retainer, but MHQ has non-profit lawyers we could use. The Board discussed the value of engaging the lawyer, for what we'd receive. There are alternative options that may not require a lawyer for MLA. One option is for Branch Out to donate their accounts to the MN Library Foundation; they are both 501.3c organizations so it's simpler.

McCormick will reach out to remaining Branch Out organizers and give them the options we discussed. Bross will bring the idea to MN Library Foundation to see if they'd be interested.

## **Activate Library Advocacy**

### **Legislative Update – Hokanson**

The most recent update was sent out on May 13; another will be sent on May 21.

They're nearly done with their work. The deadline is May 20 at midnight.

The Library Legacy resolution is moving forward with a similar amount as previous years.

MLA sent a letter to the E-12 conference committee.

Jami Trenam continues to work on the format for the Forum. Scheduled to meet with the multi-types later this month. Took a look at phrasing the Forum as an in-person meeting of the legislative committee meeting. They're thinking about it.

They're working on updating links on the MLA website. Next committee meeting is Wed, June 5

McCormick asked about an amendment to the Legacy bill. The amendment added two pieces of language that would make it difficult for libraries to receive funding. One stipulated that no other funds could have been used for this type of program in 3 out of the last 5 years. The other required final recipients of Legacy Funds to be Minnesota residents. Burden of proof would be very challenging, would also be challenging for cities along the state border.

CRPSLA sent a letter voicing concern about the amendment, not MLA.

### **MLA Letter to E-12 Committee – Clark**

Discussed that a letter was sent, and the timelines involved. The letter is part of the Board packet.

## **Other**

### **Policy Review: MN Library Association Awards and Criteria – McCormick**

The awards and criteria in the policy seem fine. The committee has not been reappointed in a few years. Clark will reach out to potential members. Current member is McCormick. We'll use staggered terms to get it going, and then Bross will carry on the work next December. The main work of the committee is to review the nominations for the awards.

There will be a word limit on the nominations this year. It will make it easier to review, and read during the ceremony. No changes to the policy were noted.

Clark called for a vote to acknowledge that we reviewed the policy, Carlson seconded.

All were in favor and the motion was approved.

### **Miscellaneous Discussion**

Weygland asked about a special MLA membership for advocates. Bross will bring this forward with our review of membership rates.

At the June meeting we will readdress the training for the Board on anti-racism.

Kocher asked if MLA would consider a statement on Bde Maka Ska and Fort Snelling at Bdote issues. There is a tie-in to the work of archives. The Board discussed whether we need a policy or guideline on when and how we make statements. McCormick noted that we don't want to tie the hands of future boards. Carlson suggested we could define criteria but each incoming Board would review them in January.

Members can reach out to Legislators about things that are valuable to them independently.

We will discuss this at the June meeting, provided Sam Walseth can join. Communication and statements from MLA could have an impact on the Legislative process.

### **MILE Update – Clark, Carlson, Bross**

It was a great event and good networking. There were 24 people in the cohort this year.

Perhaps the newly formed Continuing Education Committee can help future cohorts plan the events.

Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.