Welcome and Introductions – Bross
The meeting was called to order by Bross at 10:00 a.m.

Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda – Bross
Mars made a motion to approve the agenda; Hendren seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Approval of the March 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
Clark made a motion to approve the March Minutes; Hendren seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Approval of the April 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
Clark made a motion to approve the April Minutes; Ethier seconded.
All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Legislative Update – Trenam
It is the last week of the Legislative session. The House moved a bonding bill out of committee, and it is going to the floor for a full vote. It sounds unlikely that the Senate will move anything out.

The bonding bill included some money for higher education construction projects, and library construction projects. Trenam will send out more updates as they are available through the Legislative Newsletter.

A bill was proposed that asked all public employees to furlough, but it hasn’t gained any traction.

The session adjourns May 18, but the Governor could call them back into session as needed.

Approval of the Financials – Ethier
May 2020 Financial Report
April 2020 financials included in the meeting packet.
1. Total Assets: $177,332.54
2. Total Revenue YTD: $59,773.17
3. Total Cost of Sales YTD: $0
4. Monthly Expenses for April: $12,942.42
5. Total Expenses YTD: $53,590.08
6. Showing YTD Net Income/(Loss): $6,183.09
Year to date revenue from membership dues is $11,365, behind the target of $18,333.
Sundstrom made a motion to approve the financials; Collins seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**MHQ Update – Newberg**
MHQ is still working from home. There are weekly pickups of mail and various office items. They are planning for the long term remote; because their office floorplan is open, home is safer.

MHQ has been helping clients move in-person events online and is discussing with them how that impacts financials. The conversation has focused on member benefits.

**Bylaws – Motschke**
A draft of the bylaws was given in the Board packet. Hendren noted that 2021 would be the earliest merger with ITEM, so no changes regarding ITEM are needed in the bylaws at this time.

Changes would need to be sent out to the full membership in August. Another draft will be brought to the Board in June.

The policy manual Board job descriptions will be the official source. Those will be posted to the website when revised.

**Association Management Recommendation – Bross**
Presidential Trio presented the recommendation, included in the Board packet.

Mars asked about why MHQ didn’t respond to the proposal. Bross reported that Ruddick previously noted they may not send in a proposal. MHQ is looking to keep their client sizes at a certain level.

Clark shared that the proposed management company really aligned with what membership wanted from MLA. Trenam thanked the Presidential Trio for reviewing all the proposals.

Trenam made a motion to move forward with the proposal as recommended; Mars seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

MHQ has indicated that they will work with the new management company to make the transition as smooth as possible.

**Engage and Educate Members**

**Conference Updates – Bross**
The conference committee will be making a decision about the conference format by the end of June. Bross has heard from many library systems. Some are not planning to approve any travel for training.

MLA has a $1000 deposit at The DECC in Duluth. One option is to host the conference in Duluth in 2022, and hopefully the deposit can be applied to that future reservation. The concern is that one of the hotels has a cancellation penalty of $30,000. Kelley at MHQ is reaching out to the hotel to see if we could shift the reservation to 2022 to avoid the penalty.

Clark mentioned that only 40 programs were submitted and normally we have closer to 100.

Mars asked what the registration rate would be for a virtual conference. Bross said that the committee hasn’t discussed it explicitly, but this could be an opportunity to offer a lower rate and really push more attendance.

Sundstrom supported a decision to move the conference online.
Clark noted that if we don’t meet a minimum for hotel reservations we would have a penalty as well. So it’s in our best interest to move the conference to 2022 either way.

Trenam agrees that negotiating with The DECC and the hotel to move the conference to Duluth in 2022, is a good idea.

We have signed a contract with River Centre for 2021 so that is why we would move this conference to 2022.

Collins agreed that negotiating with the hotel is a good course of action. We could also ask that the 2020 hotel rate be honored in 2022, if that seems manageable. Things are uncertain and we’re all doing what we can.

Bross asked each Board member to weigh in on the decision to move the 2020 conference to an online format and about a potential 2022 conference in Duluth. There was agreement that given the circumstances this is the best choice, that we need to make a decision so that folks can make a plan, and that a virtual conference would be valuable to membership.

Clark clarified that we are voting to move the conference online, regardless of negotiation. However, we will try to negotiate with The DECC and the hotel.

Bross asked for a motion to move the 2020 Annual Conference to an online format. Hendren made a motion, Collins seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Sundstrom made a motion to hold the 2022 Conference in Duluth; Weygand seconded. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

**Strengthening our Organization**

**Strategic 90 Day Plan – Bross**

We’re moving along and making progress.

There is one more round of changes for the website. We are still waiting on the final revisions from the last round of edits.

The next meeting between ITEM and MLA is on June 4.

**Membership Update – Sundstrom**

Membership Committee hadn’t met in a while and the roster included folks who were no longer members. Sundstrom sent an email welcoming people back if they are interested. There are currently no members. Sundstrom requested that we do a call for members as soon as possible.

Becky Rable would like to be on the Membership Committee as the ARLD representative. Hendren mentioned that PLD should also have a representative. Wurl will bring it to the group to discuss and recruit.

Newberg mentioned that membership renewals dropped off in March, but then increased again in April.

Bross will put a call out in the newsletter. She will also put forth personal asks. The policy manual includes information about who should be on the committee. The policy manual will need to be updated to reflect practice.

Sundstrom is ready to move this work forward, we just need people.
**Division, Subunit, and Committee Conversation – Bross**
A spreadsheet of all Divisions, Subunits, and Committees was included in the Board packet. Before updating the content on the website with their information we need to decide how much information is needed on the site.

Wurl recommended having current year and past year of notes and such; a website isn’t a place to archive these documents.

Hendren asked if there were ways to support roundtables more ephemerally and in a less rigid way. A full website may not be needed, and the groups may benefit from flexible spaces that connect people for long or short periods.

Bross asked for volunteers to create a recommendation of content arrangement and data retention practices to bring back to the Board. Wurl volunteered to participate. Hendren also volunteered. Hendren also recommended asking for volunteers in some of the more active roundtables.

Bross noted that MLTA membership has been low for the last five years. Weygand agreed that there has been very little interest, and either it should recruit new members or disband.

Weygand expressed interest in participating in the Membership Committee to think about how we could get more members from the community. Having more non-library members would help increase MLA’s political standing.

Changing the status of a group would need to go before the Board.

Weygand expressed that having a virtual conference might be a good opportunity to invite more outstate Friends and Library Supporters to participate.

Clark mentioned that we will have to reopen the call for proposals after we announce the change of Conference format. Those that submitted may not be suited to an online environment.

**Activate Library Advocacy**

**ARLD Day Update – Kocher**
The virtual ARLD Day Keynote spoke on May 1. The event went well. ARLD used sponsor money to cover the costs of the speaker. Had 200 attendees, and many others are waiting to view the recording (posting on May 15). They also presented the Academic Innovators Award during the virtual event; the recipient was a group at St. Ben’s/St. Johns.

The event only included the keynote; no sessions were held. There was a lot of discussion, and more questions than time to answer them.

ARLD will be hosting another online forum for academic librarians. The next one is Thursday, May 21. They have used breakout rooms to have smaller conversations and larger discussion in the main Zoom rooms.

**PLD Day Update – Carlis**
The first session for public library staff was on May 5; 150 people registered, but there may have been an issue with our subscription that limited some people from logging in.

The conversation was about what libraries are doing, and what questions they had. There was a lively chat discussion where folks were sharing ideas.

The second session is on May 26. The focus will be on being a library worker in this time; including doing professional development, working from home, work life balance, self-care, different ways of being a human being and interacting with your work.

They will do breakout rooms. More ideas for future sessions as well.
COVID-19 – Buckland and Hendren

Hendren sent an MLA/State Library Services proposal late in the day before the Board meeting. She has asked MHQ about options that we can pursue. There are various options available through Zoom, with varying benefits and functions. Hendren thanked MHQ for their expertise and support.

State Library Services has been hosting calls. So far, they’re hosting two calls each week focused on information for library directors and another for youth services.

The next steps are to move forward using Zoom. Hendren would like to propose an MLA Community Conversation, starting with one large welcome session and then breakout sessions. Breakout sessions could repeat, and the group would come together for a closing and sharing session.

Hendren has been asking membership for ideas about what they would find valuable in the discussion. It would be free for members and a small fee for non-members to really show the value of the MLA membership.

Buckland asked if we knew how many members vs non-members have attended the past sessions. If we plan to charge it would need to be all sessions not just the general sessions (including PLD, and ARLD). There was a call to join MLA at the beginning of both PLD Day and ARLD Day events.

Kocher mentioned that ARLD has been intentional to offer sessions for free because of the financial hardships some folks may be experiencing. There is some concern about charging.

Newberg has done something similar with other organizations. They have seen increased membership sign ups when packaged with a series of several webinars/sessions. Another option is to charge to view the recorded sessions later on.

There was agreement that we would not charge MLA members or affiliate organizations (ACRL) anything additional to attend sessions.

Hendren will revise the proposal, reach out to folks to host the sessions, and bring that back to the Board. Buckland will bring back State Library Service plans.

The ultimate goal is to coordinate sessions among MLA, State Library Service, PLD, and ARLD.

The Board discussed that if we do start charging non-member to attend virtual sessions, we would need to give advanced notice of the change. Sessions already planned will go forward as planned.

Hendren will update the document and send to the Board. And continue the conversations.

Scholarship with MALF

The MLA Board previously inquired about a MALF Scholarship for MLA Conference attendees. Weygand asked the MALF Board about this, and due to changes in their status (away from 501.3c) it is much more challenging for them to gift money going forward. They paid a tax penalty for the sponsorship they gave MLA last year.
Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.; be well.

Chat transcript
10:03:12 From Jen - MHQ: Jami has entered the meeting.
10:03:26 From Jen - MHQ: Dave has entered the meeting.
10:19:54 From Amy Mars: Thank you for your work on this Lisa and committee!!
10:21:12 From Jami Trenam: Yes, - thank you Lisa and workgroup!!!
10:32:43 From Jami Trenam: I am sorry I need to log off - but I do feel we should try to negotiate to move the hotel and DECC reservation to 2021
10:33:29 From Jami Trenam: I think if we are able to lower the price we may be able to garner higher attendance virtually - the online sessions have been very good
10:44:49 From Amy Mars: I have to leave. Megan Kocher will be represented ARLD in the second half of this meeting.
10:44:58 From Stacey H: Thank you Amy!
10:45:12 From Jen - MHQ: Megan has entered the meeting.
10:45:21 From Megan M Kocher: Hi Everyone!
10:51:26 From Jen - MHQ: Angie Petrie has entered the meeting.
10:59:47 From Jody: Jody Wurl jwurl@hclib.org
11:02:27 From Jen - MHQ: Julie Carlis has entered the meeting.
11:02:53 From Julia Carlis: I'm here but I'm not actually listening yet FYI.
11:08:24 From Jen - MHQ: Julia, can you give a PLD update?
11:10:20 From Julia Carlis: Other meeting just wrapped up, so yes I can.
11:10:26 From Stacey H: It was an excellent speaker and very well managed. Thank you ARLD.
11:12:11 From Megan M Kocher: Thanks Stacey!
11:33:23 From Julia Carlis: Good plan Stacey
11:35:49 From Jen - MHQ: Thank you Patti!
11:35:51 From Julia Carlis: Thanks!

Board Packet materials: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1SyDev_26lrtorl8XFZxPmechp_dgSOTv?usp=sharing