Minnesota Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 19, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Board Members Present: Stacey Hendren (President), Patti Bross (Past President), Sarah Ethier (Treasurer), Sara Fillbrandt (Secretary), Hannah Buckland (ALA), Dave Collins (Intellectual Freedom), Sarah Hawkins (Legislative), Jenny McBurney (ARLD), Jody Wurl (PLD), and Katie Sundstrom (Membership)

Board Members Excused: Steve Harsin (President-Elect)

Guest(s) Present: Maggie Snow, MINITEX; Carla Lydon, CRPLSA

Synergos Present: Joy DesMarais-Lanz

MLA Business:

- Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda (Welcome and Introductions)
  - The meeting was called to order by Hendren at 10:04am.
  - Sundstrom made a motion to adopt the amended agenda; Hawkins seconded; all were in favor and motion was approved.

- Welcome & Introductions

- Approval of the January board meeting minutes (Fillbrandt)
  - Changes to minutes were suggested, minutes approved with changes.

- Minitex Update (Snow)
  - Current offerings: eBook MN, prepping for next one book one read.
  - MN Digital library, 3 new committee members have been added, expanding the table to include someone from a K12 library and Tribal library.
  - Sunsetting MN Reflections piece, and moving forward will be called Digital Library.
  - Work has started on History Day projects and ELM trainings.
  - Are also working on a Virtual Reference conference, and 3 MN libraries will be highlighted in this conference.
  - For MNlink library users, borrowing and lending has increased, and are looking for more increased compared to pandemic lending.
  - Having conversations about the future of libraries and how libraries are responding to things that have gone on in the past year; working on contracting with an org to do a strategic plan for libraries in MN, specifically how to engage
libraries in conversation about digital divide, distance learning, DEI, and other current topics - will start rolling this out in the next couple weeks.

- Approval of the financials (Ethier)
  - January 2021 financials included in the meeting packet.
  - Motion to approve financials made by Sundstrom, seconded by Bross, all in favor and motion approved.
  - Zoom subscription re-examined and will be cutting back the number of meeting rooms until needed by conferences and subunit days.

- Membership Committee Report (Sundstrom)
  - 556 individual members (including 143 students), 30 institutional members.
  - Need to start recruiting at paraprofessional level and examine what we can offer to that group of folks.

- Synergos/Executive Director Update (DesMarais-Lanz)
  - Added three new webforms on the “Contact Us” page on the MLA website for: eblast submissions, event submissions, and web page revision suggestions.
    - Have a 2 day turnaround once a form is submitted and Synergos (Tammy) will follow up with the submitter once it’s received.
    - Anything in a form with an asterisk is a required field.
  - As always, if you have questions about anything, just ask!

- Strategic 90-day Plan (Hendren)
  - Executive Committee met on Jan 29th and reviewed the strategic plan and what we want to work on moving forward. Major areas of focus include:
    - Develop Leaders
    - Strengthen Organization
    - Educate and Engage Members
    - Activate Library Advocacy

Engage and Educate Members:

- ARLD Update (McBurney)
  - ARLD Day is scheduled for April 30th, proposals were due this last Wednesday.
  - Working on contract with Keynote speaker, Joy just received it.
  - Still finalizing what cost structure is going to be.
  - ARLD Annual Report included in supplemental materials - structured to follow ACRL guidelines
  - Have an event next month: “Unpacking White Supremacy in Academic Libraries” and this event is now at capacity and a waiting list has been started.

- PLD Update (Wurl)
  - Sarah Hawkins led a legislative update, and meeting was Zoom bombed so ended early.
Wurl meets with PLD Board next week to determine what level of support they can provide MINITEX (Staats) for the Media Literacy campaign directed at staff.

PLD will not be hosting a PLD Day this year, and so are looking at potential for those funds.

Looking at holding a listen and learn conversation quarterly, the next one is tentatively scheduled for May.

2021 Conference update (Hendren)

Contracts for 2023 hotel and location have been signed

For 2021, Jonathan Carlson and Amy Boese have agreed to be co-chairs and their committee is filling up - still looking for 6-7 more people for subcommittee members. Most of the current members are in public libraries, are looking for academic library representation as well.

Planning on a 3-day virtual conference October 6-8 - daily schedule will be adjusted, but looking at 3 shorter days instead of 2 long days.

Intellectual Freedom Committee Report (Collins)

Had last meeting early February (first Tuesday of the month at 11am) doubled attendee size with 5 new people (yay!)

Have a proposal in to ARLD for a round table, sponsored by IFC.

Strong interest in history of IF in MN from several members and will be pulling together a document/timeline of events to showcase.

Just got a representative from ITEM, yay for collaboration!

Activate Library Advocacy:

Legislative Update (Hawkins)

We are 2 days away from the start of Virtual Legislative Week!

Legacy appropriations are never guaranteed, and we are fighting for those dollars just like we have to do every 2 years.

School library definitions are being proposed in a new bill, including definitions about collections and needing to be overseen by a licensed librarian - a win if it passes.

Keeping an eye on a many other bills and how we can advocate for them, for more information take a look at the Legislative Newsletter:

https://www.mnlibadvocacy.org/virtual-library-legislative-week/resources-documents-graphics

Any library, library community can share their library stories - which put a face to our patrons and communities: https://tinyurl.com/mnlibstories

Reminder, Legislative Committee meets the first Weds. of Month at 10am and all MLA members are considered members of this committee and can attend meetings.

Reach out to Sarah Hawkins with any questions!
Develop Leaders

- MILE Update (Hendren)
  - Delayed MILE session large group to 2022, for 2021 have decided to do all-class reunion - May 4th from 1pm to 4pm. Going to do some large group and break outs with participants.
  - Have had 8 classes of MILE, and each one is planned by the previous class. Want to talk about what has gone well and has helped participants and where MILE goes from here.

- Student Round Table (Hendren)
  - Hendren was approached by a member who manages students and wanted to know how we can better support our student members. If we have a student round table it needs to be organized by and led by students - Hendren reached out to library school partners.
    - Had a few different emails with Emporia, UW-Milwaukee, and are talking about potential collaborations.
    - Maybe partner for workshops or keynotes, can discuss continuing education opportunities (perhaps for a lower rate?). Other ideas? Email Hendren.
  - She has received a petition with 10 names on it for the formation of the RT, and is excited to hear from students and the potential for this group.

Strengthening our Organization:

- ALA Chapter Councilor’s Report (Buckland)
  - Has been meeting online with ALA Chapter
  - ALA Midwinter is no more after a 70+ year run. It will be replaced by LibLearnX starting in 2022.
  - ALA has seen an increase in student membership and decline in regular members.
  - Tracie Hall has revived the ALA Business Advisory Group, to work on strategic planning and develop business opportunities including a 5-year pivot strategy.
  - Hall also provided some good advice to Council to get out of their own way, that change is coming and they need to face it and go with the flow.
  - ALA is looking at a new governance structure and so there’s some internal upheaval. A working group shared findings from listening sessions with council and will continue to refine plan for what the Association will become.
  - Looking at cost of things, including meetings and dues rates.
  - Resolutions passed:
    - support broadband internet access as a human right.
    - condemn racism and white supremacy as antithetical to librarianship and library work.
    - Classification of library workers as 1b workers for COVID-19 vaccine rollout - much discussion on this resolution, this encourages state and
local workers to take up this classification and push for local legislatures to include them.

- Working Document Access Update - MLA Document Storage (Fillbrandt)
  - Meeting being rescheduled and will have an update for the March meeting.

- Website Navigation Issues (Wurl)
  - Anchors on website pages not working, proposing removal of those anchors or can make a plan to fix jump navigation.
  - Library Resources page: lots of universal information, but there are a number of dead links, esp. under the CYP list. Want to come up for a plan to maintain website and check links.
  - There are a lot of issues with MLA webpages; have a few months of updates that haven’t been made. Hendren spoke with DesMarais-Lanz, and there are some things they have/don’t have time to deal with. As far as content, we need to take time to figure out what needs to be updated, for example “latest news” not everything needs to be an email.
    - Editorial calendar? So we can intersperse subunit updates with partner news.
  - ARLD and CYP have reviewed or are reviewing their pages.
  - List of updates go to Synergos, need to go through systematically and not everything is urgent - need to prioritize and go through things methodically.
    - Create a framework for review.
    - Fillbrandt has volunteered to work with Wurl to create and review.
    - Hawkins would especially like some input or structure on Google sites/newsletters outside of MLA structure (documents).
  - If current system isn’t working for subunits/sections, then need to talk to the Board and ask for changes/what is needed - need some restrictions in place for creating resources outside of the MLA site, but not too many.

- Anti-Racism Discussion (Collins)
  - Opportunity to do 2-minute writing exercise.
  - “As a researcher, doing research [or looking for information] means confronting the fear of not knowing.” Professor Shanna Benjamin, Grinnell College
  - As an information seeker, we constantly face that fear - so what does that look like from a vulnerable perspective and how often do we have to do that versus other folks in our communities?

Other:

- Items from the Floor
  - Zoom hacking - have some proposals to make meetings more secure - will email the board with those.
  - Have an email re: COVID-19 prioritization and designation for MN library workers - Buckland and Hendren to draft a statement, Hawkins happy to review once created. Would like a public statement as well as a letter that members can use to do internal advocacy within their institutions.
○ Amy Mars and Kat Nelsen will alternate filling in for McBurney for the next three meetings
  ● Reminders: let Hendren know if you have things you want to add to agenda in March

Informational Attachments:
  ● ARLD Annual Report for 2020 (McBurney)

Meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

February Board Packet materials:
  19 February 2021 Board Meeting - Google Drive