Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 18, 2022 via Zoom
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Board Members: Julia Carlis (President-Elect), Karen Pundsack (Treasurer), Sara Fillbrandt (Secretary), Liz Lynch (Legislative), Kat Nelsen (ARLD), Ashley Krohn (ITEM), Emilie Hanson (Member at Large)

Excused: Steve Harsin (President), Stacey Hendren (Past President), Hannah Buckland (ALA), Kate Eidem (Intellectual Freedom), Rachel Wexelbaum (Intellectual Freedom), Marie Hydukovich (ITEM), Kristin Schneider (PLD)

Visitor: Chayse Sundt

Executive Director (Synergos): Joy DesMarais-Lanz

MLA Business:

● Welcome and Introductions (Harsin)

● Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda
  ○ The meeting was called to order by Carlis at 4:05 p.m.
  ○ Agenda approved with one change - moving RART check in to May. Motion made to adopt agenda made by Pundsack, seconded by Lynch, all were in favor and motion passed.

● Approval of the February and March Board meeting minutes (Fillbrandt)
  ○ Minutes have been distributed.
  ○ Postponed approval of February minutes until May meeting.
  ○ Motion made by Hanson, Carlis seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were approved with two minor changes.

● Approval of the financials (Pundsack)
  ○ March 2022 financials included in the board packet.
    ■ Motion to approve report by Pundsack, seconded by Fillbrandt, all were in favor and the motion passed.

● Membership Committee Report (Hanson)
  ○ Reports were run and will follow up about what we might be able to do to increase numbers.

● Synergos/Executive Director Update (DesMarais-Lanz)
  ○ ITEM Conference, PLD Conference, and ARLD conference are all coming up in the next 3 weeks. Have been in major event mode.
  ○ Went to DECC to see the space with Carlis and Harsin and check out
  ○ Next week Joy and Carlis will tour the Mayo convention center and some hotels for the 2024 annual conference.
Engage and Educate Members:

- 2022 Conference update (Carlis for Boese)
  - Things are moving along. Have sponsor info up on the website, and the committee just got menus to review for the conference.

- Intellectual Freedom Committee Report (Carlis for Eidem/Wexelbaum)
  - Still seeing an increased number of challenges of books in school and public libraries.
  - Working on things around the theme of the conference - including a possible workshop about policies and documentation about what to do and how to handle challenges.
  - At the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom website can report anonymously any challenges.

- PLD Update (Carlis for Schneider)
  - PLD Day is Friday, April 22nd.

- ARLD Update (Nelson)
  - Filled all open positions on the board for those who have left their jobs or resigned from the board.
  - Have 54 folks registered for ARLD Day on May 6th.
  - Have a bunch of updates for the website, and are saving them for after all the conference things are done.

- ITEM Update (Krohn)
  - ITEM Conference is coming up at the end of the month in Rochester.
    - Have lower projected attendance than would have liked. Some of this is still COVID concerns but also this is due to subbing concerns.
    - Keynote planned: Julia Torres.

Activate Library Advocacy:

- Legislative Session report (Lynch)
  - An omnibus bill (HF 4300) includes education finance, and includes a definition for school libraries and media specialists, but we haven’t heard much from the Senate side. This bill also includes a proposal for $2 million and proposed formula change for regional public library systems. Have been told it will be a couple weeks before we hear whether or not there will be a bill proposed on the senate side.
  - The House Legacy Committee decided to give Regional Public Library Systems an additional $404,000 and an additional $18,000 for the Center for the Book.
  - Did ask for a bonding bill of $5 million from bond proceeds and $15 million from cash for infrastructure construction and renovations - but not sure what the outcome of this ask will be.
  - MN Library Partners met: discussed a need for a request for information for a lobbyist contract for the ‘23-’24 biennium. Will include Joy in these conversations & hope to have something to send out by July.
  - Also started a conversation about the length of the term a legislative chair serves - perhaps to a full biennium so that would become a 4-year term.
  - Looking to create a formal legislative committee instead of a “come as you will” meeting each month.
• ALA Councilor Update (Buckland)
  ○ Buckland was not available to report.

• National Library Legislative Day expenses (Carlis for Harsin)
  ○ There are none. National Library Legislative Day will be virtual this year.

• Intellectual Freedom Committee Report (Snow)
  ○ Snow was not available to report.

Develop Leaders
• MILE - V/TO Update (Hendren/Carlis)
  ○ This is part of a 10-year picture of what MILE is going to look like in the future.
  ○ Worked on rocks for the goals of the year. Carlis and Hendren are working together to get folks involved and make MILE financially sustainable.
  ○ The idea here is that we have a long-range plan so MILE is predictable and sustainable as a part of the fabric of MLA. Ultimately the goal is to embed it as part of MLA’s strategic plan so it’s part of how we operate.

Strengthening our Organization:
• Anti-Racism Discussion (Hanson)
  ○ Discussion about last month’s ARD - not many of us had time to re-read the article. We should take time to reflect on the questions presented.
  ○ Please review “White Supremacy Culture - Still Here” by Okun, T. (2021). A companion website for this article: https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/
  ○ Hanson will send out pieces of the article to us all - breaking it down into smaller bits for discussion - and we will revisit a smaller bit of this in May.

• Website Documentation and Process (Carlis for Wurl)
  ○ Wurl sent Carlis a document to bring to the next subunit meeting at the end of April.
  ○ Wurl was not available to report further.

• ITEM Merger status (Carlis and DesMarais-Lanz for Hendren)
  ○ Have the paperwork. Joy has the key for the P.O. box.
  ○ MLA is covering speaker costs right now.
  ○ Joy to work with Jennifer/Ashley on getting financial things handed over.
  ○ Goal to close out bank account pieces by mid-May.

• LGBTQIA+ Roundtable Petition (Carlis and Sundt for Hendren)
  ○ Sundt shared the petition for the creation of a new round table.
  ○ Sundt will create an updated version of the petition with a leadership roster and submit it to Joy and it will be in the board packet for May so we can vote on it at the next meeting.

• Budget (Pundsack)
  ○ Now includes ITEM Conference incorporated into the full document. There is currently no dollars assigned to the membership dues area. It looks like ITEM conference will be operated at a loss but we are missing a lot of information.
○ We know National Library Legislative day is not going to require dollars, but we
don’t know how all of this will shake out until it happens in real-time.
o ITEM Conference Update (DesMarais-Lanz)
  ■ If they don’t meet their numbers, then this might operate at a loss, but not
as big a loss as is currently projected in the overall budget.
o Fillbrandt moved to approve the budget as it stands, Carlis seconded.
o Discussion:
  ■ Krohn indicated that there has been a decline in membership because of
the reduction in school librarian positions, COVID, not having a
conference, and other factors.
  ■ There is a place in the conference registration for folks to renew their
membership there.
  ■ DesMarais-Lanz mentions that there is money in the ITEM checking
account that will come over for dues. Membership databases will be
merged later this month. It is possible that membership renewals will not
happen until 2024 - since ITEM members had the option to renew their
membership for 2 years.
o Vote was taken on the motion, all were in favor and the budget was approved.

● Strategic Plan - Listening Sessions (Carlis for Harsin)
o Do a bridging project this year. Instead of doing a full strategic plan, we will do
information gathering to set us up for next year.
o In the executive committee meeting, they came up with the idea of listening
sessions with various constituent groups including: CRPSLA, the Multi-types, and
other stakeholders to get into what the future of MLA looks like.
o The timing for a strategic plan isn’t right, but it is a good time to listen to our
communities.
o Developed some questions to look at the current state of MLA, and what the
desired future state of MLA might be.
o Will institute the ORID (Objective, Reflective, Interpretive, Decisional) method:
moving people from the concrete to the dream land.
  ■ O: What is one thing you know about MLA?
  ■ R: What does MLA do for you and what are your professional
development goals?
  ■ I: What do you wish the Association could do for its members?
  ■ D: What can MLA do to ensure libraries thrive?
o Suggestions of groups we should work with can go to Julia.

● Policy Review: Treasure and Intellectual Freedom Committee (Even years only)
o Will pursue this in a future meeting.

Other:
● Strategic 90-Day Plan (Carlis)
o Pam O’Hara is working on some things for the nominating committee.
o Pundsack and Carlis met with Hendren about subunit leaders and a revamp of
the Forms & Logos page.
- Membership committee will discuss possible dues restructure.
  - Working on reinvigorating conversations around a circulation sub-unit.

- Items from the Floor:
  - None.

- Reminders: let Carlis know if you have things you want to add to the agenda by May 6th.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.**

**April Board Packet materials:**
2022-04-18 Board Meeting - Google Drive