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

Board Members: Steve Harsin (President), Julia Carlis (President-Elect), Stacey Hendren (Past President), Karen Pundsack (Treasurer), Sara Fillbrandt (Secretary), Liz Lynch (Legislative), Kat Nelsen (ARLD), Kristin Schneider (PLD), Janeen Perrizo (ITEM), Rachel Wexelbaum (Intellectual Freedom)

Excused: Marie Hydukovich (ITEM), Ashley Krohn (ITEM), Kirsten Clark (CEC), Kate Eidem (Intellectual Freedom), Hannah Buckland (ALA), Emilie Hanson (Member at Large)

Visitor(s): Jodi Grebinoski (MLA Conference co-chair), Ashley Dress (MLA Conference co-chair) Jennifer Brannen (RART), Pam O’Hara (Nominating), Katie Polley (RART)

Executive Director (Synergos): Joy DesMarais-Lanz

MLA Business:

● Welcome and Introductions (Harsin)

● Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda (Harsin)
  ○ The meeting was called to order by Harsin at 4:00 p.m.
  ○ Motion made by Fillbrandt, seconded by Hendren to move forward with the agenda as it stands. All were in favor and motion passed.

● Approval of the June Board meeting minutes (Fillbrandt)
  ○ Minutes have not been finalized. Approval will happen at the August meeting.

● Audit update (Pundsack)
  ○ Have two members of the committee team who are awaiting instruction.

● Budget Check-in/Approve Financials (Pundsack)
  ○ June 2022 financials included in the Board packet for July.
  ○ Still waiting for ITEM financials to come over and those dollars to come over.
  ○ Joy’s staff put together a cost-accounting for Capital Associates, turns out a few partners had not yet been invoiced.
  ○ Pundsack moved to approve the report, Hendren seconded, no further discussion was had, all were in favor and the motion passed.

● Executive Director Update (DesMarais-Lanz)
  ○ The final forms were sent to the Secretary of State on Friday. Will hear in 30 days or so that they issued ITEM a certificate of dissolution.
  ○ After that, we need to figure out the 990T, Joy to follow up with Dress.
  ○ Joy has set up an alias for all of the board members - that will go to the primary email in the member profile. Will set it up on the website so folks can contact us using those aliases.
Strategic 90-day Plan (Carlis/Hendren)
- MILE V/TO - the taskforce met and are dividing into subgroups: one is focusing on budgeting, one on alumni, and the third on the programming and supporting the folks who are creating the schedule.
- Carlis has scheduled a listening session with CRPLSA next week.

Membership Committee Report (Carlis)
- Hanson, Carlis, and Hendren met to discuss the member-at-large policy manual update. Which includes some major revisions, mainly: add a board position and add a member at large to be elected in alternate years.
  - Similar to the structure that’s been discussed with the legislative committee. Eg. learning year → leadership year.
  - This would necessitate a bylaws change, and vote by membership.
- Discussion:
  - Could do a special election after the conference just for this position. Could add a potential candidate in the wings for if the bylaw change passed.
  - Can approve policy change as pending until the bylaws change.
  - From a recruitment standpoint, would it be beneficial to recruit now rather than later.
- Hendren moved to approve the policy change to the Member at Large position contingent upon approval in October of related Bylaw changes and going into effect after the Annual meeting, motion seconded by Nelsen, no further discussion, the motion passed.

Engage and Educate Members:
- Annual Conference Updates (Dress/Grebinoski)
  - Registration is open!
  - Keynote and A/V contracts are being finalized. Have had over 80 session proposals, we will be having the social at Glensheen Mansion.

- Intellectual Freedom Update (Wexelbaum)
  - Getting information about book challenges across the state. Have had several members offer training on how to handle book bans from multiple perspectives.
  - Had a request from a member who is going through an intensive book challenge for more support from MLA. Kate Eidem is working on a template letter we can use for these situations. Also working on figuring out how area librarians can support each other - there isn’t a system in place right now.
  - SELCO Workshop: [https://youtu.be/8GXzOJ7X3XM](https://youtu.be/8GXzOJ7X3XM)
  - Discussion re: a ‘Unite against Book Bans’ group.

- RART Update (Carlis)
  - Polley and Brannen presented.
- Presented at PLD Day and have talked with board members to discuss topics and how they will restructure RART. There are some flaws in the current system, one of the (three) conference proposals for October is part of the new plan: want to do quarterly trainings - either virtually or in different places around the state.
- Want to update the website with presentations, news, and events.
- Survey was created and sent out to PLD re: RA trainings.
- Discussion: thinking about opening trainings for non-members, but there are two sides to that. What should be a member-only benefit and what can we offer for free?

- **PLD Update (Schneider)**
  - Things are going great. PLD is in the process of recruiting people to present for Lightning Rounds at the PLD Business meeting at the MLA Conference.

- **ARLD Update (Nelsen)**
  - At last meeting talked about MLA conference and the ARLD business meeting, trying to figure out a way to make it a hybrid meeting. Want to Zoom people in who can’t make it to the conference.
  - ARLD Conference, they decided that next year will be a virtual conference again. After that, we will be rotating in-person and virtual in opposition to ACRL.
  - Carlis will be talking to division chairs about not bunching up division conferences.

- **ITEM Update (Perrizo/Krohn/Hydukovich)**
  - Working on identifying affiliates, lobbyists, and who is taking different roles in ITEM group.
  - Spring is difficult to have a conference/event - are still discussing Jan/Feb or making it summer.
  - Having a Leadership event via Zoom this coming Thursday where they work on advocacy in school districts and what their constituents can do to support them.

**Activate Library Advocacy:**

- **Legislative Update (Lynch)**
  - There is no special session. Legislative Forum will be on August 9th, please register through the MLA website.
    - Molly Stanford has created a great agenda for the day.

- **Lobbyist Evaluation/Process (Lynch)**
  - Have gone through evaluation, sent it out to the partners to complete, and then met as a group (of 8) to go over evaluation form.
  - Moved into 3 RFIs that received for lobbying services, in the end, decided to renew contract with Capitol Hill Associates for 2 more years.
  - Part of the renewal will be going over the evaluation and making sure that expectations for them are clear for the next two years.
  - Motion made by Lynch to support the decisions made by the Legislative Committee, seconded by Hendren, motion passed.
• Legislative Steering Committee Meetings follow-up (Lynch)
  o MLA Bylaws recommended changes (see full document in Board packet):
  ■ ARTICLE IV: Meetings, page 7
    3.3 A majority of the members of any Committee shall constitute a quorum of that Committee; with the exception of the Legislative Committee, which shall conduct business only when ten or more members, including those members at remote sites, are in attendance.
  ■ ARTICLE V: Board of Directors, page 8
    Section 4.1, to “by the membership every 2 years (even years)” from “by the membership each year”
    Section 4.2, to “shall serve the first two years after election as the Chair-Elect of the Legislative Committee; the second third and fourth year as the Chair of the Legislative Committee, as a member of the Board of Directors, and the Association’s liaison with the Minnesota Legislature; and the third year as the Past Chair of the Legislative Committee.”
  ■ ARTICLE VII: Committees, page 12
    3. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all Committee members shall be selected by their chairs. Only Active, Life, and Affiliate Members of the Association may be members of a Committee, with the exception of the Legislative Committee members representing partner organizations; active ITEM members may also participate in the committee process that develops MLA/ITEM legislative initiatives.
    (Move this section to the Policy Manual)
    The Legislative Committee shall be composed of the following members.

Voting Members:
  ● Voting Members:
    o MLA Legislative Chair
    o ITEM rep (appointed or elected by the Division)?
    o PLD rep (appointed or elected by the Division)
    o ARLD rep (appointed or elected by the Division)
    o CRPLSA rep (consolidated)
      ■ Appointed by CRPLSA*
        ■ Does not need to be an Active, Life, or Affiliate member of the Association
    o CRPLSA rep (federated)
      ■ Appointed by CRPLSA*
        ■ Does not need to be an Active, Life, or Affiliate member of the Association
    o MCMT rep
      ■ Appointed by MCMT*
        ■ Does not need to be an Active, Life, or Affiliate member of the Association

  ● Non-Voting Members:
    o MLA Leg Chair Elect
- MLA President
- MLA President Elect
- Minitex
  - Appointed by Minitex*
    - Does not need to be an Active, Life, or Affiliate member of the Association
- State Library Services
  - Appointed by State Library Services*
    - Does not need to be an Active, Life, or Affiliate member of the Association
- ALA Chapter Councilor
  - Postpone approval of what’s policy vs bylaw change until the August meeting.

**Develop Leaders**
- Nominating Committee Update (O’Hara)
  - Have a great group this year, and have names showing up on the spreadsheet who have been nominated.
  - Will have people, bios and info for the Board by the beginning of August.
  - Email blast soliciting nominations sent out about a week ago.
- Awards Committee Update (Hendren)
  - Application form has gone out. Got an email from an ITEM member who didn’t seem to think they were included in MLA. Will forward this email to Perrizo to figure out how to respond.
  - ARLD and ITEM awards that were given in the Spring, as well as MN Writes/MN Reads will be recognized at the conference.

**Strengthening our Organization:**
- ALA Chapter Councilor’s Report - (Buckland)
  - Available in Board packet.
- Policy review:
  - MLA/ALA Chapter Councilor and Chair.
    - Postponed until August.
  - Legislative Committee.
    - Postponed until August so language can align with proposed bylaws changes.

**Other:**
- Items from the Floor:
  - None.
- Reminders:
  - Let Harsin know if you have things you want to add to the agenda by August 10th.
  - Next meeting: Monday, August 15th, 2022.
Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

July Board Packet materials:
2022-07-18 Board Meeting - Google Drive