Minnesota Library Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 15, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Board Members Present: Stacey Hendren (President), Steve Harsin (President-Elect), 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)

Guest(s) Present: Jennifer R. Nelson, State Library Services

Synergos Present: Joy DesMarais-Lanz

MLA Business:

- Review and Adopt/Amend Agenda (Welcome and Introductions)
  - The meeting was called to order by Hendren at 10:07am
  - Hawkins made a motion to adopt the agenda; McBurney seconded; all were in favor and motion was approved

- Introductions were made - name, place of work, and role on board

- Approval of the December board meeting minutes (Fillbrandt)
  - Minutes were approved as they stand

- Approval of the financials (Ethier)
  - January ‘21 Financial Report - Ethier lost access to accounts at end of December, were recovered.
  - December 2020 financials included in the meeting packet.

- Membership information: Budgeted for 55,000, had 50,215 for membership dues. Budgeted for less in 2021, will hopefully meet that this year. Renewals boost up around the time of the conference.
  - It’s been over a year since we passed the friends/supporters membership category: Ethier will look into this category and see how that affected numbers.
  - Membership action plan will be created by Sundstrom and DesMarai.
    - Bross moved, Wurl seconded, all were in favor and motion was approved.

- Synergos/Executive Director Update (DesMarais-Lanz)
Spoke with ARLD and want to get ahead on future events.
Intro email sent out on 1/14/21 - will issue a revision on the contact email address.
Contract process negotiator working on 2023 contracts, and will have an update on that soon.

Mission: To help libraries accomplish together what none can do alone.
Vision: MLA ensures a future where libraries thrive.

Engage and Educate Members:

- State Library Services Update (Nelson)
  - Nelson will be moving to NJ as state librarian, Hendren extended thanks for support of libraries across the state and for this organization.
  - Things moving along nicely, activities curtailed slightly because of pandemic, working with Bay Area Discovery Museum on Kindergarten readiness (a train the trainer thing) with Ashley.
  - Doing work with equity - personal and professional development opportunities as well.
  - Legislative session started, no language for Governor’s policy bill yet, but have two things for library statute proposed for this bill: regarding school related librarians and definitions (licensed media specialist = calling it a school library), hoping this goes forward to legislature - not asking for money, asking for recognition for school librarians; also State Library Services needs a definition to work from for grants/funding.
  - Have not received allotment from IMLS yet, but expecting a little more than usually get - use this for Minitex, the Braille library, State Library Services staff salaries, grant competitions, and more.
  - LSTA five year plan goes through 2022, will be coming up on evaluation and new planning - keep a look out for focus groups on this.
  - No plans made for replacing Nelson yet, decision under consideration, Daron Korte (contact for advocacy side of things once Nelson is gone, January 29th is her last day) daron.korte@state.mn.us
  - Why do you feel membership is impt: about networking, meeting people with different perspectives, easy to get into and lots of room to expand and grow in it (low floor, high ceiling, wide walls).
  - Something association has done that proud of: Transition to virtual kinds of things the conference and meetings has been great, organization has more exposure than it did, getting a slightly different audience and embracing these changes has really benefited organization.
  - As you leave MN do you have a challenge to us? Keep in mind/do, keep the wide perspective of who libraries are and who we work with in communities and partnering with government and non-profit organizations - don’t get tunnel vision - we’re not the only ones trying to do good in our communities, make those connections/partnerships -
use state library services if they can be of help.

- **2021 Conference update (Hendren)**
  - New contracts nearly finalized, approved $3500 for cancellation fee to the Hotel.
  - Call for conference committee members will be in next round up, Hendren will follow up on this after see what works on this - want to get some academic library representation - will start working with Joy to get the committee put together.

- **Intellectual Freedom Committee Report (Collins)**
  - Being reconstituted, Thanks to Hendren for pushing that, will be meeting 1st Tuesday of the month, watch for more info on this in future meetings - updating link for reporting forms for challenges, will be linking to ALA form as well.
  - Hendren thanked Collins for his work with this and for taking on a second year as IFC chair.

**Activate Library Advocacy:**

- **Legislative Update (Hawkins)**
  - We are in Legislative session - it kicked off on Jan. 5th, they will adjourn on Monday May 17th - set up a meeting with Sam Walseth, committing to weekly updates on email list, it’s good for folks to be in touch and know what Walseth is working on.
  - Committee has met, putting together a toolkit for Legislative day, focus on email/live meetings with legislators, as well as social media work. Carrying on work with Legisl. Priorities list that was approved by Board last year.
  - Next meeting will hopefully have active bills we can reach out to members to contact their legislators about.
  - Committee meets first Weds. of Month at 10am, in bylaws, all MLA members are considered members of this committee and can attend meetings.

**Develop Leaders**

- **Subunit orientation update (Hendren)**
  - Have a subunit orientation on 1 / 8- went very well, talked about working with Synergos and expectations. Hendren may be reaching out to board members to help with communication.
  - Nice to talk to ARLD, there is PLD attached for info only, SRLRT has first meeting scheduled for February.

**Strengthening our Organization:**

- **Anti-Racism Discussion (Collins)**
  - Working with local author WD Foster-Graham - has been checking in with different systems and talking about representation of black authors in collections - he has
been able to get in touch with all public library systems around the state, has
developed a list of black authors within MN and this list is now available under
“About MLA” and “Library Resources.”
(https://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/resource/resmgr/libraryresources/mla_21_
minnesota_black_autho.pdf)
  ○ Article review: Showing up for Racial Justice, looking at White Supremacy Culture
  and Perfectionism:
  https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics .html

● Policy Review: Division and Subunit Budget Policy (Ethier)
  ○ Every month we review a few different policies so over a 2 year period the full
  manual is reviewed.
  ○ Division and Subunit Budget Policy review - Hendren proposes base numbers
  need to be adjusted: $100 for sections and roundtables, and $200 for subunits.
  For things beyond base budget, encourage use of member fees/sponsors.
    ■ Hendren moves, Katie seconds, no discussion, motion carried
      unanimously and policy will be updated.
● Policy Review: CHAIR, SUBUNIT (Hendren)
  ○ This policy has quite a few changes, there were several things that were
  redundant, doesn’t align with practice, etc., Hendren proposed changes and put
  together new document and presented this to board.
  ○ Discussion: Sundstrom identified grammatical error, Hawkins question about
  archiving documents: legislative does not submit all notes to MLA office - should
  we be standardizing across all groups, not just subunits?
    ■ Fillbrandt moves to adopt with grammatical update, Harsin seconds, no
      additional discussion, motion carried unanimously and policy will be
      updated.

Other:

● Items from the Floor
  ○ Hawkins asked for an update on document storage - Hendren, Fillbrandt and
    Motscke met last week to communicate next pieces and will reach out to Joy
    about these things as we move forward.
● Reminders: let Hendren know if you have things you want to add to agenda in February.

Motion to adjourn made by Sundstrom, Collins seconded, motion carried.

Informational Attachments:

● PLD Annual Report for 2020 (Wurl)
● Updated Zoom Instructions (DesMarais-Lanz)

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.
January Board Packet materials:
15 January 2021 Board Meeting - Google Drive