2021 MLA Financial Statement

In 2020, the MLA Board decided to move toward completing a financial review of MLA every two years and a full audit every six years. This summer, Wagner CPA Group was the firm selected to conduct a financial review for 2021. They prepared a 2021 Statement of Financial Position that was approved by the MLA Board on November 21 and is available for review. A full audit of MLA financials will be completed for the 2023 fiscal year. Thank you to Christie Kess and Andrew Wylie who volunteered to serve on the committee for this process.

In Memory: Leonard Sobanja

We are sad to announce Leonard Sobanja, a past MLA member and strong supporter of libraries, passed away on November 2, 2022. He was a key figure with the Arrowhead Library System (ALS). He served on the ALS Board for several terms from 1989-1998, 1999-2002, and 2002-2008. When he was no longer on the Board, he continued to attend meetings as a non-voting representative and attended numerous MLA annual meetings. He also served as Minnesota Trustees Association Chair, Grand Marais Library Board Trustee, and North Country Library Co-operative Board Trustee. He frequently attended Library Legislative Day to advocate for library users in rural areas. A celebration of his life will be held in summer 2023.

To learn more visit: https://www.cookcountynews-herald.com/articles/leonard-bernhard-sobanja/
Leonard Sobanja receiving a Distinguished Service Award at the 1998 MLA Annual Conference in Rochester, MN.

Legislative Committee Updates

The newly structured MLA Legislative Committee will be meeting on **Wednesday, January 4, 2023, 9-10 a.m.** If you have questions about the new committee structure, please contact 2023 MLA Legislative Chair Mollie Stanford.

The Legislative Session officially begins on Tuesday, January 3, 2023! Here are some upcoming dates for your Legislative calendar:

- *Attend Online Legislative Updates* on **January 4, 10-10:30 a.m. and February 1, 10-10:30 a.m.**
  - Keep up with the latest news regarding the 2023 Legislative Session and the **2023 MLA Legislative Priorities** from MLA Lobbyist Sam Walseth. Hear advocacy next steps from the MLA Legislative Committee representatives!
○ Register by visiting the MLA Community Calendar. These monthly updates are open to the entire MLA membership.

● **Virtual Library Legislative Week Briefing**: The date will be shared soon!
  ○ MLA Lobbyist Sam Walseth and his team from Capitol Hill Associates will provide an overview of the 2023 legislative session and an update regarding MLA bills and initiatives. This session will take place the week of February 20 and will be recorded and shared with members. Stay tuned for more information!

● **Legislative Day at the Capitol**: **February 28, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.**
  ○ This will be an in-person event this year! More detailed info to be shared soon.

● **Legislative Day Virtual Debriefing**, **March 8, 10-11 a.m.**
  ○ Join Sam Walseth and MLA Legislative Committee members to share stories and experiences from MLA Library Legislative Day! A Zoom link will be shared as the date approaches.

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**Message from the Incoming President Julia Carlis**

As 2022 draws to a close, I’d like to thank all of those cycling off of the MLA Board of Directors: past President Stacey Hendren, Secretary Sara Fillbrandt, Intellectual Freedom Chair Kate Eidem, Legislative Chair Liz Lynch, ARLD Chair Kat Nelson, PLD Chair Kristin Schneider, and thank you to outgoing President Steve Harsin for his leadership over the past year!

I'm looking forward to working with the 2023 Board, including a couple of big things planned for our year, such as a new strategic plan for the association and coming together in October for the Annual Conference in St. Paul. The 2023 conference theme is "Library Workers Make the Library Work," which recognizes the contributions that all staff make to the success of library services for our communities, no matter what kind of library they work in.

There will be other events, learning opportunities, and social gatherings planned throughout the year by our wonderful subunits. Visit your account profile on the MLA website and go to the groups page in the right sidebar to join divisions, sections, and round tables. Please reach out to me at mla@juliacarlis.com with any questions or ideas, or just to chat.

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**Public Library Division’s 2023 Leadership**

The PLD Board would like to welcome our new board members for 2023:
1. Margot Barry will be serving as Secretary
2. Christie Kess will be serving as Member-at-Large (2-year term)
3. Amy Gabbert-Montag will be serving as Member-at-Large (1-year term)

Thank you to our current board members who are assuming new roles:
1. Jamie Hoehn will be Chair
2. Megan Krueger will be Chair Elect
3. Kristin Schneider will be Past Chair
4. We would also like to thank Jody Wurl (Past Chair) and Jodi Carlson Grebinoski (Member at Large) for serving on the PLD Board.

Thanks so much to everyone and Happy 2023!

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**Save the Date for Academic & Research Libraries (ARLD) Day - April 28, 2023**

The ARLD’s annual conference “ARLD Day” will be held on **Friday, April 28**. The conference will take place virtually. More information on the keynote speaker and session proposals to come; stay tuned!

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**Welcome New Members!**
The last Roundup went out on 11/30/22, so everyone since then

**Thank You Renewing Members!**
The last Roundup went out on 11/30/22, so everyone since then

**MLA is strong because of you. Thank you for being a member.**