I. May 17, 2022
II. President
III. N/A
IV. Board Action Required (none)
V. Brief Summary of Activities

The spring brings about renewal, and for the MLA President this means appointments, appointments, and more appointments. These appointments have already begun across our many committees, task forces, working groups, and officer and editor positions. A few new highlights include a working group to analyze our business and publications functions and look to their long-range future in MLA. We also welcome our first Membership Management Officer team (Jason Imbesi and Melissa Moll): they’ll work closely with our CFO team to support our administrative structure and membership functions. They’re already contributing mightily.

We held a successful, vibrant conference in March, and despite a sudden pivot to all-virtual (thanks to the Omicron variants), the task force, web managers, convention managers, program chair, and technical support teams made it a huge success. The late transition from hybrid to 100% virtual happened smoothly thanks to their hard work and tremendous flexibility. Enriching plenary sessions about Utah music history and improvisational librarianship (through an archivist’s and musicologist’s lens) launched the meeting. Countless sessions about critical librarianship, convergence of public and technical services, digital curation, data-informed information literacy (and so much more) filled our days.

We have a new strategic plan for 2022-2030 that drives us forward with key objectives: organizing strategically, developing and retaining membership, cultivating inclusivity, and strengthening communications. The climate survey task force has begun analyzing this plan and will begin work on the new survey this summer. Our planning committee is busy with implementation / action plans. We hosted a town hall in early 2022, centered around the rollout of this plan and the conference pivot to virtual.

The board recently approved the formation of a review panel for the MLA-L mediator (elected by the membership, reporting to the membership). The vice president and I worked with the nominating committee to issue the inaugural call for nominations to the panel. The committee won’t vet candidates but they’ll facilitate the first election, after which the newly-formed panel will plan elections every two years for their successors. Since MLA-L is now under MLA auspices, this more egalitarian process ensures that membership decides the renewal or non-renewal of the listserv mediator each year.
The digitization of Rowman-Scarecrow monograph series backlist titles for an Open Access collection under the auspices of Internet Archive has been largely completed thanks to the hard work of the CFO team, Open Access Editors (DeLaurenti and Vest), and the digitization lab at Johns Hopkins University. The collection (titles with outstanding copyright concerns will be cleared for addition at a later date):

https://archive.org/details/musiclibraryassociationpublications

Looking ahead, in May, a town hall series launches that features getting involved in leadership in MLA (seeking to demystify how to run for board positions, nominations, opportunities for service). The series will continue with town halls focusing on editor and special officer opportunities and committee chair opportunities.

MLA’s counsel, Kathryn Goldman, is working closely with us on legal action that will prevent further problems from thespamming “Jason” (by securing web domains).

This year, I participated in the Racial Equity Institute workshop hosted by Groundwater (and sponsored by MLA board and Education Committee). We have begun work with the new Diversity statement draft, recommendations, and a reorganization of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and Subcommittee into one IDEA (Accessibility) committee (forthcoming).

At the annual meeting in March we thanked departing board members and welcomed a new cohort. I am thrilled to serve with them and honored to serve as president.

Most sincerely,

Liza Vick
President, 2021-2023