I. Call to Order. President Ruthann McTyre called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

II. Approval of 2010 meeting minutes. The minutes of the March 24, 2010 business meeting were approved with corrections.

III. Treasurer/Executive Secretary’s Report.

A. Budget

MLA finished fiscal year 2009/2010 with a reported operating budget deficit of $138,813.25, which was more than $25,000 greater than the planned operating deficit of $113,092.03. Approval to allocate $29,398.00 into the operating budget from the MLA Fund was made by the Board of Directors when it adopted the budget in June 2009, and an emergency action authorizing up to $50,000 to be made available from the MLA Fund after the San Diego convention in order to meet our contractual financial obligations, makes the actual FY10 budget deficit a total of $59,415.25, or 11% of the total MLA budget of $539,254.53.

Actual total operating income reached $402,732.70, or 94.5% of budgeted income expected, and total operating expenditures were $541,545.95, or 100.4% of budgeted expenses. The remaining overage in the operating budget was able to be covered by existing Cash Reserves in MLA’s checking and savings accounts.

MLA’s investment accounts at the end of the Fiscal Year on June 30, 2010 totaled $776,569.91, with $171,321.62 invested in Socially Responsible accounts at Calvert, and $605,248.29 at Fidelity. MLA received contributions to our Award and unrestricted funds totaling $19,722.00.

A full copy of MLA’s financial statements as audited by SVA Associates, will be found in the forthcoming June 2011 issue of Notes, and the summary Statement of Financial Position for FY10 appears in the 2010 Annual Reports, which is available now on the MLA website.

B. Membership

Determining the number of members and subscribers is always a bit of a shot at a moving target. Although our membership year parallels the Fiscal Year from July 1 to June 30, the numbers are never “final” at that time. In fact, the number of members and subscribers usually continues to increase throughout the first two quarters of the Fiscal Year as subscribers renew (late) after not receiving the September issue of Notes, and individual members renew (late) when registering for the annual meeting. Despite these issues of consistency, I’ve tried to compile some comparative figures for the last few years, using snapshots of membership data taken each year (I think at roughly the same time in the membership cycle). The results are alarming! We can observe a steady decline:

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<td>Total Members &amp; Subscribers:</td>
<td>1655</td>
<td>1618</td>
<td>1478</td>
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Over a period of just 4 renewal cycles, we’ve declined by 457 members and subscribers; this is a 27.6% decline! The MLA Board is aware of these statistics, and will be attempting to address the complexities of this issue as we plan strategically for MLA’s future.

C. Election

659 ballots were sent out for the Fall 2010 election, with 433 ballots returned, none invalid, for a return rate of 65.7%. This was the best return rate in the past eight years! (Even better than the dramatically improved Fall 2009 election, which I reported on last year, that had a 55.6% return rate.) Apparently the introduction of the online ballot made it easier for many members to participate in the election, and this is great news. Membership might be in decline, but those who are still members are increasingly invested and involved, and that gives me strong hope that MLA will renew itself for continued success in the 21st century.

D. Publications

In November of 2010 MLA was finally able to sign a new contract for distribution services with Scarecrow Press for the remaining inventory they hold of our jointly published monographic series titles. The process took a long time to finalize, primarily due to communication problems with Scarecrow, but we are relieved to be able to continue to earn royalty income from the continued sales of our admittedly dwindling back stock with them. For calendar year 2010, Scarecrow reported to MLA that they have sold 142 individual titles from our monographic series yielding total sales of $4,034.00. A-R Editions, reports calendar year 2010 sales of our first jointly published title, number 35 in the Index and Bibliography Series, The Guitar in American Banjo, Mandolin, and Guitar Periodicals, 1882-1933, by Jeffrey Noonan, of 13 units for a yearly revenue of $525.00 – making the total number of MLA monographic publications sold 155 units, for a total annual revenue of $4,559.00.

E. Other activities

The annual audit was completed, taxes were filed and the 1099 forms were mailed out. This office has also taken on the responsibility of filing the IRS form 990-N for each of MLA’s chapters, which maintains their tax exempt status as subordinates of the national association.

F. Transition
This is my last annual meeting report to the membership. At the end of this meeting, Linda Blair, who has been learning the responsibilities of this position as Assistant over the past year will assume the role of Treasurer/Executive Secretary. Linda has been a quick study, and is a truly dedicated servant to MLA. I feel fortunate to be able to work with Linda that we are insuring our goal that the position of Treasurer/Executive Secretary remains capable of providing a broad scope of oversight and the critical analysis of the association’s financial assets and member activity that is the necessary safeguard for all the Association’s resources. I will remain on in the position of Assistant Treasurer/Executive Secretary for one more year, supporting a smooth transition as well as helping facilitate the integration of IAML-US into MLA’s financial and membership maintenance structures.

I want to thank all the members of the Board for their encouragement, their leadership, their creativity, and assistance. I am especially grateful to President Ruthann McTyre for her clear direction when I wandered lost in the forest for the trees, her strong shoulder when I felt weak, her gentle correction when I erred. Let me also express my appreciation for the good work of every one of our partners in the MLA Business Office at A-R, under the direction of Pat Wall, and in particular for Jim Zychowicz – whose collaboration and contributions have been essential to the successful performance of my duties. I feel deeply honored and privileged to have been chosen to serve MLA and its members as its Treasurer/Executive Secretary for the past 3 years. Thank you all.

IV. MLA and IAML-US Merger Vote

The boards of both MLA and IAML-US have been working on the possibility of a merger between our two organizations, beginning with conversations in Chicago in 2009, and then leading towards last year’s town hall meeting on the topic and the straw poll taken there to measure interest on the part of our members, which was an affirmative one. Following that, a small task force comprising board members from both MLA and IAML-US developed a Plan of Merger, which was approved by both boards last fall, and posted on the MLA and IAML-US websites. IAML-US members voted to accept the Plan of Merger in their recent election and now, today, in accordance with our Constitution, the membership of the Music Library Association will vote here at our annual business meeting.

Michael Rogan and some gracious volunteers have passed out your paper ballots. We’ll collect and count them, and will announce the results before adjournment.

As a reminder, student and institutional members do not have voting privileges. Eligible members are identified by the red dots on their name tags. Pending a successful outcome of the vote, your MLA and IAML-US boards, along with our business office at A-R will begin the next phase of the merger, with everything in place for the final step of the transition to be in place by June 30th.

Voting results: The MLA membership attending the 80th annual business meeting in Philadelphia, 2011, approved the MLA/IAML-US Plan of Merger, as follows:

- 215 agree
- 5 disagree
- 3 abstentions
- 223 total votes cast

V. President’s Report.

It has been another busy year for MLA. One of the most significant changes for us was the move to electronic voting last fall. Along with that was announcing the election results right after that tabulation of the votes.

Another electronic voting opportunity could follow this spring, pending the results of the IAML-US Merger vote at this meeting. This spring vote will center on changes to the Constitution brought on by the proposed merger.

STRATEGIC PLANNING The Strategic Planning Task Force has done a great job in framing our collective discussion about the future, both short and long-term, of MLA. This morning’s town hall meeting offered an opportunity for more discussion and feedback and we will continue to work with the Task Force to begin implementation of the plan. My sincere thanks to chair David Gilbert, Facilitator Ericka Patillo and the members of the Task Force whose ability to look into the future and to lead that discussion will help guide the future of MLA.

As stated in Article VI. C. of the MLA Constitution, C. “The Board of Directors shall authorize the dissolution of a committee when in the opinion of the Board its usefulness has ceased. This decision and reasons for the dissolution shall be reported to the membership.” To that end, I report here that the Facilities Committee has been dissolved. Members of the former committee and the board agreed that there is a more workable means to keep the membership informed about building and remodeling projects going on in our libraries—possibly a blog or wiki. More on that in the future.

Likewise, the JOINT MLA/UMCP COMMITTEE ON THE MLA ARCHIVES was disbanded after the San Diego meeting. Their final goal, to replace and update the original contract with the Archives at Maryland, was completed with a new Memorandum of Understanding which was signed both by the UMCP Dean of Libraries and myself soon after that meeting. Since last summer, an Archives Task Force, deftly chaired by Gerry Ostrove, has been re-imagining how our archives should be organized and maintained and has brought to the Executive Board a recommendation for the creation of an MLA Archivist position, along with a recommendation for a short term Processing Archivist, who would be hired for approximately 16 months, to process and organize the 380 linear feet of materials. A follow up task force with be put into place to chart next steps to get this particular program ready to go.
It was noted in the Archives Joint Committee’s final report there was no inherent relationship between oral history activities and the joint committee, and that the Oral History Subcommittee should be a committee in its own right. This has been achieved, with the establishment of the Oral History Committee, chaired by Therese Dickman.

The Board approved a more stringent budget than in past years, cutting Association-related travel by 10% and reducing projected spending in other areas (phase 2 web design, Presidential discretionary funds, for example). On a brighter note, we voted to increase the Freeman Award pot from $3000 to $3750 in order to share the wealth of that vital fund with more future music librarians.

This spring, in a continued effort to bring the budget under more control, we will be setting the convention budget as part of the annual operating budget at the next board meeting. In her Convention Manager report, Bonna Boettcher will discuss this a bit more.

The following Round Tables have been renewed through 2015:
- Film Music
- Music Industry & Arts Management
- Organ Music
- Performing Arts
- Sheet Music

The Video Round Table was not renewed.

VI. Other reports.

Bonna Boettcher, Convention Manager, reported that official registration numbers for the Philadelphia meeting are high: 474 individual registrations, 71 exhibitors at 39 tables, and the number of room nights exceeded MLA’s contracted room block. The 2012 Dallas meeting is scheduled for Feb. 12-19 at the Fairmont Dallas, $165 per night, with the opening reception on Feb. 15; the 2013 San Jose meeting is scheduled for Feb. 24 – March 3 at the Fairmont San Jose, $159 per night, with the opening reception on Feb. 27. For 2014, MLA has accepted an invitation to meet in Nashville, pending hotel arrangements; the Nashville meeting may be shared with other organizations; stay tuned. The program in Dallas will reflect planning to reduce MLA’s hotel space footprint, based on a room grid with designated spaces for program sessions and committee meetings. Program proposals will likely have a slightly later deadline, possibly mid to late May.

Jim Cassaro, Development Officer, reported on current development initiatives: MLA has applied for an IMLS diversity grant for a library school scholarship in conjunction with ARL, with the outcome due in June; Philadelphia LAC fund-raising was very successful, at $18,000; during the conference, seven MLA members were videotaped on why they give to MLA, with the video to go up on the MLA web site; two new giving circles, the Orpheus Society and the Ostinato Club, were instituted this year; $5,506 was raised in donations and sales during the Philadelphia meeting; the newly-established Carol June Bradley Endowment Fund, which includes proceeds from the MLA Shop and the Silent Auction in Philadelphia, now stands at $2,786; $2,906 was raised to endow the O’Meara and Hill funds, which now stand at $10,106 out of a $20,000 target. Cassaro thanked members for their tremendous generosity.

Jane Gottlieb, Notes editor, thanked Notes staff, A-R staff, reviewers for Notes, Jim Cassaro and Linda Blotner for their support and work, with special thanks to outgoing editor George Hill for his music publisher catalog column, and noted staff changes.

Laurie Sampsel, 2011 Program Chair, thanked everyone involved in the 2011 meeting for their work. She requested that presenters send in their PowerPoint presentations and handouts for posting on the LAC conference web site. Since the Philadelphia meeting was MLA’s first themed conference, there will be a short survey sent out in the week following the meeting on having a themed conference; Sampsel invited all attendees to share their thoughts and feedback via the survey.

VII. Remembrances.

Don Seibert was remembered by Neil Hughes. Richard Burbank was remembered by John Wagstaff.

VIII. Awards.

A. Publications

The Richard S. Hill Award for the best article on music librarianship or article of a music-bibliographic nature was awarded to Tim Brooks for "Copyright and Historical Sound Recordings: Recent Efforts to Change U.S. Law," Notes 65:3 (March 2009), 464-474. The Eva Judd O’Meara Award for the best review published in Notes in 2009 went to Kofi Agawu for his review of Byron Almén’s A Theory of Musical Narrative, Notes 66:2 (December 2009), 275-277. The Vincent H. Duckles Award was not awarded this year.

B. Dena Epstein Award

The Epstein Award was given to Dr. Nancy Yunhwa Rao in support of her research, “Spectacular Sound across Borders: Chinese Opera Theaters in Chinatowns and Beyond,” which will culminate in a book on Chinese opera in American during the first decades of the twentieth century.

C. Kevin Freeman Travel Grant

The Kevin Freeman Travel Grant was awarded to six individuals this year: Langston Bates, Sally Bauer, Zach Coble, Carolyn Doi, Molly O’Brien and Lindy Smith.
D. Walter Gerboth Award
The Gerboth Award was presented to Anna E. Kijas in support of her research toward the completion of a bio-bibliography of pianist and composer Teresa Carreño.

E. Carol June Bradley Award

IX. Searches and Election Results
Four searches were conducted over the past few months with the following appointments approved by the Board: Advertising Manager, Anne Shelley; Editor, Music Cataloging Bulletin, Alan Ringwood; Editor, Technical Reports and Monographs in Music Librarianship, Mark McKnight; Copyright Website Editor, Tammy Ravas. Our thanks go out to those who previously held these positions: Wendy Sistrunk, Advertising Manager; Mickey Koth, MCB: D.J. Hoek, Tech Reports Editor; and Eric Harbeson, Copyright.

President McTyre introduced the new Board members-at-large: Daniel Boomhower, Assistant Fiscal Officer; Kirstin Dougan, Assistant Planning and Reports Gatherer; and Laurie Sampsel, Assistant Parliamentarian. Board members-at-large ending their terms of service, Linda Fairtile, Steve Mantz, and Jenn Riley were thanked, along with Recording Secretary Pamela Bristah, Pat Wall and James Zychowicz of A-R Editions, and Richard Griscom and the Philadelphia Local Arrangements Committee.

X. Announcements. The Local Arrangements Committee for the 2012 meeting in Dallas, Texas was introduced.

XI. New Business.
Passing the gavel: I have kept this gavel on my dresser since coming back from San Diego because I wanted to make sure I didn’t forget to pack it for Philadelphia. I also kept it there to remind myself every morning that serving MLA as president has been one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done. MLA is bubbling over with wonderful people and it has been my privilege to work with and get to know so many of you. I know that Jerry is looking forward to that same privilege, starting, oh I’d say sometime on Monday morning. So Jerry, while you come up to the podium, I’ll just say THANK YOU so much for everything you all have done to make my term as president a true honor.

XII. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.