I. **Report Date:** May 15, 2023

II. **Name of Committee:** Membership Committee

III. **Committee Members:**
- Randye Jones
- Karen Olson
- Lina Sheahan
- Amanda Steadman
- Sam Boss, Reduced Registration Coordinator
- Terry Lewis, Roommate Clearinghouse Coordinator
- Will Scharfenberger, ex officio IDEA Committee
- Kristie Nelsen, ex officio Public Libraries Committee
- Jason Imbesi, ex officio Membership Management Officer
- Melissa Moll, ex officio Assistant Membership Management Officer
- Lisa Shiota, chair

IV. **Board Action Required:** Yes (3 items)

V. **Brief Summary of Activities:**

Attached to this message: Reports from the Reduced Registration and Roommate Clearinghouse Programs

The Membership Committee met via Zoom four times between January-May 2023. Lina Sheahan has been added as a member, replacing Rick McRae, who has rotated off the committee.

The Committee’s presentation, “Why Did They Leave and Where Did They Go?: MLA Membership and Career Outcomes of Award Recipients” was given at the 2023 St. Louis conference on Saturday, March 4, 2023. ([https://sched.co/1ET7L](https://sched.co/1ET7L))

Outreach: Responding to the chapter chairs call, Beth Royall (West Virginia University) of the Atlantic Chapter gave an online presentation on music librarianship on April 18, 2023.

**BAR1:** Review member survey reports

The full reports will be provided to the board under separate cover. The recommendations from the respective surveys are appended to this report.

**BAR2:** Create a listserv for Organizational Liaisons

In alignment with Strategic Plan Objectives 1.3: Cultivate mutually beneficial relationships with other organizations that offer financial as well as professional opportunities and advantages; and 2.3: Explore educational and networking opportunities beyond annual and chapter conferences, we propose that the board approves the creation of a listserv for Organizational Liaisons to facilitate cross-communication and possibilities for collaboration.
**BAR3**: Personal reminders for membership renewal

As was noted in the literature review and in participant comments in the former members survey, members often need reminders on paying their annual dues, and providing a personal touch to reminder messages shows that their membership is valued. We propose that the board endorse sending individual messages to those whose membership has lapsed in the past year. The Membership Management Officers would be responsible for the language and timing of the messages.

**VI. Alignment with the MLA 2022-2030 Strategic Plan Objectives**

Goal Area 2: Develop and Retain Membership

**VII. Implicit Bias Testing Reporting** - 10 of 11 members reported completing implicit bias testing/training. There was some confusion as to what would be acceptable to report. In previous years, the requirements were more clearly stated in the announcement; it may be prudent to continue to state this in future announcements.
Recommendations from the Survey Reports

**Former members:**

- Create stronger programs in advocacy for music libraries, music library workers, and people who work with music materials.
- Continue efforts for greater inclusion of members to serve in MLA committees and other work for the organization.
- Work on fostering a more supportive environment for members in their first ten years with MLA.
- Consider discounted membership fees for people who belong in related organizations, such as AMS, TLA, ALA, etc. [CFOs]
- Conduct separate surveys/focus groups for those who identify as minorities (racial/ethnic, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity) in order to get a more accurate assessment of their views on MLA. [IDEA Committee]
- Conduct another former members’ survey with more directed questions for better data analysis in five years. [Membership Committee]

**Current members:**

- Continue to provide services for networking, professional development, and learning opportunities for all members.
- Have a regular, frequent, and informal mechanism for assessing the temperature of the association, with a focus towards actionable solutions.
- Initiate more cross-committee collaborations within MLA.
- Create a current members survey with questions that can be compared to the former members survey.
Reduced Registration Program Report - 2023 MLA/TLA Joint Meeting
Prepared and submitted by Sam Boss - March 29, 2023

For the 2023 MLA/TLA joint meeting held in St. Louis, Missouri on March 1-5, 2023, nine MLA members volunteered to each provide five hours of service during the conference. One individual was unable to participate which reduced the number to eight total volunteers. At the conclusion of the conference, eight volunteers each provided five hours of service for a total of forty volunteer hours. Volunteers staffed the registration desk, assisted with technology-adjacent tasks during sessions, and assisted the MLA Big Band Coordinator.

In years past, participant responsibilities included assisting at the Registration Desk, assisting the Convention Manager(s), assisting the Placement Officer, or assisting an Exhibitor; with potential tasks ranging from helping to set up or take down displays, covering for lunch breaks, running errands, or staffing a conference service point. For the 2023 Annual Conference, it was decided that providing technology-adjacent assistance at the conference sessions and staffing the Registration Desk, especially during the first two days of the conference, were the highest priorities. Participants were also needed to assist the MLA Big Band Coordinator. Technology-adjacent help consisted of monitoring online chat for Q&A during hybrid sessions and facilitating Q&A during in-person only sessions. It was noted during the conference that it would also be helpful if participants assisted with time management during the conference sessions. Participants will be surveyed on their experience.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Volunteers #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evidence Synthesis and Systematic Reviews in the Arts: A Cross-Disciplinary Conversation</td>
<td>3/2/23 - 1:30PM-2:30PM</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>RDA Changes in Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3/2/23 - 1:30PM-2:20PM</td>
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<td>OER Collaborations in the Performing Arts Library: The Beggar's Opera Digital Edition</td>
<td>3/2/23 - 5:00PM-6:00PM</td>
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<td>Cataloging and Metadata Town Hall</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 11:00AM-12:30PM</td>
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<td>Every Good Belletrist Deserves Funding: Arts and Humanities Scholars and Open Access Publishing Fees</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 11:00AM-11:20AM</td>
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<td>Improving Representation and Access through Ethical Description</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 1:30PM-3:00PM</td>
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<td>The musiconn-services for musicologists and music librarians</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 3:00PM-3:30PM</td>
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<td>A Student-Led Solution to the DEI Discovery Challenge</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 3:30PM-4:00PM</td>
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<td>Putting It Together: A New Idea for DEIA Staff Development</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 3:30PM-4:00PM</td>
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<td>Plenary - Restorative justice and the decolonization of Indigenous performing arts archives</td>
<td>3/3/23 - 4:30PM-5:30PM</td>
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Roommate Clearinghouse Program Report
Terry Lewis, Coordinator

In summation, through the MLA Roommate Clearinghouse, we helped 16 members of MLA find roommates to share expenses at the conference in St. Louis. I was unable to help two people, because one of the members had to change their plans at the last minute and attend virtually this year - otherwise I'm pretty sure I would have paired them up with the final member, who ended up getting their own room.

The general response I got from everyone was that they were very grateful that this service was offered, and it helped multiple people who might not otherwise have been able to afford to attend in person. I requested that information about the Clearinghouse be added to the MLA website page concerning the conference hotel, but I have no idea if that actually helped visibility or not. I also sent a series of emails to the MLA Listserv, and I believe that helped, as each time I sent out an email I would get new responses from people who hadn't seen previous emails (or hadn't been ready to deal with travel plans yet).

Overall I would say it was very successful, although I have no idea how the numbers compare to previous years. The application process will be reviewed and streamlined for next year, and statistics will be gathered from this point forward.