South Dakota Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
July 24th, 2023 (2:00 p.m. CST/1:00 p.m. MST)

The meeting was called to order by President Jamie Formanek at 2:00 p.m. CST.

Roll Call:
Board Members and Committee Chairs present:
Jamie Formanek, Sarah Jones-Lutter, Shari Theroux, Danielle De Jager-Loftus, Melanie Argo, Krista Ohrtman, Kelly Henkel Thompson, George Seamon, Kristin Echtenkamp, Joshua Easter, Katherine Eberline, and Daniel Burniston.

Board Members and Committee Chairs not present:
Kris O’Brien

Others Present:
Sean Minkel, Local Arrangements

Changes/Additions to agenda:
Motion by Shari Theroux second by Melanie Argo to adopt the agenda with the Report of the MPLA Representative moved back to their normal position from item four to item eleven. Motion carried.

Consideration of Minutes for the September 28, 2022 meeting:
Motion by Krista Ohrtman, second by Shari Theroux to approve the April 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Report of Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Krista Ohrtman:
Krista Ohrtman reported that the latest membership numbers and account information are included in the report shared earlier today. The main things that have been worked on are making sure conference and Branch Out registrations were set up and working. There are 42 registrations for conference in Rapid City as well as 14 Exhbitors. Branch Out registration has only been posted about a week and there are a total of 11 people registered. Kelly Henkel Thompson is working on marketing Branch Out. They are also waiting on the agenda for the Pierre Branch Out session. More registrations are anticipated once the schedule is published on the Sched app. Jaime asked about how registration currently compared to previous years. Krista noted that due to the pandemic, the only recent data is from last year’s conference and that followed a similar pattern with more registrations later, especially once the full conference schedule was published. Krista reported issues with SDLAs website vendor. The recent invoice was around $5,000 more than expected. The vendor has been contacted for clarification and an explanation. Krista has not received a response other than from their accounts payable contact about the payment of the invoice. Their accounts payable contact indicated that someone would get back to us, but no one has done so at this point. Krista and Kelly suggests that if this is the vendor’s new price, SDLA look for a new website and membership database vendor after conference. The vendor’s responsiveness and customer service have been poor anyway, so a change in vendor may be a good thing. Making the transition to a new vendor will take a lot more work for Krista and Kelly but they will make it work. Jamie also noted that she has some website experience and would be willing to help if needed. Krista is working on
compiling documents for the internal audit and will have them to Melanie and Michael for review soon. The accounting firm that does SDLAs tax filing has everything they need for their audit.

**Report of President, Jamie Formanek:**

**Conference Sessions:**
Jamie Formanek reported that all the conference sessions have been filled. A little under half have not returned their contracts. Jamie has sent out follow-ups and will be doing so again this coming week.

**Correspondence:**
Jamie noted that Sean Minkel from local arrangements was present at the meeting today in case any specific questions come up.

**Lobbyist Update**
Nothing to report.

**Report of Vice President/President Elect, Sarah Jones-Lutter:**

**2024 Budget:**
Sarah Jones-Lutter presented the 2024 budget proposal for review. Sarah summarized the main changes starting with an audit requirement in 2024 with an estimated cost of $5,000. SDLA also must start doing event center contracts for in-person conferences again estimated at $4,000. These are both expenses we’ve not had the last couple of years. Sarah was looking to make some cuts to account for this. The main changes under income is under conference sponsorship due to the State Library using LSTA funds to provide $8,000 towards speakers. Office and committee expenses changes included MPLA leadership being set at $0 as there is no institute until 2025. This will also help offset the audit cost if this is not paid until 2025. There was also discussion about the Professional Development Committee and the scholarships provided by SDLA. These come from the Raney Endowment, but a corresponding income is not being reported. There was some discussion on how these should be correctly reflected in the budget. Krista will check with the auditors as to whether these should be $0 in the budget or be reflected as both income and expense. SDLA makes scholarship checks to recipients, but the money is requested from the Raney Endowment held by the South Dakota Area Foundation. Under section expenses for Public/Trustee, it has an increase from $300 to $500 to account for the cost of the annual Public Library Institute Meals.

**2024 Conference Themes:**
Sarah Jones-Lutter presented three possible themes for the 2024 conference, Level Up, Revie, Refresh, Rekindle, and Stronger Together. Board members discussed the suggestions. Motion by Krista Ohrtman, seconded by Melanie Argo to approve Stronger Together as the theme for the 2023 conference. Motion carried.

**Report of Past President, Shari Theroux:**
Nothing to report.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**
Nothing to report.

**Report of Sections:**
Academic/Health/Special Libraries, Jennifer Williams-Curl:
Jennifer Williams-Curl and Kristin Echtenkamp reported the academic section may not need the $100 for the poster session as no one registered last year and no one has registered so far this year. There was discussion as to whether to have a poster session at future conferences or to brainstorm some alternatives. Jamie noted she believes that we got more posters when they were done virtually. It may be worth considering a digital poster display that cycles. Kristin noted that it is still early and that we may have some poster registrations nearer conference yet.

Public/Trustee, Katherine Eberline:
Nothing to Report.

School/Library Media, Kris O’Brien:
Nothing to Report.

Support Staff Section Chair, Joshua Easter:
Josh Eater reported that the Branch Out registration cost was raised to $30 as previously discussed. Josh had questions about the best way to process payment for meals. Krista noted that an invoice would be great, but if payment was needed to purchase upfront then the hosting library could pay and submit an invoice to SDLA. Checks can be cut as soon as SDLA receives an invoice so they will not be waiting long. Josh thanked Krista and Kelly for help with the website and registration, and Melanie for her help with planning.

Report of ALA Councilor, Danielle De Jager-Loftus:
Danielle Loftus reported on the ALA Annual conference which was last month on June 22 through June 27. The conference was held in Chicago and Danielle attended it virtually. All the previously discussed bylaws meetings had been accepted. The attendance reported was 15,843 registrations, 9,459 paid which does not include vendors and free attendees. On the first day, there were a lot of reports. A vote passed to implement a new voting tool at membership that does not require early pre-registration. The current tool requires registration more than a week ahead of time to receive credentials. The 2023 edition of the ALA Standards for Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained were approved. There was a resolution on actions by the executive board to clarify how open seats are handled and who has authority. There had been some dispute about the appointment of two people to the executive board because of early vacancies. There was also a vote to reaffirm ALA’s position on the Freedom to Read. On Sunday it was voted to approve virtual access to all membership meetings, and there was a vote on a resolution ensuring virtual governance and participation. This was then referred to the bylaws committee as this change will require updates in the bylaws. The last item of interest on Sunday was a vote on a resolution condemning discrimination against library workers and supporting the LGBTQ plus community. On the last day ALA announced that IFLA would be in Dubai. There was a lot of contention about that location and concerns about the safety of LGBTQ plus attendees. There was discussion about alternative locations, but it was noted that Dubai was the only Middle Eastern and North African location that applied to host IFLA. On-going discussions about this location are anticipated. The other item on the last day was a resolution about looking into changing the dates of ALA Annual. A long time ago ALA annual was set to overlap with Pride so people could attend the Pride events at that location. The problem for some now is that they are unable to attend their local pride activities in their communities. For more information about the conference and conference reports Danielle shared this link:

www.ala.org/aboutala/virtual-ilx-and-annual-conference-council-meetings
Danielle followed with a report regarding the Montana Library Commission’s decision to withdraw the Montana State Library’s ALA Institutional Membership. Danielle provided the following links to the statement and responses. Emily Drabinski was elected last year as ALA President and described herself as a Marxist lesbian. The Montana Library Commission and other conservative media outlets immediately said this was a problem. The Montana Library Commission stated that their oath of office and constitution forbids association with an organization led by a Marxist. They claimed that ALA is injecting libraries into culture wars rather than pursuing what they believe should be traditional roles such as acquisition, preservation, and circulation. They claim ALA is responsible for marketing objectional materials to minors, advocating in support of gender identity discussion, and supporting a Marxist ideology. Reading between the lines the impression is that homophobia is the core issue. The ALA Council had a concern that the ALA post did not directly support Emily Drabinski and her presidency or address the homophobia issue. Danielle highlighted the importance of people reading the ALA core values of librarianship. Danielle shared a letter from the ALA council in support of Emily Drabinski and her presidency and asked if anyone had any concerns about her signing in support as the SDLA ALA representative.

George Seamon shared that in speaking with COSLA there is not one of them who has an issue with our current ALA president. They believe she has the freedom of speech to say what her identity is and none of them are against her. Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Georgia, and Mississippi are struggling with this issue. Missouri and Arkansas and other states are likely to follow as well soon. No concerns were expressed regarding Danielle signing the ALA letter.

Montana State Library Commission (MSLC):

MLA response: https://www.mtlib.org/news/13226668

ALA response:

Response from ALA Council:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fgz9ITvekfCCtVspicgbaCM0Go2YzkaSrYGr6s9IHo/edit

Report of MPLA Representative, Melanie Argo:
Melanie Argo reported that MPLA is also looking at different vendors for their website and membership organization. MPLA is also working through its procedure manual. There are many different documents that they are working to compile with the most up to date versions. The next MPLA conference is May 2024 in Salt Lake, UT.

Report of the Bookmark’s Editor, Kelly Henkel Thompson:
Kelly Henkel Thompson reported that she has been making regular posts to social media pages, updating the main page of the website, and cleaning up the job section including removing outdated postings. The Book Awards page has been updated and a back-end capture has been added to reduce junk mail coming through the website. The latest issue of Bookmarks came out June 18th. Kelly would like to see and encourage more submissions from members. The next newsletter is focused on conference information coming out early Sept. Kelly encourages section and committee members to send updates.
Kelly also worked with the Midwest Higher Education Cooperative to fund the pre-conference open education resource session. SDLA purchased an updated Sched subscription as it worked so well for last year’s conference. We paid about $200 more to get more options for vendors. Krista commented that since we’re not having a printed program the added income from Sched advertising mostly offset the cost difference. Kelly is completing the Sched setup for conference as well as callouts and pushes for registration, Brach Out, and poster sessions.

**Report of the Federal Relations Coordinator, George Seamon:**
George Seamon asked that people don’t judge the Montana State Library by the Commission’s actions. Their State Library have good people that work with their libraries throughout that State.

**Continuing Business:**
No continuing business.

**New Business:**
The location being considered for the 2027 conference is Watertown. There was discussion about interest in doing a virtual or hybrid conference again at some point. Kelly noted that there is virtual/hybrid support available in the Sched App. Virtual/hybrid sessions are not planned for 2023, but may be something to investigate for 2024. Assistance with the research and coordination with local arrangements would be needed. Jamie mentioned the idea of starting with just a couple of recorded sessions to try it out and then expanding as logistics are figured out. There was a discussion regarding the Watertown location and the event space. Motion by Krista, seconded by Kristin to approve Watertown as the location for the 2027 conference. Motion carried.

Sarah noted that we may need to consider looking at increasing the cost of conference next year. Krista noted that a study of membership dues may also be overdue. After the last increase, the plan was to look at it approximately every three years. Krista said it is unlikely that this could be accomplished before conference, but a post-conference sub-committee would be a good idea. A proposal could be made in 2024 to go into effect in 2025. Daniel noted it would be important to emphasize communication and transparency, wherever this topic has come up in the past there were challenges with making people aware and ensuring members had a way to provide feedback. Katherine noted that an announcement could be made at conference asking for volunteers to serve on the sub-committee.

**Open**
There were no comments from members not on the executive board.

**Next meeting**
The next meeting will be at conference in September.

**Adjournment:**
Motion by Kristin second by Shari to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned by Jamie Formanek at 3.21 p.m. CST.