

Maryland Library Association

Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Michael E. Busch Annapolis Library

(Belcher Room)

**Call to Order and Welcome:** 1:02 PM

**Changes to the Agenda:** An update to MLLI was added to the Business Agenda.

**November Minutes Approved via Email Vote:** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** We are 6 months into the fiscal year. Our assets are \$280,000 so far this year versus \$231,000 last year. The total income for the FY is 23.25%, which is fine, even if we are halfway through the year. The net income was \$3,109.53 for the month, \$23,182 for the year. Lou motioned to approve pending audit. Amy seconded.

## **Business Agenda**

**Futures Cohort Update/Calls:** Schedule your introductory phone call if you are participating in the cohort. You do need to attend all three days. It is better to attend solo (no room doubling up if two people are attending in the same location) due to the breakout sessions.

**New Site and Info Hub:** Danielle sent out an email yesterday about the new site, although it soft launched on January 13<sup>th</sup>. If you need something changed on the website, email Josh and Danielle (not Bob). We want to add folders for various groups on the Info Hub. Josh showed various pages of the new member hub which includes directories, resources, events, etc. We will have listservs! You can now make monthly payments for your membership. We will be selling ad space on the site as well. The new MLA Connect is coming! Josh showed a sneak peak of new MLA connect. We can have real meetings on the new MLA connect! We have a lot more control of this platform, so reach out to Josh and Danielle if you have any suggestion for changes.

**Professional Development Chat:** Anita being absent, Josh presented her information. The PDP forms are off Google. If you want to host an event, you go straight to the MLA website. Josh went through application and took out things that may make people uncomfortable (such as guessing how much money you think you'll raise along with the administrative fee). Anita will use learning objectives and time stated in order to assign CEUs. When

thinking of programs to host, don't forget about the conference. There are programs that were from last year or this year that people will not get to see – plus there are programs that are not approved at all. Josh will double check into the time restriction for virtual events. There is a minimum for 1 hour in terms of CEUs.

**Nominations Approval:** Nay resent all the candidate acceptance forms. Elections will be held February 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>. The winners will be announced on March 17th. Lou motioned to approve the slate of candidates. David seconded.

**MLLI Update:** All candidates have been selected. There are 24 participants, with 3 on the waitlist. It was highly competitive. There are many candidates from public libraries. In the future, we would like to get more school/academic libraries, as well as support staff. Dan was the chair of the selection subcommittee. The curriculum is heading in a good direction. The Institute is the week of March 17<sup>th</sup> and will be at Maritime Conference Center. There are 5 confirmed mentors and 1 more TBD. We are always looking for more sponsors. We have flexibility in the future for place/time of MLLI.

**President's Report:** Teonja continues to talk with various library staff. She met with St. Mary's library and spoke virtually to Charles County staff. Pratt is on the agenda for April. She has been getting ready for the Futures Cohort and Legislative Day.

**Vice President / President-Elect's Report:** In December the public trust committee had a meeting. The 100 Reasons I Love My Library campaign will roll out soon. David continues to understand what is happening in various groups within the organization to see where the pain points are. David is looking at what are the requirements for the groups are as well as reporting out at the end of the year, since it helps prepare the president elect plan goals for their presidential year. David is putting together appointments for next year.

**Past President's Report:** Tif is doing training for various policies at various systems, such as why intellectual freedom is important to various boards. The Intellectual Freedom Helpline group meets tomorrow for the third time. They are getting close to rolling the helpline out and then ironing out any kinks as they go.

**Executive Director's Report:** Josh got the website launched and is working on a lot of administrative stuff with site and database. Josh is also meeting with various groups. Kate has scaled back in the office, primarily doing vendor liaison work for the conference. Josh is working to get Legislative Day together.

**ALA Councilor's Report:** Nothing to report since Lib Learn X is coming up next week. Joe will have more to report after.

**Legislative Update:** Legislative Day is February 11<sup>th</sup>. Liz has been working with Seth and MAPLA to see what their priorities are in this legislative session. Natalie Edington has stepped down from her role as Legislative Panel Chair. Joe Thompson will fill in through the end of the year as we find/train another person. The day starts at 7:30 am with a buffet style breakfast. 5 MLS students from UMD iSchool are coming. The House and Senate will give proclamation for Library Day. You are then free to make appointments with your elected officials to talk about your local library.

**Conference Director's Report:** Chelsea is collecting event and presenter forms and following up with groups who have them outstanding. The conference committee denied 33 programs, which is up from last year. They are still working on keynote speakers. Chelsea has not sent out agreement forms yet via DocuSign. Earlybird registration will open tomorrow. The conference will be held in 10 rooms over 2.5 days. There will be a Luncheon and Dinner will be buffet.

### **Unit Leader Reports**

**SSD:** They held the annual lunch meeting in December, added another member to steering committee, and will hold a virtual only meeting the first Thursday in February. There was a candidate for each office, including one person who had never run before.

**Awards:** The committee met in December and chose people for the awards. There were a few more nominations this year than last year. They need a vote and approval. Lou motioned. Chelsea seconded. The awards winners passed.

**Marketing Committee:** They are working on the Excellence in Marketing Award. They have a couple of conference programs.

**OSIG:** MPT has screening for MD Libraries Together program. We're going to try to screen it at the conference.

**MIG:** Noticing an increase in the vendor 653 field with junk keywords. Laura and Katie took AI in Selection and Cataloging on the road to MD Tech Connect. The Crab article is all about page to screen in 2025.

**RAIG:** They talked about programs for MLA. They are planning a virtual program for the future. Their IG is going great!

**YSD:** There is a candidate from PG for VP. The winter newsletter is coming out this week. They are seeing a lot more submissions due to reaching out to various libraries with enough lead time saying they want to feature them. The BEST conference is on March 6<sup>th</sup> and is open for registration (the reading list can be found there too and consists of J, Y, and YA

fiction – 10 books total). They are submitting forms this week for Kids are Customers on March 25<sup>th</sup> at Miller branch.

**MD Author:** They are putting the committee together for next year. It will feature an intensive reading schedule due to the fact they are looking at adult nonfiction.

**LDD:** January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, partnering with EDI Panel and discussed how to be an inclusive leader. One of the best attended meeting in the last six months. Psychologically Safe Leadership has 59 sign ups and counting.

**ACRL:** The December meeting was a discussion about the semester in review such as instruction, booking study spaces, finals week, etc. They meet tomorrow to discuss sustainability in academic libraries.

**ASRD:** They met in December and are looking to do a spring program. They will be meeting again in March.

**Sustainability:** They met in December and the next meeting is in February. They are looking for facilitators.

**FOLIG:** They had December and January meetings and are looking for a February facilitator.

**TIG:** They had a meeting in December which was an informal meeting. They have had 16 new people in the last two months for the meetings.

**BCMLA:** The January meeting was cancelled.

**The Crab:** They just finished and published the Winter issue. The featured articles included Harford Community College Library's Federal Depository of the Year award, CCPL's County Innovation Award from MACo, the fall SLRC Conference, and LATI graduation. They recruited one copy editor (Ruth Utz) and one graphics editor (Peter Nguyen) from HCLS; both worked on the most recent issue. Special thanks to Danielle for all of her help with redesigning graphics as well as multiple corrections and uploads to the Crab website page. The Crab continues to welcome new columns, and thanks to those who are already contributing! If any other groups are considering writing a column, please reach out with any questions to [julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org](mailto:julie.fitzpatrick@hclibrary.org). A reminder to regular contributors: please carefully spell-check the names of all individuals mentioned in the article, as well as in photo credits and photo captions. Individuals, groups, or libraries who have news, upcoming events, or recaps of recent events to share with the Crab - please send them by the March 5 deadline for the April 15 issue.

**EDI Panel:** They were unable to meet in November and December, but the January meeting will primarily focus on the MLA Demographic Survey. They will finalize the survey questions and aim to pass them along to Josh, Teonja, and the rest of the Executive Board for review. After attending a workgroup meeting with other Maryland EDI group leaders, they agreed it is crucial to discuss the future of EDI work in the current climate of EDI divestment. Will wants the February meeting we to brainstorm strategies to adapt the language of EDI, redouble our efforts to convey the practical and philosophical necessity and benefits of EDI, and ensure that EDI/DEI work does not hinder the Library Executive's budget and advocacy efforts. Any insights from the executive board and advisory council on the topic can be shared with Will.

**Adjournment:** 2:42 PM

The next meeting February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 on Zoom.