

## **Maryland Library Association**

Agenda

### **Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

*Virtual*

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

**Changes to the Agenda:** None

**March Minutes Approved via Email Vote:** Approved and posted.

**Treasurer's Report:** We are done helping CALD right now. This month we took in \$44,000. Membership dues were \$1,747 in profit. Our total income was \$62,673.78. Our expenses for the conference were \$19,621.85 in April. Total expenses were \$36,485.66 in April. \$462,359.99 total liabilities and equities. Conni motioned the report pending audit. Lou seconded. All were in favor.

### **Business Agenda**

**Leadership Day:** It will be happening June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Busch Annapolis library. We will get a headcount via registration for catering purposes. All will have to re-sign a conflict-of-interest form. The time will be tentatively 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Incoming secretaries for divisions are expected to be there, as are any other officers.

**End of Year Reports:** Teonja sent out a reminder that all EOY reports are due June 30<sup>th</sup> to Laura Bandoch. Check the MLA Info Hub for the form link.

**Affinity Groups:** The Advisory Council was asked for discussion to see if we should continue to draft these into the bylaws. Members have been asking for Affinity Groups. There will be no programming expectations. The executive board voted to continue to pursue through a draft of bylaws. A draft of guidelines and bylaws will be brought to the group in the future. They will be called "Affinity Networks" to distinguish them from Interest Groups.

**Crab Publishing Schedule:** We will be tweaking the submission and publication schedule. Everything will move up by a month. All were in favor.

**Appointments for Approval:** David shared his nominations for the coming fiscal year. The Equity Diversity and Inclusion Panel will be chaired by William Wallace. The Intellectual

Freedom Panel will be chaired by Lloyd Jansen. The Legislative Officer will be Liz Sunderman-Zinger. The Assistant Legislative Officer/Federal Coordinator will be Allison Jennings-Roche. The Professional Development Officer will be Anita Crawford. The Awards Committee chair will be Cathy Hollerbach. The Marketing Committee chair will be Alyssia Gilmore. The Maryland Author Award chair will be Lisa Kenyon. The Nominations Committee chair will be Tif Sutherland. The motion for all appointments were approved.

**Statement Framework Committee:** David wants to start an ad hoc committee to see when MLA should release formal statements. Members will include Maryanne Bowman, a Legislative Panel Representative, an Intellectual Freedom Panel representative, an Equity Diversity and Inclusion representative, the Professional Development Officer, a Legislative Advocacy Interest Group Representative, a Citizens for Maryland Libraries representative. Lou motioned to accept the committee. Joe seconded. The motion carried.

**AI Use Policy:** David and Josh want to work on a policy with the Steering Committee for the internal use of AI. They would then bring it to the full board for a vote. There is a particular goal to get rid of AI note takers in meetings. The advisory council suggested perhaps we should have guidelines, rather than a rigorous policy, considering the rapidly changing AI landscape.

**IF Helpline Update:** The helpline is live! Some asked for clarification on what the form is to be used for - should we input any objection, or just formal complaints? The answer is the more data the better.

**ALA Booth:** We have a booth since it's right up the road in Philadelphia. If you are going to be at ALA anyway, and would like to help at the booth, let Josh know so we can form a schedule.

**Presidents Report:** Teonja was at the MLA/DLA conference. She is working with the EDI Leaders Network (hosted by MSLA). MLA will be hosting their Zoom meetings. She will be attending her last LATI graduation as president in June. She is getting the word out to help Alleghany Library due to flooding from recent storms. This is Teonja's last meeting as president.

**Vice President/President-Elect's Report:** David was also at the MLA/DLA Conference. He attended the conference committee meeting this morning. He will be attending the Chapter Leaders Forum at ALA Annual.

**Past President's Report:** Tif is working on advocacy work. Tif did a 2-hour session at the conference. The biggest project moving forward is IF Helpline. Tif is also working on advocacy training with Anita.

**Executive Director's Report:** Josh was also at the MLA/DLA Conference. He went to virtual MAPLA meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> and also attended CALD meeting. Josh is on the Florida State University school group working on their curriculum. He is working with Hyatt to lower some costs for next year's conference. Josh will be at Chapters Leader Forum in Philadelphia.

**ALA Councilor's Report:** They will have council meetings in ALA. Joe will be attending the meeting on the revised ALA Bill of Rights.

**Legislative Update:** There will be a special session this September focusing on the budget. The Deaf Cultural Digital Library was awarded some money, so we will need to focus on retaining that money. Liz will talk with MASL and CALD and get new group together to start strategizing now.

**Conference Director Reports:** The overall conference survey was good. The biggest comment was about the vendor hall being on a different floor. Perhaps we could change the submission process for sessions and not have sessions tied to divisions or groups. We shouldn't keep Ocean City off the table for the future.

### **Unit Leader Reports**

**IFP:** They had six sessions at the conference, including 2 pre-conferences. Lloyd had brief conversation with David about the role of the panel and will consult with bylaws. June 4<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.

**BCMLA:** They had a cultural tour and programs at the conference.

**EDI:** The Division vote did not go through. The Panel is committed to working with MLA.

**ACRL:** They had a poster session at the conference. They canceled this month's meeting.

**RAIG:** They had three successful programs at the conference. There is a standalone training on June 2<sup>nd</sup>: Joy of Queer Norm. There is an upcoming meeting in July.

**Marketing:** They co-sponsored two programs at the conference and presented the marketing award.

**LGBTQ+:** They sponsored three programs for the conference and are planning a meet up in June at Orioles Pride night.

**SSD:** They sponsored two programs at the conference. The next meeting is on Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. They are having a two-hour program on management on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Arbutus.

**YSD:** They sponsored sessions at conference and will be helping with Kids are Customers Too.

**Sustainability:** June 5<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting.

**OSIG:** Sabine missed the conference but cohosted one program with CML.

**MIG:** MIG hosted a session at the conference and is gearing up for the upcoming fiscal year and hopefully sponsoring one training session.

**LDD:** The LDD sessions were all well-attended by around 20 people each at this year's MLA conference. Rachel (VP) and incoming President Ana Carroll have some ideas to modify our focus and time: Ana says "I'd like to explore the possibility of shifting our focus a bit this year. I'm not looking to eliminate book discussions entirely, but I think we might boost attendance and engagement by incorporating more time for peer support and guided conversations around practical leadership topics." Ana gave further examples of some themes that have repeated in our group's meetings, or she's heard at MLA:

Navigating conflict within a team

Succession planning

Decision-making: the line between transparency and oversharing

Data-informed leadership: how to determine which programs, services, and outreach to prioritize

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts and building something meaningful together.

LDD is having an Officer's Meeting Next Tuesday to talk about these topics above, so Ana and Rachel have a coherent, focused roadmap for the group. The Next LDD meeting is Thursday July 10th at 1:30 pm to review our past year, on-board as many new faces and welcome old faces back into the group, revisit our purpose, take questions, and lay out a plan to our LDD colleagues about 2025-2026.

**Crab:** *The Crab* is expecting to shift the publication schedule by one month, to better accommodate submissions from the YSD newsletter, the semiannual LATI graduation feature, and several other time-sensitive articles. This shift should also free up the production schedule over the winter holidays and the busy June-July summer reading stretch for public libraries. New due dates and publication dates will be as follows:

July 5 due date for August 15 publication

October 5 due date for November 15 publication

January 5 due date for February 15 publication

April 5 due date for May 15 publication

Until we've finalized this schedule with our publisher/layout designer, Bucky Edgett of Lucky Productions, these are tentative and not for final publication/dissemination. We will put them on the MLA website and send out an announcement via Marylib and MLA Connect once confirmed.

Please send in photographs from the 2025 MLA/DLA Conference, with appropriate photo credit to the photographer, if you have them for the annual Conference photo spread in the next issue of *the Crab*. Photos from sessions, keynotes, and social activities are welcome, along with candid photos of groups or individuals.

**ASRD:** They hosted a Job Seekers Help Unconference on April 24. It was a very small group, but everyone seemed to get something out of the discussion. The next meeting is virtual, on June 5.