

Maryland Library Association

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Call to Order: 1:07 PM

Minutes for February Meeting Approved via Email: Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Reserves and current assets are up. In February, we were almost at 50% of the expected income. Conference registration income was the biggest income in February. There was also MLLI income from registrations and affiliate memberships. Josh will send out February and March so everyone can see it. Affiliate memberships made up a large portion of March income, as well as MLA registration. As of March, we are at 76% of the expected income. MLLI was bulk of expenses for March. Call to approve pending audit will be via email.

Business Agenda

LSTA/Funding Updates: The funds came through! Morgan Lehr Miller sent out an email to all directors that they could move forward with professional funds if they already earmarked it for the MLA conference.

Bylaws for Affinity Groups: Laura and Teonja showcased a draft of the bylaws update to include Affinity Groups. The bylaws will also need to be updated to state that panels or divisions can oversee affinity groups. Any affinity group facilitator will not be on the executive board since there is no programming requirement. The group recommended renaming affinity groups to affinity networks. Laura will edit the draft, and we will hold off on voting until after the EDI Division vote.

Fundraising Policy Updates: Teonja sent out a survey to all units to see who is interested in fundraising. Only 2 people wanted to fundraise and answered thoroughly. There is already language around fundraising in the MLA Manual. The group worked on language to add to what already exists in the manual. It will go to the executive board for a vote.

President's Report: Teonja has been working on bylaw and manual updates. She met with the staff development coordinator in PG County to talk about Teonja coming to visit. She is also helping to gear up for the conference. We still need a crab editor.

President Elect's Report: David has been in and out of the office, so there is nothing to report.

Past President's Report: In late March, we launched the [Maryland Libraries Helpline](#). We have received just one submission. It was a "report only" submission from Charles County. Tif looks forward to continuing efforts to promote the helpline, raise awareness about its potential, and support its integration into the broader library services landscape. Tif also looks forward to beginning work on MLA's standalone advocacy and intellectual freedom campaign, Very Radical. We will provide more information as we develop the initiative. Planning is underway for an Advocacy Bootcamp, scheduled for July 24 at the Miller Branch in Howard County. Tif is working with a small committee of LAIG members to plan the event.

Executive Director's Report: Josh attended a One Click political event to learn more about how to use it for calls to action. He went to the CML Meeting. He announced that he is on the curriculum advisory board for Florida state iSchool.

ALA Councilor's Report: The Crab just got posted and the report is in there from Lib Learn X. Maryland Day still needs volunteers. Teonja will return the bin with buttons and notepads to Joe for that event. MSLA has not received a letter saying the current fiscal year IMLS funds are cancelled, despite some states having already received that letter (CA, NY, CT, & RI). ALA would like to hear any impact stories through the Show Up for Libraries campaign.

Conference Directors Report: There hasn't been too much to change. They did have to pivot karaoke sponsorship to cover meals instead since karaoke isn't happening. It will be a choose your own adventure for social events this year. She is wrapping up getting outstanding speaker agreements. Danielle wrapping up slides template. The plan is to have presentations uploaded to the conference drive and download the presentation to the laptops in their respective rooms. July 15th is the cancellation deadline for Hyatt for the 2026 conference.

Adjournment: 2:41 PM