

Maryland Library Association

Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2024

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Call to Order: 1:02 PM

Changes to the Agenda: None

Minutes for December Meeting Approved via Email: These were approved and on the website.

Treasurer's Report: The checking has more money in it than this time last year along with the long-term reserves. Josh is looking into bill.com's issue which led to a negative amount being posted, which shouldn't be there. There is also a discrepancy leading to more money in the checking account, which must be reconciled. Kate typically did this in the past. Josh is working to fix this. Cheryl asked the committee to not approve yet until we get it resolved, which means there will be two financial statements at next month's meeting. We do have some money in income from investment gains, the conference, and vendor fees. Cheryl made an adjustment to factor in the reconciliation.

Business Agenda

Legislative Day Breakfast Debrief: There were about 180 people who registered. 20-30 people didn't come because of weather concerns. There were about 140 people at breakfast total, including the walk-ins. Josh would like to have a structured scheduled approach next year. The proclamation was read on the House side, but not the Senate side due to the new Senate rule that they are not inviting back someone who has been on the floor before.

IF Helpline & Related Discussion: Some funds will be used for marketing, both online and through print material. There will be a form for people to submit what is happening in their communities and see how they would like MLA to help/respond. We're good to launch it. MLA may build a website that gives statistics on book banning and other intellectual freedom challenges. MLA agrees there needs to be a framework of when to respond to issues/news and how to respond. Teonja and Josh will create a group to do this. Josh will work on a message to members in tandem with the helpline announcement to encourage library workers and reinforce our values.

Futures School & Next Steps: There are three areas we should focus on after attending the training: membership growth, non-dues revenue, and the future of the conference. Josh is going to pull together resources from the training to discuss at future meetings.

Board Election Update: The form/ballot is being built and will go out next week. We will be using SurveyMonkey because it lets you export and do a quick count. The ballot will be linked from the InfoHub area. An email to members will let them know. It will not be a link to share.

MLA Connect 2.0: We will move future meetings to this platform and are encouraging all groups to do the same.

President's Report: Teonja attended future cohort. Teonja will be on a SLRC panel for career pathways. Teonja did a Be Informed video in BCPL on MLA and the new website. She worked on the letter MASL asked us to write.

President Elect's Report: David attended Legislative Day and the Futures cohort. He is working on the I Love My Library campaign as well.

Past President's Report: Tif is working on the Helpline. Tif did a Legislative Day training and is also presenting at SLRC about how policy and its impact on customer service. LAIG has had some good meetings.

Executive Director's Report: Josh is moving on to conference work now that Legislative Day is over. He is working with the Maritime Center to ensure that MLLI is coming along nicely. All award winners have been notified this week.

ALA Councilor's Report: There is a new initiative called Show Up For Our Libraries. He will be doing a Crab write up to show how he voted on a variety of things. ALA is having more interviews in March and April for the new director. They will hopefully have a new director before annual conference in Philadelphia. ALA celebrates its 150th birthday in 2026.

Conference Director's Report: The conference is coming together. There is a meeting February 24th for an in-person visit for a tour of the convention center. Things are being loaded into Sched and the website is being adjusted as we go. The volunteer link will be going out soon. Tote bag/holographic stickers will be available.

Adjournment 2:44 PM

The next meeting is March 19, 2025 via MLA Connect.