

Maryland Library Association

Agenda

Executive Board/Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Meeting Location:

Howard County Library – Miller Branch

9421 Frederick Road

Ellicott City, Maryland, 21042

Call to Order and Welcome: 1:03 PM (Quorum Established)

Changes to the Agenda: None

July Minutes Approved Via Email Vote: They were sent to Josh and Danielle to post on the website.

Treasurer's Report: MLA has \$292,163.22 in assets. Cheryl and Josh are still trying to figure out where the -\$16.44 in liabilities is coming from. As a note, personnel payroll is run through Cecil County, which is completed every quarter. The total expenses in August were \$3,614.08. The total income was \$46,240.85. Josh will adjust the line for ALA Helpline so we can see the total amount of grant we have spent. Teonja motioned for approval pending audit. Conni seconded.

Business Agenda

Affinity Networks: Teonja gave a brief background of the history of the initiative. She also explained the proposal being brought before the advisory council. The Affinity Network wording will live in the MLA manual. Paula motioned discussion. Ana seconded the discussion. Discussion followed. Vote passed.

MLA Statement Framework: Mary Ann gave an overview of the proposed framework. There was some brief positive commentary on the framework. Joe made a motion to adopt the framework and add it to the appropriate policy in the MLA manual. Teonja seconded. Framework passed.

MLA Chats Update: MLA has devised a mechanism for continuing this series. 5 recent MLLI graduates are on the committee. Two chats are in the works. The session in October is on banned books. The session for November is on Native American Heritage Month.

MLA Communications & Membership Update: MLA has almost 4,000 members across the state. Danielle will dig into whether memberships are coming from public, school, academic, etc. Danielle gave an overview of MLA connect/Info Hub. She also explained the differences between the various unit list serves vs. Marylib. Danielle also gave an update to the monthly members-only newsletter. There were questions/discussion.

2026 Elections & Nominations: The call for nominations went out.

Break

Unit Work Plan Discussion/Brainstorms: Units had time to talk to each other and brainstorm. The work plans are due at the end of September.

President's Report: Educational grants are allocated \$6,000 every year. There are two cycles in January and July. This year, the steering committee worked together and looked at applications and noticed some that were missed initially. The entirety of the allocated amount was given out so there will be no more funds for the January cycle and therefore may not have call for applications. David and Josh are looking at ways we can supplement that budget. David helped with LSTA grant proposals. He attend the MSLA board meeting last week. He also attended the Baltimore Book Festival.

Vice President/President-Elect's Report: Conni started attending unit meetings. She also attended the Baltimore Book Festival.

Past President's Report: Teonja was at the Baltimore Book Festival. She was a guest at the Q&A for LDD on September 11th. She also continued to work on the Affinity Network document.

Executive Director's Report: There will be a Support Maryland Libraries Campaign with a new shirt, new stickers, and new logo design. The website will launch soon. Josh would like us to explore what a "supporter" membership would look like. Josh wondered if we could do an annual Halloween fundraiser and make it a competition next year (via a designed logo). Josh is pursuing his association executive certification and takes the test in December. He is pursuing a sponsor for scholarships. He worked on grant reviews for MSLA and went to MACO in August.

ALA Councilor's Report: CML meeting on October 11th. Joe's detailed report is in the Crab so he can be accountable to everyone. If there's any questions, let Joe know. On August

22nd and September 3rd, there were virtual meetings. ALA wants to implement efficiencies around organizational structure and is looking at who is eligible to serve on ALA executive committee.

Legislative Update: The Legislative Panel did not have their last meeting due to scheduling issues. Tamar gave IMLS updates. The group is keeping an eye on Freedom to Read and challenges that have been brought up. The Harford County case has gone to the state Board of Education. SLRC funding is flat funded for next year unless something changes.

Conference Director's Report: Program proposals are open. The conference theme is Our Stories, Our Shelves. The group brainstormed on a logo. They will do more work on keynotes at the next meeting. Vendor applications will be opening.

The Crab: They have finished and published the Fall issue. It featured articles on the MLA/DLA Conference, MLA Awards, and LATI graduation. Danielle has been a big help with graphics, advertising, and general questions. They continue to welcome new columns. Contact Juile Fitzpatrick with any questions. As a reminder, spell check all names before submitting. The next deadline is October 5th for the November 15th issue. If anyone has photos from MACO and would like to share, contact Julie. If you are attending the CML meeting on October 11th and would like to "cover" it for the Crab, let Julie know. If anyone is interested in serving as editor, contact David.

SSD: They completed updating the officer guidelines and uploaded them to MLA Connect. The FY26 workplan has been completed and submitted. They have added two additional goals.

ASRD: They held their first meeting on the new fiscal year on September 11th at Sollers Point of BCPL. There was a hybrid option as well. A program about using the circuit in the library is in the works. ASRD's current president had to resign, so the VP is taking over. The next ASRD meeting will be on December 11th at Sollers Point (also with a hybrid option).

SIG: The next meeting will be on October 2nd from 2:00-3:30 PM. YSD will be joining to discuss methods for engaging younger audiences in sustainability. Conni will be attending a meeting to discuss MLA leadership. After the October meeting, SID will be meeting every other Third Thursday from 2:00-3:00 PM.

LDD: The meeting on September 11th via Zoom with 19 attendees. Conni spoke on running for MLA office. Teonja had a Q&A. In November, they will welcome Sarah Nadeau to share her professional journey. LDD officers met recently to begin planning a standalone workshop to hold in late winter.

IFP: IFP Secretary Witt Salley is representing Maryland at the September SIFnet meeting on September 17th. IFP is planning a virtual banned book discussion for October.

MIG: MIG met on September 10th via MLA connect. There was a brainstorming session for a session at MLA/DLA 2026. There was a Crab article in the Fall issue.

YSD: The Kids are Customers Too Conference Planning Committee had its first meeting in September. The committee is currently working on confirming a date, location, and keynote speaker for the conference. Mandy Davis, one of last year's Blue Crab Award Committee Chairs, submitted an updated Blue Crab logo for approval. The updated crab logo features MLA's colors. Representatives from YSD will attend October's Sustainability Interest Group meeting and speak on methods to emphasize the importance of environmental protections while not being seen as "political," best environmentally friendly purchasing practices for kids programs, potential partnerships for environmental literacy programming for youth, and more.

Adjourn: 3:10 PM