

**MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD  
MINUTES  
May 3, 2019**

**Mississippi Library Commission  
Jackson, Mississippi**

**Call to Order:**

The May meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, President, at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 3, 2019, at the Mississippi Library Commission in Jackson, Mississippi.

**Roll Call/Signature List of Attending Members:**

Present – Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, President; Mary Beth Applin, Vice-President; Victoria Penny, Secretary; Sarah Mangrum, Immediate Past President (via conference call); Ashley Dees, SELA Councilor; Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian; Mara V. Polk; Jeanette S. Whisenton; Phillip Carter. (Jennifer Wann, Treasurer, sent her proxy to Patsy Brewer.)

Others Present: Hulen Bivins, Tina Harry, Lacy Ellinwood, Carrie-Ann Pierson, Jesse Pool, Meredith Wickham, Paula Bass.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**MOTION: To adopt the agenda for the May 3, 2019, meeting of the MLA Executive Board with one change: to remove Travel Policy from Old Business.**

**Made by: Mary Beth Applin                      Second: Ashley Dees  
Passed unanimously.**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

**MOTION: To adopt the minutes for the March 8, 2019 meeting of the incoming MLA Executive Board.**

**Made by: Mary Beth Applin                      Second: Ashley Dees  
Passed unanimously.**

**MLA Officers and Staff Reports:**

Secretary:     Victoria Penny – No report

Treasurer: Jennifer Wann submitted Treasurer's report. Board members expressed concerns about the membership dues received at this point in the year. It was suggested that the Conference Registration be posted earlier this year if possible, perhaps around July 1<sup>st</sup>, in order to encourage dues renewal.

**Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report:**

**MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted**

**Made by: Mary Beth Applin      Second: Mara Polk**  
**Passed unanimously.**

President: Sarah Crisler-Ruskey

**Nomination clarification/addendum:** MLA Handbook was consulted to make sure appropriate steps were taken. The written petition was received by March 15<sup>th</sup>, and all steps were taken and requirements were met in a timely fashion.

Vice-President: Mary Beth Applin

**Conference:** Mary Beth reported that opening and closing speakers for the Annual Conference have been selected. The committee has been sending out notices for program proposals to other committee and section chairs and roundtables. They are seeking funds and sponsorships and have submitted forms for grants from local sponsors and will begin knocking on doors soon. They would like to secure the Civil Rights Museum for the President's Bash, as well as holding an event at the Art Museum. Vendor and conference proposal forms, as well as accommodations information, are posted on the website. The tentative agenda should be on the website by the end of the month.

Past President: Sarah Mangrum and Jennifer Wann are working on the MLA Travel Policy and will have a draft to present at the next Board meeting. Sarah plans to attend ALA in Washington.

MLA Administrator: Paula Bass shared the latest MLA Membership numbers with the Board. There are **354** active members, **162** lapsed members, and **2** new pending. She shared new MLA promotional materials that have been purchased to give away at outreach events.

ALA Councilor: Ellen Ruffin – No report

SELA Councilor: Ashley Dees

The Arkansas/SELA Joint Conference will be held on September 27-29, 2019.

**Joint Conference 2022:** Ashley presented information to the Board from the last 3 state associations who have co-hosted joint conferences with SELA, as well as the Joint Conference Guidelines, which outline responsibilities and financials.

**MLA/Southeastern Library Association Joint Conference 2022:**

**MOTION: To invite SELA to host their Joint Conference with the Mississippi Library Association in 2022.**

**Made by: Ashley Dees      Second: Sarah Mangrum  
Passed unanimously.**

MLC Executive Director: Hulen Bivins expressed appreciation to MLA and especially the Public Library Directors for all they did during this legislative session. He thinks having two Library Legislative Days was advantageous, and that the legislators stayed knowledgeable throughout the session. Just because the funding allocated was for one year does not mean we can't ask again next year.

**Section Chair Reports:**

Public Library Section: Mara Polk reported that a survey was conducted among the membership, and 30 people responded, mostly from public libraries. She hopes to create a list of available trainings that may be shared. Specific interests include professional/staff development and adult programming. They are also working on EBSCO/MAGNOLIA training to be held regionally. It was announced that Biblionix wishes to sponsor a \$250 scholarship for a first-time attendee to MLA Conference (to be a public library staff person).

School Library Section: Jeanette Whisenton stated that they are working on obtaining a speaker for Conference and will be sending a mass email to invite all school librarians.

**Roundtables and Committee Reports:**

YPSRT: Carrie Ann Pierson, new chair, hopes to highlight illustration and visual arts for this year's luncheon. She has a potential speaker who is willing to Skype in, and they would like to hold the lunch at the Mississippi Museum of Art. The fee is \$500 for 4 hours, and she inquired about interest in sharing the space with another roundtable or group, dividing the time.

New Member Roundtable: Jesse Pool is working on activities for this year's conference. He plans to contact new members beforehand with tips for attending your first library conference. They will have a program on the first day. Dine-arounds have been suggested, so he will begin to work on organizing that and would be happy to take any volunteers who wish to act as hosts.

Election Committee: Jennifer Smith submitted results of the MLA Election as follows:

**2019 MLA Election Results –  
Vice President/President-Elect**  
Mara Villa Polk

**Secretary**  
Tamara Blackwell

**Treasurer**  
Lori Barnes

**ALA Councilor**  
Meredith Wickham

Fiscal Management Committee: Patsy Brewer presented information about IShare account balance and interest earned as of the end of March as compared to CD, which will mature in June 2019. Patsy has an appointment to talk to the financial advisor from Regions and hopes we will be able to take action via online vote before June 1st. Sarah will send this out to the Board.

Legislative Committee: Meredith Wickham announced that there will be two Library Legislative Days held again next year. Sarah Crisler-Ruskey thanked everyone again for their efforts during the 2019 legislative session. It would be great for even more academic librarians to come to the Legislature to help promote MAGNOLIA databases, as well as everyone doing more advocacy for MAGNOLIA at Conference in order to better seek additional funding.

MS Author Awards Committee: Caroline Barnett submitted the list of nominations for this year's Author Awards. The committee is now reading and reviewing these titles.

National Library Week Committee: David Brown will be sharing some of the things that went on around the state to celebrate NLW.

Web Committee: A comparison report between Wild Apricot/Affinipay & PayPal was presented. The switch seems to make financial sense as well as be more efficient as far as integrating with the current website. Action on the change will be placed on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.

Outreach Committee: Phillip Carter reported that they had great interactions with attendees at the Children's Book Festival booth in April. He feels MLA needs to do a better job promoting membership among non-MLIS library staff, who may not be aware that they are welcome to join MLA. We will have a table at the Mississippi Book Festival in August.

MLA Conference Vendor Sponsorships: Space is limited this year. Please encourage companies you work with not to wait until the last minute. Biblionix would like to sponsor a \$250 scholarship for a first-time attendee to this year's Annual Conference.

**MOTION:** To accept \$250 donation from Biblionix and to authorize Mara Polk, Public Library Section Chair, to form a committee to disseminate information, application, and selection process to be ready when Conference Registration opens.

**Made by:** Mary Beth Applin      **Second:** Ashley Dees  
**Passed unanimously.**

Mississippi Libraries: Tina Harry announced that the Spring issue was published without any problems. She is still seeking articles for the Summer issue, which will be published in June. Please encourage staff to write articles and submit ASAP. Word count info is on the *About* page.

**Old Business:**

**Handbook Update:** First action step is for the Board to get the language clear and then present the change to the entire MLA Membership for a vote, in order to make the revision official.

**Revision to nominations clarification in the MLA Handbook to read as follows:**

*In nominating the Vice-President/President-Elect, care shall be taken to ensure a good balance of public/school/academic/special librarians. The office shall alternate between a public librarian and a librarian representing the other library types.*

**MOTION:** To adopt the revision to the MLA Handbook with changes.

**Made by:** Mara Polk      **Second:** Victoria Penny  
**Passed unanimously.**

**New Business:**

MLC/MS Film Office Movie Screenings: Lacey Ellinwood wanted to let everyone know that screenings of the new film *Christmas in Mississippi* will be hosted around the state in December. They are willing to have a screening at MLA Conference if there is interest.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting.  
**Made by:** Mara Polk      **Second:** Patsy Brewer  
**Passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

*The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board is Friday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, Mississippi.*



Victoria Penny, Secretary