

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Minutes
July 14, 2023

Hybrid meeting

Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Zoom

1. Call to Order:

The July meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Phillip Carter, President, at 11:14 am on Friday, July 14, 2023.

Roll Call of Attending Members:

Philip Carter, President; Ashley Dees, Vice President; Stephen Parks, Past President; Audrey Beach, Treasurer; Tina Harry, Secretary; Miriam Garner, School Library Section; Jamie Elston, Public Library Section; Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian; Paula Bass, MLA Administrator.

Others Present: Fawn Ussery, Jennifer Todd, Mara Villa Polk, Taylor LeBlanc, Dawn Zimmerer, David Powell, Hulen Bivins, Josh Cromwell, Justin Easterday, Rachelle Moore.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Jamie Elston.

Motion carries.

3. Approval of the May minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes.

Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Stephen Parks.

Motion carries.

4. Financial Report, Audrey Beach:

The monthly reports from January – May 2023 were emailed to the Board prior to the meeting for review. The errors noted during the May Board meeting have been corrected.

Motion: To approve the reports.

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Jamie Elston.

Motion carries.

5. MLA Administrator Report, Paula Bass:

There are 960 in our membership database: 386 active, 541 lapsed, 19 pending new, 14 pending renewals. There is usually between three to five hundred active members. We have 562 renewals overdue. Our roster has not been weeded since before covid, maybe in 2019. After conference, lapsed members that have changed professions, moved out of state, passed on, etc. will be removed from the list.

In the future, the chairs of Membership Committee and New Members Roundtable will meet with Philip and Paula to discuss membership. A possible idea is to change New Members to a subcommittee of Membership to consolidate elected leadership.

6. Old Business

a. FISCAL MANAGEMENT: MLA Membership Dues, Patsy Brewer:

Our membership dues have not been increased since 2014. The ad hoc committee has been researching the membership dues of regional state library associations - see the attached chart. They recommend due increases of at least \$5.00 for all categories except retired, student, and Friend of the Library. Our salary categories currently stop at \$60k+, while other associations have 5 tiers above that. They also recommend adding those tiers to our dues.

In red text under the chart are the active members numbers for the various sections. There are 31 in the school section, yet according to the Mississippi Department of Education there are 856 librarians within Mississippi's 137 school districts. It was noted that we don't ask for demographic information when registering, so there might be some school librarian members that are not part of the school section. Patsy recommended that the ad hoc committee continue to investigate this large difference. The ad hoc committee will get with Miriam to create an information gathering questionnaire. Some districts have email coordinators that can send the questionnaire out, but most emails are sent from Elizabeth Simmons at the Mississippi Department of Education.

Our conference's main competitions for school librarians are MegaResource and LAMP. Philip will contact Elizabeth Simmons to see if we can have a presence at these events. School librarians, especially in elementary, have set schedules that may not have much flex, so focusing school librarian topics on Friday at the conference would be better for them. Also, many school librarians are teachers without a library degree, so conference topics need to have that focus in mind. For example, the Britannica session was well attended by educators. Another idea was doing one day regional events for a fee and CEUs, something LAMP also does. The University of Mississippi is planning to do a MegaResource like event in December for northern Mississippi, which may conflict with testing schedules in the middle and high schools.

Motion: To approve the increased membership dues starting January 1, 2024.

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Audrey Beach.

Motion carries.

b. ADMINISTRATOR: Mississippi Book Festival, Paula Bass:

We have been approved to attend the festival, but first need to buy new swag for it, the conference, and the capital. She brought in 6 example items from the printers: poncho balls, sticky memo pad, tape measure, flashlight with pen/lanyard, backscratcher with show horn, and sanitizer spray. Not including taxes and discounts, buying 300 of each would cost \$2,837, well under the \$4000 budget. The Board favored the poncho and backscratcher, along with some pens.

7. New Business

a. CONFERENCE: MLA Annual Conference Update and Scholarship Update, Ashley Dees and Justin Easterday:

Ashley received proposals for 36 programs, 8 posters, and 8 meeting spaces. The schedule will be created soon, so any other meeting space requests need to be sent in quickly. She hopes to confirm presenters this month, and have the schedule out in late July or early August. The registration will be open this month, once the hotel codes are given for online booking. There are seven registered vendors, and all but one have paid.

Justin is getting volunteers for the silent auction and raffle, and is planning to have themed baskets for the raffle. Raffle ticket prices have not been set, probably \$2-5, with the main drawing at the President's Bash, and smaller drawings at other times. They would like to have as prizes two MLA memberships (for a year's time) and one 2024 conference registration. Another suggestion was a 50/50 cash drawing, with \$1.00 tickets and half the money going to the winner and half to the scholarships.

Motion: To approve having 2 year-long memberships and 1 conference registration as prizes.

Made by Audrey Beach. Second by Jamie Elston.

Motion carries.

Justin sent out mass emails, and had 25 volunteer for the committee. The scholarships are now accepting nominations. For the raffle, along with the baskets he has gift cards, and is open to other ideas. Ashley gathered many signed books at ALA for the raffle and auction.

Ashley is working on sponsorships and the luncheon tables. These tables have a lower cost for Friend groups and other interested parties. Since it is harder to get vendors to come to Mississippi, there is a greater focus on Friends groups and of Mississippians supporting each other. Stephen Cunetto is in contact with Ebsco. The School of Library and Information Science will again be providing bags and lanyards. The University of Mississippi will provide prints for signs, and she is making conference logo buttons with the UM Libraries' Cricut machine. Others attending volunteered their Cricuts to make some of the buttons.

The pre-conference speaker is Crystal Gates, who will lecture and have hands-on activities about communication strategies in the workplace. She is asking in return for just hotel and travel reimbursement. A cap on attendance shouldn't be needed.

b. LEGISLATION: Report from Legislative Chair, Mara Polk

Due to the bill passing and coming into effect July 1st, MLC has worked on authenticating Magnolia's access so those 18 and younger are receiving filtered content from Ebsco. It has also impacted ebooks and eaudio, so again those 18 and younger only can access juvenile materials. The majority voted in favor of the bill. This has been picked up by the media, including national, and several librarians have been interviewed about the implications. This has caused Mississippi IPs to be blocked by several websites and electronic resources.

c. PRESIDENT: Updating section bylaws to allow for online elections, Philip Carter:

Current bylaws require 50% attendance at conference and have no online elections. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss updating the bylaws and draft example language. However, each group needs to change their own bylaws, and those changes need to be voted on by the Board to be confirmed.

d. PRESIDENT: StarChapter Association Management Software, Philip Carter:

They contacted Philip, and are a possible Wild Apricot replacement. Their service is built especially for associations, and they have worked with other state library associations. It is cheaper than Wild Apricot. He will ask if they also include a Whova-like component.

e. NOMINATING: Slate of for officer elections, Josh Cromwell:

He received two responses from the call for nominations: David Powell for secretary and Melissa Brooks for treasurer. Nominations were asked from the floor: Mara nominated Morgan Hedglin for secretary, Stephen nominated Audrey Beach for treasurer. For vice president, Mara nominated Erin Busbea, Stephen nominated Dawn Zimmerer, and Jamie nominated Sharon Davis.

Motion: To approve the nominations pending their acceptance.

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Stephen Parks.

Motion carries

8. Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Ashely Dees

Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board will be in October at the conference.

Minutes approved Oct. 10, 2023



Tina Harry, Secretary

Categories	Active Memberships	Mississippi	Alabama	Arkansas	Georgia	Louisiana	Tennessee
\$0 to \$9,999	19	\$25 (\$30)	\$30	\$25	\$35	\$35	\$15
\$10,000 to \$19,999	8	\$35 (\$40)	\$35 to \$40	\$25 to \$45	\$35	\$35	\$30
\$20,000 to \$29,999	34	\$45 (\$50)	\$45 to \$50	\$45	\$35	\$50	\$45
\$30,000 to \$39,999	37	\$55 (\$60)	\$60 to \$70	\$65	\$35	\$65	\$60
\$40,000 to \$49,999	66	\$65 (\$75)	\$70	\$65 to \$85	\$35	\$85	\$75
\$50,000 to \$59,999	35	\$75 (\$85)	\$80	\$85 to 105	\$35	\$95	\$90
\$60,000 to \$69,999	45 (\$60k+)	\$85 (\$95)	\$80	\$105	\$35	\$120	\$105
\$70,000 to \$79,999	N/A	\$85 (\$95)	\$80	\$105 to \$125	\$35	\$120	\$120
\$80,000 to \$89,999	N/A	\$85 (\$100)	\$80	\$125	\$35	\$120	\$135
\$90,000 to \$99,999	N/A	\$85 (\$100)	\$80	\$145	\$35	\$120	\$150
\$100,000 to \$110,999	N/A	\$85 (\$110)	\$80	\$145	\$35	\$135	\$150
\$120,000 to \$120,999	N/A	\$85 (\$110)	\$80	\$145	\$35	\$135	\$150
Retired	7	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$35	\$30
Student (2-year limit)	9	\$20	\$15 (3 year)	\$25	\$12	\$15	\$15
Trustee	67	\$25 (\$30)	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$45	\$30
Friend of the Library	3	\$25	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$35	\$30
Vendor (Business)	0	\$50 (\$75)	\$30				\$100
Student (ALA/MLA JOINT)	27						
	0				Staff = \$12.00		
					Corporate = \$250		
Lifetime	26	\$1,000.00		\$500			\$1,000.00

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Public Libraries = 154 Academic = 97 School = 31 Special = 11 Retired = 7 Trustee = 44 Friend of the Library = 3
 ALA/MLA Student = 27 MLA student = 9