

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Minutes
March 20, 2023

Zoom meeting

1. Call to Order:

The March meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Phillip Carter, President, at 10:04 am on Monday March 20, 2023, via Zoom.

Roll Call of Attending Members:

Philip Carter, President; Ashley Dees, Vice President; Stephen Parks, Past President; Audrey Beach, Treasurer; Tina Harry, Secretary; Amanda Powers, ALA Councilor; Danielle Terrell, ACRL Section; Miriam Garner, School Library Section; Jamie Elston, Public Library Section; Rickey Jones, Trustees Section; Joyce Shaw, Special Libraries Section; Sarah Mangrum, SELA Councilor; Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian; Paula Bass, MLA Administrator.

Others Present: Tonja Johnson, Melissa Brooks, Mara Polk, Fawn Ussery, Justin Easterday, Rachelle Moore, Josh Cromwell, Jennifer Todd, Blanche Sanders, David Powell, Brooke Gross, Elizabeth Warren, Mary Ann Peoples, Erin Busbea, Tamara Blackwell.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Three discussion items were added to New Business.

Motion: To approve the revised agenda.

Made by Sarah Mangrum. Second by Amanda Powers.

Motion carries.

3. The December minutes will be approved during the next meeting.

4. Financial Report, Audrey Beach:

Due to the CPA getting a new system, we don't have reports for January or February at this time. The December 31, 2022, report was submitted. Although membership dues are up a little, we are in a financial bind with our total revenue less than our operating expenses. This will be discussed more in New Business.

Motion: To approve the financial report.

Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Ashley Dees.

Motion carries.

5. MLA Administrator Report, Paula Bass:

There are 946 in our membership database: 402 active, 512 lapsed, 21 pending new, 11 pending renewal, and 0 pending level change. The system had not been sending out renewal reminders; that has been corrected.

6. Old Business

A. BOARD: Term change for secretary and treasurer, Philip Carter:

The proposed bylaws change to increase the terms from one to two years was sent to the MLA listserv on February 23, 2023. After the required 30 days of review has passed, the membership will vote on March 27, 2023.

7. New Business

A. SCHOLARSHIP: Questions regarding the Terry Lajauine Scholarship, Justin Easterday:

The Scholarship Committee is working on handbook revisions to aid in future committee governance. The draft should be completed by the end of the month, and will be discussed during the next meeting.

When the Terry Lajauine Scholarship was created, it wasn't given an official name. The first question was if it should be a scholarship or an award? It was decided to stay with scholarship, since an award has different qualification expectations. The official name is now the Terry Lajauine Memorial Conference Scholarship. The scholarship currently awards one librarian \$500. The next question was if this should increase to two librarians, and it was decided to leave it as is due to current finances.

This began a discussion on the scholarships' funding. The GoFundMe funds raised for the Terry Lajauine Scholarship will last for a couple more years. The primary fundraiser for all scholarships is the Silent Auction, followed by some of the funds from the President's Bash and from the optional member donations when creating/renewing their accounts. Another conference fundraiser, such as a trivia competition, might be done in the future. Other ideas were awarding the scholarships alternate years but paying into them annually, to have the President's Bash at the conference venue instead of a different location, and to have past scholarship winners help with the fundraising.

For the last two years, the Silent Auction brought in around \$800 annually; in 2019 it was around \$1000. While the online bidding has made payments easier to manage, the Silent Auction has lost the competitiveness that many found enjoyable. Plans are being discussed on how to keep the easier payments while regaining community participation.

A second discussion focused on the keynote lunches from last year's conference versus the smaller pre-Covid group sponsored lunches. While both the Awards lunch and the Black Caucus sponsored Bobby Rush keynote were successful, the Black Caucus lost the chance for their group to meet and connect with each other, and to recruit new members, that their previously sponsored smaller luncheons allowed. It was suggested that if they sponsor a keynote again this year, that they also have a separate business meeting to regain that lost community. It was also suggested to allow the keynote sponsoring group to have time before the speaker began to give an overview of their group to aid in recruitment.

Finally, it was asked if printed certificates should be awarded; it was decided that yes they should.

B. NMRT: Request a change to dissolve the NMRT and create a subcommittee of the Membership Committee to serve new members, David Powell:

The origin of the New Member Round Table is unknown; it might have been modeled after the similar ALA group. However, to aid in filling empty member positions and to merge similar tasks, members of this group would like to have it become a subcommittee focused on onboarding new members, while the Membership Committee would focus on recruitment. The NMRT as subcommittee would be more active in introducing new members to each other, maybe with newsletters about resources, virtual meet-ups, and Facebook groups. Another reason to change NMRT into a subcommittee is the round table fees. While one round table membership is free, it doesn't feel right to charge new members extra money for joining.

It was asked if any subcommittees currently exist; there are none, but ad hoc subcommittees have been used in the past. A decision on this change was not voted on.

C. LEGISLATIVE: Report from Legislative Chair, Mara Polk, regarding MLA Day at the Capitol:

Mara Polk’s report is as follows:

Crumbl Cookies were distributed to 122 representatives and 57 senators. Crumbl Cookies donated 100 cookies. Many thanks to Paula Bass for negotiating the deal.

Membership was provided a packet via email regarding monthly advocacy tips, format for a visit with legislator, what legislation had priorities (MLC’s Appropriation Bill, HB1315, and SB2346), MAGNOLIA Cost savings flyer, and Fun Facts about Public Libraries

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- A committee assembled the cookie bags for distribution.

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- Upon arrival, we were notified that the House had already adjourned until the next day. The Senate would convene at 2:00. We gathered in the rotunda. Instructions were given.
- Pages placed cookie bags on senator and representative desks on the floor.
- Throughout the day, librarians and advocates distributed their organization-specific information.
- 22 Librarians and advocates signed the “sign-in” sheet.
 - The following libraries have representation as of 3/8/2023:
 - Central Mississippi Regional Library System
 - East Mississippi Regional Library System
 - First Regional Library System
 - Jackson Hinds Library System (Rickey Jones, Trustee)
 - Kemper Newton Library System
 - Madison County Library System
 - Mid-Mississippi Regional Library System
 - Natchez-Judge George Armstrong Library
 - Starkville-Oktibbeha County Public Library System
 - Sunflower County Library System
 - Ashely Dees, MLA Vice President/President-elect
 - Vicksburg Junior High School (Mary Ann Peoples)

Updated 3/20/2023

Senate Conferees for HB 2346: Fillingane, Wiggins, and Hill

60. H. B. No. 1615:

Appropriation; Library Commission.
SENATE CONFEREES: Hopson, DeBar, Michel
HOUSE CONFEREES: Read, Bennett, Ladner

208. S. B. No. 2346:

Material harmful to minors; provide for liability for any entity that distributes on the internet without age verification.
(Judiciary, Division B)
SENATE CONFEREES: Fillingane, Wiggins, Hill
HOUSE CONFEREES:

40. H. B. No. 1315: Pornographic media materials; regulate access to minors and require age verification.
(Judiciary B)
HOUSE CONFEREES:
SENATE CONFEREES:

After her report were discussions on how Magnolia funding and access to digital materials from ebooks to OPACs are being threatened by current legislation under the guise of protecting children from pornographic content. One problem is that the legislators seem to have been given incorrect information about how Ebsco and other online platforms operate, and then don't respond to offers to demonstrate the correct use of the platforms or how filters are already being used by the schools to block pornographic content. Affected parties (including MLC, MLA, and the Magnolia Steering Committee) have not been contacted by legislators. It was mentioned by several meeting participants on how they have no funding to replace these resources if Magnolia is shut down. MLA may need to send a press release on this topic.

Mara Polk then reported on the last Magnolia Steering Committee meeting. Stephen Cunetto and Hulen Bivins are working on a response to this legislation, which currently has no review process for "objectionable" content, and they are in contact with Ebsco. Ebsco can block content down to the article level, and filters K-12 content already. They have reviewed their filters, making changes as needed. They have also made recommendations on sorting content between children and educator access. A yellow box has been added to the Magnolia page linking to information on Ebsco's content selection process.

She also said that Ebsco is lobbying in Mississippi. The need for MLA to have a dedicated lobbyist is becoming more needful, and Philip Carter is in conversation with other library groups that already have one to learn more.

D. ALA COUNCILOR: ALA Update, Amanda Powers:

They have been working on combining the ALA bylaws and constitution, which will be voted on at the summer annual meeting. The theme for banned book week is "Let Freedom Read." ALA would like feedback on what they should be focusing on.

E. VICE PRESIDENT: Conference Update, Ashley Dees:

The conference will be in Vicksburg from October 10-13. On March 24th she and several others will be visiting the conference site, which has had renovations since our last time in Vicksburg. She will also be looking at catering options and President's Bash locations. She is hoping to involve more school librarians in the planning process. Finally, she is concerned that the legislation will hurt vendor support for the conference, especially with Ebsco.

F. WEB: Renewal of Wild Apricot, Jennifer Todd:

The due date for renewing Wild Apricot is April 7th. When compared to similar platforms, it remains the best price for our website and membership activities. The price has increased by \$540 (\$2052 previously, now \$2592). This increase was given to all their users.

Motion: To approve renewing Wild Apricot.

Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Rickey Jones.

Motion carries.

G. PRESIDENT: Association Membership Dues, Philip Carter:

Compared to other library association dues, ours are some of the cheapest in the nation, and have not been increased in years. Between the low dues and losing the grant, we are operating at a deficit. Before covid, there was an ad hoc group looking at the dues. Philip Carter is putting a group together to resume that task.

Many of the lapsed members are school librarians. Their schools are no longer paying for membership, and they don't have the personal funds. They are too busy in October to easily attend MLA conference, and many instead attend MegaResource to earn CEU credits. To generate for interest in MLA, one idea is to have monthly free webinars for CEU. They would best work as flexible and/or self-paced sessions to work around their schedules. Belonging to a professional library organization is a requirement in their review. Another idea is offering an institutional membership option.

We need to focus on recruiting school librarians, and also public librarians, for conference presentations. It was suggested recruitment would be more successful if, instead of a general call, we gave specific topics for them to present on.

H. PRESIDENT: Empty seats on committees/roundtables, Philip Carter:

There are several groups that needed leadership. Mary Ann Peoples volunteered for Membership Committee. For the three round tables, Technical Services voted in new leadership during conference, and Philip Carter will be given contact information. Dawn Zimmerer will take Social Justice. Marketing & PR remains empty.

I. PRESIDENT: Upcoming elections, Philip Carter:

The nominations will be later than normal this year. He would like to move all elections, including round tables, to an online format instead of them happening in person at conference due to poor business meeting attendance. He is working on finding members who want to serve, and plans to have dates set before the next meeting. The MLA Handbook will need to be updated for online election wording.

Jennifer Todd will be training another in managing Wild Apricot; they will assist her with the online elections and other tasks. Amanda Powers noted that for the ALA Councilor, that future candidates should be made aware the costs involved with required ALA conferences participation.

8. Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

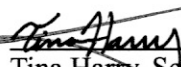
Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Ashely Dees

Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board will be May 19, 2023 via Zoom.

Minutes approved May 19, 2023



Tina Harry, Secretary