

**MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**Executive Board Minutes**  
**May 19, 2023**

**Zoom meeting.**

**1. Call to Order:**

The May meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Phillip Carter, President, at 10:05 am on Friday May 19, 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; Danielle Terrell, ACRL Section; Rickey Jones, Trustees Section; Joyce Shaw, Special Libraries Section; Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian; Paula Bass, MLA Administrator.

**Others Present:** Justin Easterday, Josh Cromwell, Blanche Sanders, Tonja Johnson, Lauren Geiger, Dawn Zimmerer, Janessa Ullendorf, Hulen Bivins.

**2. Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion: To approve the agenda.**

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Stephen Parks.  
Motion carries.

**3. Approval of the December and March minutes:**

**Motion: To approve the minutes.**

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Audrey Beach.  
Motion carries.

**4. Financial Report, Audrey Beach:**

We received the financial reports for March and April. The April report had outdated 2021 information in it, and Audrey will look into having that corrected. It is tabled until the next meeting.

**Motion: To approve the March financial report.**

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Stephen Parks.  
Motion carries.

**5. MLA Administrator Report, Paula Bass:**

There are 950 in our membership database: 391 active, 528 lapsed, 19 pending new, 12 pending renewals. The Membership Committee has a new chair; she, Philip, and Paula will be meeting in the future to discuss membership concerns, especially for school librarians.

**6. Old Business**

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

The membership responded with 63 votes, 58 in favor, term change passes. The bylaws will be revised to show the staggered, 2-year terms for the secretary and treasurer. An idea for future consideration is moving more positions to 2-year terms.

## **7. New Business**

### **a. CONFERENCE: MLA Annual Conference Update, Ashley Dees:**

Janessa Ullendorf designed the conference logo, which was approved by committee vote. It is up on the website. The conference will be fully in person this year; it was decided that the hybrid participation did not justify the cost and time to set it up. They are accepting proposal submissions for programs and poster sessions, which will have lightning rounds. If groups need a meeting space, there is a form for requesting a room. All these links are on the website. USM SLIS will be providing bags. The President's Bash will be at the Roof, Key City Brewing, in Vicksburg.

This year, Sponsorship and Vendor Exhibits will be split into two committees to help spread out responsibilities. Sponsorship will focus on reaching out to potential sponsors. There is a new library champion level of sponsorship, which will have a table and sign at one or both luncheons. There will be a donations page for the silent auction, and a new raffle with the winner selected during the Bash.

### **b. SCHOLARSHIP: MLA Handbook Draft, Justin Easterday:**

He submitted an 11-page draft of the Scholarship section of the handbook. Working with Blanch and Jamie, they added information on overall governance of the Scholarship committee, required criteria for each scholarship, and responsibilities of the various Sections for their specific scholarships. They phrased the draft to make adding future scholarships and fund-raising events easier. For the silent auction's section, they included guidelines for in person, virtual and hybrid models. A new requirement for committee members is participation in a fund-raising event, either at the conference or virtually.

Due to the Board receiving this document shortly before the meeting began, it was discussed if voting on it should be tabled until July. It was decided to vote on the document, and if anyone had discussion points to add them to the July meeting's agenda.

### **Motion: To approve the revised Scholarship section of the MLA Handbook.**

Made by Stephen Parks. Second by Rickey Jones

Motion carries.

### **c. ADMINISTRATOR: Mississippi Book Festival, Paula Bass:**

The festival will be on August 19<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol.

### **Motion: To have MLA attend as a vendor.**

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Stephen Parks.

Motion carries.

### **d. ADMINISTRATOR: Purchase of more promotional items, Paula Bass:**

Save for 30 old mousepads, we are out of promotional materials. Paula estimated that it would take \$2,500 to \$3,000 to purchase enough items for both the festival and conference, which is less than the \$4,000 set aside in the budget. She will send a list of the planned promotional purchases in 2 weeks. The company already has our logo, so there isn't a lot of setup time needed.

### **e. PRESIDENT: Association Membership Dues, Patsy Brewer, Philip Carter:**

Our dues have not increased in years, and our income does not equal our expenditures. They had a chart showing the dues of neighboring state associations. It was noted that Georgia had low rates across all salary tiers due to have a large pool of active members, around double of our active membership. We might create a school district tier, and calculate their fees based on the number of librarians in each

district. They did not have exact numbers of how many of our members are in each salary tier, but Paula thought \$45 tier was the most common. The 2-year student tier was intended for graduate students and mirrors ALA policy, it was discussed changing this by removing the year limit and instead asking for proof of enrollment.

It is possible for a member to change their salary tier online, but they are not prompted for this information when renewing. Membership was January-December, but now renews every 12 months based on when the member joined. If fee changes are made, a switch date will need to be selected.

**Motion: To have a group go forward in researching the restructuring of our fees.**

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Stephen Parks.

Motion carries.

The group will present their findings in July.

There was concern that raising our fees will have a negative impact on membership recruitment. Philip countered that the greater challenge isn't the fee amount but having a good return on investment for our members. He has plans on this topic to be announced later.

#### **8. Adjournment:**

**Motion: To adjourn the meeting.**


Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Rickey Jones

Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

*The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board will be in person at the Vicksburg conference site in July, date to be announced.*

**Minutes approved July 14, 2023**

  
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Tina Harry, Secretary