

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Minutes
October 10, 2023

Hybrid meeting

Vicksburg Convention Center, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Zoom

1. Call to Order:

The October meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Phillip Carter, President, at 4:06 pm on Friday, October 10, 2023.

Roll Call of Attending Members:

Philip Carter, President; Ashley Dees, Vice President; Stephen Parks, Past President; Audrey Beach, Treasurer; Tina Harry, Secretary; Jamie Elston, Public Library Section; Joyce Shaw, Special Libraries Section Chairperson; Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian; Paula Bass, MLA Administrator.

Others Present: Jennifer Todd, David Powell, Hulen Bivins, Josh Cromwell, Justin Easterday, Lauren Geiger, Melissa Brooks, Janessa Ullendorf, Jenniffer Stephenson, Melissa Dennis, Crystal Gates

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: To approve the agenda.

Made by Stephen Parks. Second by Ashley Dees.

Motion carries.

3. Approval of the July minutes:

Motion: To approve the minutes.

Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Ashley Dees.

Motion carries.

4. Financial Report, Audrey Beach:

The monthly report for August 2023 was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting for review. It was noted that there are categories in the budget that are no longer used that should be removed.

Motion: To approve the report.

Made by Ashley Dees. Second by Jamie Elston.

Motion carries.

5. MLA Administrator Report, Paula Bass:

There are 977 in our membership database: 375 active, 568 lapsed, 21 pending new, 13 pending renewals. Paula was at the Book Festival's MLA outdoor booth. Due to the very hot August temperatures, being there was not a pleasant experience, and also lowered the number of visitors to it. We need to communicate with the Book Festival for better booth locations in the future that won't jeopardize the health of attendees.

6. New Business

a. ELECTION: VP Election, Philip Carter:

Erin Busbea declined the position of Vice President, and so a new vote will be sent out after conference, ending Oct. 27th. As of noon today there are 2 candidates: Katrina Stokes from Vicksburg and Pam Morton from Dixie.

b. PUBLIC LIBRARY SECTION: Proposed by-laws changes, Jamie Elston:

After getting a list of members, they sent out 150 emails and received 75 positive responses. This is accepted as the best effort to bring the proposed changes before the majority of their active membership.

Motion: To approve changes the Public Library Section made to their by-laws.

Made by Phillip Carter. Second by Stephen Parks.

Motion carries.

It was noted that all other sections will also need to update their by-laws to include online activities. Jamie thanked Patsy Brewer for her input and review of the changes.

c. SCHOLARSHIP: Residency requirements for scholarships, Justin Easterday:

Despite a lot of advertising for the Terry and Virginia scholarships, neither received many applications. A possibility to increase interest is to include a year of MLA membership as an additional perk.

There was a discussion and brainstorming session on the Mississippi resident and USM SLIS requirements. Prior to ALA accreditation requirements, several colleges and universities in Mississippi had library programs, but now we have just the one, which is an online program with many out-of-state students. The exact numbers of in-state versus out are unknown, but will be needed by us in the future to make an informed decision. The Black Caucus was told there are less than 10 African American students attending SLIS. Alcorn has staff not attending USM but other schools.

Ideas for consideration included:

- Offer to all students at SLIS, with Mississippi resident preferred.
- Keep it to just Mississippi students at SLIS, since we are a Mississippi association.
- Offer it to Mississippi students at out-of-state library programs, keeping in mind other schools have different strengths, and they might be online students with a Mississippi residence.
- Offer it to out-of-state students in hope of attracting new librarians to the state. It was noted our low salaries make this a tough sell.
- Tier priority to Mississippi students at SLIS, Mississippi students out-of-state, then out-of-state SLIS students.

No conclusions were reached. It was noted that if any changes are made to the scholarships, these changes would need to be approved and/or made by the sponsoring section. Another qualification in the scholarships to look at is full time versus part time employment, and the length of employment.

Motion: To table this discussion until the next meeting.

Made by Phillip Carter. Second by Ashley Dees.

Motion carries.

d. CONFERENCE: Length of future conferences, Ashley Dees:

At present, we reserve the conference center for half days on Tuesday and Friday, which costs the same as a full day, leaving money on the table. There will be a Zoom meeting in the future to discuss this more, but one idea is to not reserve the center on Tuesday and have the preconference instead at the local library.

Motion: To table this discussion until the next meeting.

Made by Phillip Carter. Second by Ashley Dees.

Motion carries.

Ashley noted that the preconference went well, and the conference budget is in the green.

e. WEB: Listserv Concerns, Jennifer Todd:

Our listserv is hosted by USM, but they are retiring their system in June 2024. Both Wild Apricot and Star Chapter have email blast capabilities, but there will be differences to our current listserv, such as it being limited to only members. Information will be drafted up for the next meeting.

f. ACRL: Need new chair/co-chair, Philip Carter:

Danielle Terrell is stepping down as chair, and an election will need to be up and running within a month.

g. LEGISLATIVE DAY 2024, Philip Carter:

MLC's day is February 13, 8-11 am. While MLA needs to be there to support them, the Legislative Chair also needs to make reservations for our own day.

7. Old Business

a. WEB: Star Chapter Association Management Software, Philip Carter:

The pros and cons of staying with Wild Apricot or switching to Star Chapter will be presented next meeting.

8. Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Made by Jamie Elston. Second by Ashely Dees

Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board will be in December.

Minutes approved Dec. 14, 2023



Tina Harty, Secretary