Missouri Library Association
Minutes
Board Meeting 1/22/2021 - 9:30 a.m.

Attendance
1. Shannon Midyett
2. Cindy Thompson
3. Debra Loguda Summers
4. Otter Bowman
5. Daisy Porter-Reynolds
6. Desiree Schumann
7. Keith Gaertner
8. Linda Elkow
9. Meredith McCarthy
10. Pamela Withrow
11. Stephanie Hallam
12. Robin Westphal
13. Cody Croan
14. Brent Sweany
15. Annmarie Rahner
16. Claudia Cook
17. Margaret Conroy
18. Diana Platt
19. Katie Hill Earnhart
20. Jennifer Beckley
21. Amy Held

1) Meeting called to order at 9:33 a.m. by President Cindy Thompson.

2) Motion made by Katie Hill Earnhart and seconded by Otter Bowman to accept the
consent agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion Items

   a) President Cindy Thompson opened the floor for discussion concerning the need
to list contact information for MLA Board members in the MO INFO newsletter.
President Thompson reminded the Board that the decision to remove Board
contact information from the MLA website was made last year due to issues with
email spoofing and spamming. Due to complications surrounding listing contact
information, including keeping information up to date and privacy concerns, the
decision was made to remove it from the MO INFO newsletter. The email
address for the MLA President, mlapresident@amigos.org, will continue to be
listed on the MLA website and in the MO INFO newsletter.
b) President Cindy Thompson made a call for volunteers to fill open committee positions, including:
   i) Marketing Subcommittee Chair
   ii) Bylaws and Handbook Committee members
   iii) Community of Interest Council Vice Chair

c) President Thompson led an open discussion on hosting a formal MLA Board orientation for new Board members and setting support priorities for Committees and Communities of Interest. The discussion offered the following list of possible topics to be discussed/addressed at a Board orientation:

   i) Board Reports
   ii) How to connect to the Board meeting
   iii) Formalizing a point of contact for committee chairs
   iv) Setting the date of the January meeting later in the month to allow new officers more time to prepare reports
   v) Formalizing a transition period between officers
   vi) Reviewing/revising the structure of positions and terms to allow smoother transition and rotation
   vii) Formalizing the onboarding process for new members
   viii) Setting aside time at the annual Board retreat to establish officers MOLIB.org accounts and demonstrate how to add events to the MOLIB website and calendar
   ix) Providing a structure and framework for using the MOLIB organizational Google suite as a record and document repository
   x) Creating listservs for Committees and Communities of Interest

d) Desiree Schumann, Conference Co-Coordinator, provided an update for the MLA 2021 Conference. The theme for the 2021 conference is “Charting the Future Together.” Early registration will run from June 7th through August 9th. Proposed Early Bird registration is $125. Proposed regular registration is $165. The Conference Committee will solidify registration rates and present to the Board at a future meeting for approval.

The Conference Committee has a call out for volunteers. Tentative conference subcommittees include:

- Meeting rooms
- Technology
- Poster and Table Talks
- Preconference and Proposals
- Social Media Committee
- Performers Showcase (YSCI)
President Cindy Thompson stated that MLA is currently planning for an in person conference with variable options to allow as many members as possible to attend and engage with this year’s conference.

e) Otter Bowman currently serves as the Intellectual Freedom Board Liaison. Bowman stated that the Intellectual Freedom Committee would like to setup a more formal framework for the committee establishing specific roles for its members. Bowman asked for guidance from the Board to formalize the committee’s structure. Bowman was advised to submit suggestions to the Bylaws and Handbook Committee. The Bylaws and Handbook Committee could then present revisions to the Board for approval.

f) The Intellectual Freedom Committee asked the Board for guidance and suggestions on activities and initiatives the committee could undertake in the upcoming year. Claudia Cook stated that she had received feedback that MLA should be doing more to speak out against censorship. Margaret Conroy offered that censorship challenges provided MLA an opportunity to launch an education initiative on censorship as a whole. It was agreed that MLA should focus on addressing censorship in libraries, not in other organizations/professions. It was further agreed that MLA will continue to be committed to supporting libraries facing censorship challenges and to work with Missouri legislators to address these challenges and uphold the Right To Freedom to Read.

g) Cody Croan, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, addressed the Board to request that legislative priorities be more visible and discoverable on the MLA website. The Committee suggested that MLA legislative priorities be posted to the About section of the MLA website. The Board agreed to stand in support of this request. The Board advised the Legislative Committee to work with the Website Committee to highlight the advocacy, legislative priorities, and the overall work of the legislative committee, as it is a strategic priority of MLA.

Robin Westphal, Missouri State Librarian, offered to provide State Library created content for an Advocacy tab, should it be created.

Croan stated that a Virtual Legislative Update would be held on Friday, Jan. 29th, and that an email announcement had been sent to the membership with connection details. This session will include updates from MLA’s legislative advocate, Randy Scherr, and the State Librarian, Robin Westphal.
Croan provided an update for Library Advocacy Day. The event will be held completely virtual this year. LAD orientation is scheduled for Feb. 22nd from 9:30 am to noon. LAD will be free this year. The week of Feb. 23-25 is being slated for meetings with legislators.

h) Meredith McCarthy shared that Jobline still had an open volunteer position for the month of November. She asked that the Board assist with filling this open spot by reaching out within their professional networks.

4) Meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.