Missouri Library Association
Minutes
Board Meeting 4/16/2021- 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:
  Cindy Thompson
  Allison Repking
  Otter Bowman
  Linda Elkow
  Asia Gross
  Amy Held
  Theresa Masters
  Pamela Withrow
  Cynthia Dudenhoffer
  Katie Hill Earnhart
  Claudia Cook
  Meredith McCarthy
  Katie Long
  Desiree Schumann
  Shannon Midyett
  Tracy Byerly
  Jennifer Alexander
  Margaret Conroy
  Ariel Doggendorf
  Robin Westphal
  Ariel - YSCI
  Diana Platt
  Cody Croan
  Tony Benningfield
  Stephanie Hallam
  Dawn Mackey
  Gerald Brooks
  Rachelle Brandel
  Kristin Evans

1) Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m.

2) Consent agenda accepted and approved unanimously.

3) Action/Decision Items from Committees and SIGs

  a. Amigos presented information to the Board on the status of MLA’s registered agent service. Tracy Byerly explained that Amigos had previously served as MLA’s registered agent; however, they are transitioning away from this practice. MLA will need to decide on a Board member or
entity to serve as a registered agent on behalf of MLA moving forward. MLA can opt to pay a service to meet this requirement. Amigos will serve as the registered agent through June 30, 2021. This change will not impact MLA’s contract with Amigos. Amigos agreed to assist MLA with this transition. Katie Hill Earnhart, Treasurer, will coordinate with Amigos to make this change. Board members are asked to watch for an email vote to formally approve this change.

b. Cindy Thompson presented the proposed Amigos Contract for FY2022 for discussion. After discussion, President Cindy Thompson called for a vote to approve the Amigos Contract for FY2022. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Asia Gross, Conference Coordinator, provided options for the 2021 MLA Conference for Board discussion. Health concerns surrounding COVID are still impacting conference planning. Survey results of responding members showed only 28% were comfortable with an in person conference in the fall. Contract with the conference venue is firm and cancelling the in person conference might result in a significant loss for MLA. Options presented included:

#1 Full In-Person Conference (No Mandates)
#2 Full In-Person Conference (Mask mandates and social distancing in place)
#3 Hybrid Conference (Both in person and virtual)
#4 Virtual Conference

Board discussion opted toward a hybrid conference with little to no mandates for the full in-person portion and offering a virtual option to those members who are not comfortable or unable to attend the conference in-person. MLA will work with a vendor to provide the technology to allow for the virtual portion of the conference.

President Cindy Thompson will work with the Conference Committee and the conference venue to renegotiate MLA’s contract to move forward with a hybrid conference option. Board members are asked to watch for an email vote to formally approve this change.

d. Stephanie Hallam, Bylaws and Handbooks Committee, addressed the Board to discuss MLA membership categories. Stephanie Hallam asked the Board to review the MLA Bylaws where questions have arisen regarding which members have voting rights. Stephanie shared that further clarification is needed for both membership categories and member voting rights. Stephanie presented some options for revisions to the Bylaws to achieve the needed clarification. Stephanie stated that once the Board provided the requested clarification, she would follow up with the Bylaws and Handbook Committee to make the necessary changes.

President Cindy Thompson described the process for MLA Bylaws changes.

Discussion centered around working to simplify categories of membership moving forward and to work with the Bylaws and Handbook Committee to make said revisions.

The Membership Committee will bring proposed changes to the member categories and member rights and privileges back to the Bylaws and Handbook Committee. Bylaws and
e. Allison Repking addressed the Board to request permission to pre-record the Genealogy Conference sessions planned for the 2021 MLA Conference and offer those recorded sessions free to the Genealogy and Local History Community of Interest or the MLA membership at large. Allison shared that these sessions could serve the membership as a professional development opportunity. Other discussion centered on requiring registration to gain access to recorded sessions. The Genealogy and Local History and Continuing Education CIs will move forward with pursuing options to provide a repository of recorded conference sessions to members.

f. Rachelle Brandel addressed the Board to discuss MLA scholarship funding. Treasurer Katie Hill Earnhart provided general information regarding the 2021 MLA budget and the need to clarify scholarship funding in this budget. The TSCI award was ultimately unbudgeted for 2021; however, Board discussion centered around support of funding the award for the fall conference. Motion made Cynthia Dudenhoeffer to waive the conference fee and provide $250 in funds to cover related conference expenses for the TSCI Call-to-Conference Award. Seconded by Otter Bowman. Motion passed unanimously.

g. Rachelle Brandel addressed the Board to discuss the MLA’s Community of Interest groups involvement in selecting conference session proposals for the 2022 MLA Conference. Conference Coordinators stated that they welcome input and suggestions from the CIs for conference proposals. Discussion from the group revealed that past practice has allowed for CIs to endorse and sponsor conference sessions. CIs were encouraged to reach out to the Conference Coordinators with input. The Conference Coordinators stated they would, in addition, keep CIs in the loop in planning conference presentations for the fall.

4) Other Matters

Robin Westphal, Missouri State Library, shared with the Board her discussion with U.S. Representative Cori Bush who has agreed to support the *Build America’s Libraries Act*. This bill will be the first act of the Congress to provide funding for modernizing and updating library buildings and facilities.

Robin also shared that ARPA funds have been received by the State Library and they are currently evaluating options and opportunities for distributing these funds.

5) Motion to adjourn made by Otter Bowman and seconded by Katie Hill Earnhart. Meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.