Missouri Library Association
Minutes
Board Meeting 7/16/2021- 9:30 a.m.

Attendance
1. Cindy Thompson
2. Allison Repking
3. Otter Bowman
4. Linda Elkow
5. Deb Loguda Summers
6. Daisy Porter-Reynolds
7. Katie Hill Earnhart
8. Claudia Cook
9. Meredith McCarthy
10. Brent Sweany
11. Desiree Schumann
12. Diana Platt
13. Jennifer Alexander
14. Shannon Midyett
15. Tracy Byerly
16. Stephanie Hallam
17. Cynthia Dudenhoffer
18. Amy Held
19. Christy Schink
20. Dan Brower
21. Keith Gaertner
22. Tiffany Mautino
23. Kristin Evans

1) Meeting called to order at 9:33 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves via chat.

2) Motion made by Katie Hill Earnhart and seconded by Diana Platt to accept the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion items

   a) Audit Report

      Tracy Byerly updated the Board on the status of the MLA audit report being prepared by Beard-Boehmer & Associates. Beard-Boehmer & Associates will present the audit report to the Board once complete.
b) Awards Committee - ALA Emerging Leader

Daisy Porter-Reynolds, Chair of the MLA Awards Committee, addressed the Board to seek clarification on the ALA Emerging Leader award. After discussion, Daisy Porter-Reynolds recommended this language be removed from the MLA website, as the Emerging Leader Award is initiated by the ALA Chapter and not MLA. President Cindy Thompson will take action to reestablish the partnership with the ALA Chapter allowing MLA to offer the Emerging Leader Award in the future.

c) Bylaws and Handbook Committee

Stephanie Hallam, Chair of the Bylaws and Handbook Committee, presented proposed changes to the bylaws in terms of MLA membership levels and associated membership privileges with the overarching goal of simplifying membership levels and clarifying ambiguities identified in previous Board meetings. Proposed changes to membership levels extend membership options out to a broader segment of the library profession in an effort to provide wider support to libraries, library professionals, library support organizations, and library adjacent agencies.

Other proposed bylaw changes offered by the committee include clarification and clean up of language under the Executive Board section with recommended changes and updates to the bylaws addressing nominees, officers, and elections.

Tracy Byerly with AMIGOS offered to compile and provide membership language from bylaws of other library associations and send to the Bylaws and Handbook Committee for further consideration in terms of revising the bylaws.

Stephanie Hallam on behalf of the Bylaws and Handbook Committee suggested edits to the handbook in regard to the Intellectual Freedom Committee’s positions, terms, and vacancies. The Board voted to accept these proposed changes to the Handbook.

d) GENE CI Annual Conference Requests

Allison Repking, Chair of the Genealogy and Local History Community of Interest, addressed the Board with a request to record the GENE Preconference Session at the MLA Annual Conference this year. GENE would like to offer the recording as a continuing education and professional development option to the membership in the future. Desiree Schumann with the Conference Committee reported that details are still pending with the conference venue in terms of available technology capable of recording and streaming remote sessions at this year’s conference. GENE CI stated that they will handle the technology and recording of the preconference session internally within the CI without additional support required from the conference venue or conference committee. GENE and the Board will continue to discuss and explore options for disseminating the recording after the conference. The Board supports the GENE’s
decision to record the preconference session to offer to members after this year’s conference.

GENE will have a remote presenter for this year’s GENE preconference session. Allison Repking requested an opportunity to test audiovisual technology and platforms on site at the conference venue prior to this year’s preconference to be prepared for this year’s remote presenter. Desiree Schumann will reach out to GENE to finalize these details after checking in with the conference venue.

Allison Repking on behalf of the GENE CI asked for clarification in terms of who may join the MLA GENE listserv. Cindy Dudenhoffer stated that traditionally MLA listservs were a benefit of membership and not considered or operated as open listservs. The GENE CI envisioned opening the listservs to nonmembers as a method of promoting and increasing MLA membership. Further discussion centered around identifying and clarifying the goals of MLA in terms of who the association is targeting as members and its purpose and approach to supporting libraries and library workers. The Board expressed its support of the GENE CI moving forward with opening the listserv to nonmembers in an effort to broaden support of libraries and library workers across the state and to promote and encourage the listserv participants to join MLA. Next steps include the GENE CI working with the Membership Committee to draft emails promoting the benefits of membership that will go out on the GENE CI listserv annually in an effort to increase membership.

4) Action/Decision Items from Committees and SIGs

a. Approve 2021 MLA Conference Budget

President Cindy Thompson informed the Board that the MLA 2021 Conference Budget is still being finalized. The Conference Budget will be presented at a future meeting for Board approval.

b. Approve Awards Committee Recommendations

President Cindy Thompson informed the Board that the Awards Committee had questions about language and parameters surrounding the MLA Awards. Daisy Porter-Reynolds, Chair of the Awards Committee, proposed a name change of the Outstanding New Librarian Award to Outstanding New Professional Librarian Award. Claudia Cook made a motion to amend the recommendation to modify the name of the Outstanding Professional Librarian Award to the Outstanding Librarian Award. Motion was seconded by Otter Bowman. Motion passed unanimously. Names of these awards will now be Outstanding Librarian and Outstanding New Librarian.

Daisy Porter-Reynolds informed the Board that there was an inconsistency and gap in the eligibility requirements for the outstanding librarian awards. The Awards Committee
recommended that the eligibility criteria be made parallel:

- Outstanding New Librarian - MLS/MLIS within last 5 years
- Outstanding Librarian - MLS/MLIS and at least 5 years of experience

The Awards Committee asked the Board to support the committee in requiring nominators for the Literary and Author Awards to submit two copies of each nominated title to the committee chair. This will make it easier for committee members to review the books and avoid incurring personal expense if their home libraries don’t have the titles.

President Cindy Thompson opened the floor for Board discussion on the Award Committee’s slate of award winners. No discussion was brought forth from the Board.

The Board voted unanimously to accept all recommendations as amended by the Award Committee.

c. Tiffany Mautino, Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, addressed the Board to express the CI’s concern with requiring a masters degree to serve on the Board. The IFC has drafted a proposal to send to the Bylaws & Handbook Committee to expand the organizational structure of the Intellectual Freedom Committee. The Committee seeks to broaden membership and service across the library spectrum to increase participation, engagement and diversity by removing this eligibility requirement.

5) Discussion of Strategic Initiatives

President Cindy Thompson opened a discussion and updated the Board on the progress the association has made toward meeting objectives as outlined in the MLA 2019-2023 Strategic Plan. Cindy Thompson asked the Board to review the Strategic Plan and be prepared to discuss the association’s strategic goals in more detail at the next Board meeting in order to make decisions on future direction and priorities.

6) Other Matters

a. Allison Repking reported that the Genealogy CI selected an Excellence in Genealogy and Local History Award winner. Allison expressed that the Genealogy CI was very excited about this year’s winner as it was a project rather than a person. The project being recognized is the Kansas City Public Library’s ‘Kansas City Black History 2021’ project that culminated with a booklet spanning 200 years that tells the story of 70 black Kansas Citians who made a mark in education, activism, the arts, medicine, journalism, and other fields.
7) Motion to adjourn made by Cindy Dudenhoffer and seconded by Claudia Cook. Meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.