Missouri Library Association
Minutes
Board Meeting 11/19/2021  9:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual

Attendance
1. Claudia Cook 
2. Cindy Thompson 
3. Otter Bowman 
4. Brent Sweany 
5. Diana Platt 
6. Kimberly Moeller 
7. Rachelle Brandel 
8. Margaret Conroy 
9. Shannon Midyett 
10. Linda Elkow 
11. Allison Repking 
12. Meredith McCarthy 
13. Gerald Brooks 
14. Keith Gaertner 
15. Stephanie Hallam 
16. Katie Hopkins 
17. Jack Beard 
18. Cody Croan 
19. Cindy Dudenhoffer 

1) President Cindy Thompson called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

2) Motion made by Brent Sweany and seconded by Diana Platt to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Discussion items

   A. Audit Report

   Jack Beard, Beard, Boehmer & Associates, PC, presented the 2019-2020 MLA Auditor’s Report. Beard reported that MLA assets increased by $26,598 from 2019 to 2020 ending FY2020 with total assets of $1,113,454. Beard, Boehmer, & Associates issued the following opinion in regard to MLA’s 2020 financial statements:

   “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Missouri Library Association as of December 31, 2020, and the changes
Motion to accept the Audit Report as presented made by Claudia Cook and seconded by Otter Bowman. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Annual Meeting

President Cindy Thompson reminded the Board that the 119th Annual Membership Meeting will be held virtually at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 19, 2021.

C. 2022 Board Appointments

President Cindy Thompson asked current Board members to reach out and encourage members to become involved in MLA and volunteer to fill open MLA committee positions.

D. 2023 Conference Update

President-Elect Claudia Cook provided a conference update for 2023. The site selection committee conducted site visits in Columbia and Jefferson City. The final decision on conference location for the 2023 conference will be presented at a future board meeting. The dates for the 2023 Conference will be Oct 3-Oct 5, 2023.

E. 2022 MLA Goals

President-Elect Claudia Cook shared the following goals as identified in this year’s Board Retreat for MLA in 2022:

1. Making institutional memberships more attractive, adding value to the membership level.
2. Increasing general membership
3. Providing more continuing education opportunities to librarians in rural library settings by partnering with the State Library to bring back the Library Institute in different regions in the State.
4. Reconfigure the MLA website on a different platform.
5. Explore the possibility of future hybrid conferences.

F. Genealogy and Local History Community of Interest

Allison Repking on behalf of the GLHCI asked for guidance from the Board on funding request procedures for next year’s conference. GLHCI plans to request funds to cover attendee transportation costs to an off-site location as part of the 2022 GENE
preconference session. Katie Hopkins, Conference Coordinator, stated that she would work with GLHCI to ensure funding is provided in the budget to meet the needs and plans of the GENE preconference.

G. Proposed MLA Handbook Revisions

Stephanie Hallam on behalf of the Bylaws and Handbook Committee reported that the committee continued to explore changes to the bylaws and handbook in conjunction with the Membership Committee, Annual Conference Committee, Youth Services Community of Interest, and Awards Committee.

4) Action/Decision Items from Committees and SIGs

a) Youth Services Community of Interest

YSCI requested permission from the Board to become more involved in the conference planning process. This involvement would allow YSCI to develop a youth services track with nonconflicting sessions, speakers, activities, and showcases with hopes this would allow more youth services staff the opportunity to attend the annual conference.

b) MLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Recent Challenges

The Intellectual Freedom Committee presented a Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Recent Challenges to the Board for discussion and approval.

The following three revisions to the Statement were discussed:

a) Replace the last sentence in the first paragraph with:

We further support the processes and procedures our libraries have in place to work through challenges with concerned parents and community members, and are deeply troubled by efforts to circumvent these processes for political gain or as a result of moral panic.

b) In the second sentence of the fourth paragraph, replace “parent” with “person.”

c) In the second sentence of the fourth paragraph, strike the parenthetical:

(or one politician seeking office)

Cindy Dudenhoffer made a motion to approve the statement with the revisions as discussed. Motion seconded by Brent Sweany. Motion passed unanimously.
c) Cody Croan announced that Library Advocacy Day will be held Tuesday, February 8, 2022. The Legislative Committee is currently exploring options to allow participation in-person and virtually in this year’s Advocacy Day.

5) Motion to adjourn made by Brent Sweany. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.