

MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Minutes
October 13, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Mississippi

Call to Order:

The May virtual meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Mara Polk, President, at 3:16 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, via Zoom.

Roll Call/Signature List of Attending Members:

Present – Mara Polk, President; Adrienne McPhaul, Secretary; Michele Frasier-Robinson, Treasurer; Stephen Parks, Vice-President; Mary Beth Applin, Immediate Past President; Meredith Wickham, ALA Councilor, Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian, and, Sarah Mangrum, SELA Councilor.

Others Present: Phillip, Janessa Ullendorf, Rickey Jones, Charlie Hyatt, Joyce Shaw, Matt Gully, Brenda Martin, Jennifer Todd, Amanda Clay Powers, Jeanette Whisenton, Tamara Blackwell, Sarah Crisler-Ruskey, Paula Bass, Erin Busbea, Tisha Zelner, Mac Buntin, Tamara Blackwell, M Emerson, Durless Lumpkin, Hulen Bivins, Tina Harry,

Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION: To approve agenda

Motion: Rickey Jones

Second: Mary Beth Applin

Motion passes.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: To adopt the Minutes for the July 9, 2021 meeting of the MLA Executive Board.

Motion: Sarah Mangrum

Second: Mary Beth Applin

Motion passes.

MLA Officers and Staff Reports:

Secretary: Adrienne McPhaul – No report

Treasurer: Michele Frasier-Robinson – Sent in financial report through Sept. 30th. Two bank accounts – main holding \$76962.00, debit account at \$1180. (Report Attached).

President: Mara Polk – Happy early birthday to MLA. Oct. 29th is our 112th birthday. Thank you to Stephen parks and everyone for work on the conference. Have learned a lot already from the convenience of my computer. Miss seeing everyone. Learned that people have pets as pigs and have taken up airplane flying and skydiving.

Vice-President: Stephen Parks – No official report. Will create a report for the conference after it is over. Well attended. Pleased with the academic groups and special librarians have presented quite a bit. Have learned a lot. Sparsely attended last night but had a great president's bash. Played trivia thanks to Sarah and Karen. Nice to do that in person in the future. May plan a roller skating activity one day. Looking forward to author's awards tonight at 6pm and another day of sessions tomorrow. Silent auction until 5pm tomorrow.

Immediate Past President: Mary Beth Applin - No report.

MLA Administrator: Paula Bass – Total membership 809. Active members total 370. (Report Attached)

ALA Councilor: Meredith Wickham – Nothing to report on councils. Between voting sessions. Next one in January in Texas. ALA has decided to do that virtually.

SELA Councilor: Sarah Mangrum – Not much of a report. Reminder that SELA annual conference is next week. 18th – 22nd. Will run virtually as well as in person. Registration still open. Full report for next meeting.

MLC Executive Director: Hulen Bivins – No real report. Nothing new with Build America's Libraries act. Stalled with infrastructure legislation. First put forward by Senator Jack Reid of Rhode Island in Jan. 2. Right after hurricane Ida, ALA people were trying to find out how they could help Mississippi and do a damage report as a national agenda. They finally contacted me. We need to be sure as an association that ALA and groups like that know who our contact person is. Meredith had moved.

ACRL Section: Courtney Hicks – No report. Not present

Public Library Section: Katrina Castilaw – No report. Not present

School Library Section: Angela Mullins – No report. Not present

Special Libraries Section: Joyce Shaw – Sent encouraging emails to all in Special Libraries section to be engaged in conference this year and encouraging to present. Very happy we had a good showing and sponsored lightning sessions and helped get the keynote speaker for tomorrow. Great conference so far. Thank you Stephen. Takes a lot to make this work and is working really well. (Report Attached)

Trustees Section: Rickey Jones – No report.

Advocacy Committee: Kate Dutro – No report.

Awards Committee: Mara Polk – No chair appointed after previous one resigned. Now Kimberly Cook. Awards ceremony today. Publically note that I am extremely sorry to Brook Cruthirds. Asst. curator for DeGrummond collection. Submitted a proposal for an award and because of a technical issue, it got lost. Had done something in the newsletter category for

Juvenile miscellany. Apologies to Brook and her crew. She wasn't the only one that had difficulty. Others reached out to me.

Black Caucus Roundtable: Blanche Sanders – No report but think everything went well this year. First year as chair. Hoping everybody enjoyed the session. Please let us know if anything needs to be improved on. Mara – really good session. Excited about awards.

Election Committee: Jennifer Smith – Not present.

Fiscal Management Committee: Patsy C. Brewer – Sent report. (Report Attached)

Gaming and Graphic Novels Roundtable: Hannah Berryhill/Jamie Stanfield/Elizabeth Minter – Elizabeth Minter – met earlier today. One person interested in co-chairing with us. Encouraged attendees to join formally through MLA roundtable on web page. 13 officially joined but over 40 often attending. Discussed presentations, games and graphic novels left over from donation drive, plans for getting together in the future. Rebecca Strang presented yesterday.

Legislative Committee: Jenniffer Stephenson – Not present.

Ad Hoc Committee on Fees: Patsy Brewer – No report.

Long Range Planning: Amanda Powers – No report.

Marketing/Public Relations: Rex Bridges – Mara Polk reported that Rex resigned due to work commitments. Felt people were not getting engaged due to their work commitments.

Membership Committee: TBA - defaults to Mara.

MS Author Awards: Caroline Barnett – Very excited author awards 6:00 – 7:30 tonight. Authors are very excited. Emails and texts and calls from them for weeks. Books that we choose always seem to have a common theme or go together. Really interesting group of books this year. Janessa did a wonderful new graphic for us. Sent to the authors and they have posted on social media. Thanks to Michelle for getting checks written and Paula for getting everything together.

National Library Week: Tori Hopper – No report.

New Member Roundtable: Jesse Pool – No report.

Nominating Committee: TBA – Tisha Zelner. Two part election. Some confusion. Submitted 3 candidates for Secretary. 2 candidates for Treasurer. Sent bios and photos to Mara. If slate is approved the committee can hold an election.

MOTION: To approve slate of candidates for Secretary and Treasurer.

Motion: Stephen Parks Second: Mary Beth Applin

Motion passes.

Outreach Committee: TBA – No report.

Publicity Committee: Janessa Ullendorf – No report. If you need anything, feel free to email me.

Scholarship Committee: Justin Easterday – When we started the meeting, the silent auction was at \$513. Terry's scholarship currently at \$1345. Janessa did a great job doing graphics. Peggy may Scholarship – had some out of state students ask if they could apply. Not clear in scholarship qualifications if applicant has to be a resident. SLIS helps advertise scholarship and that's why we got the questions. Need to clarify qualifications. Member of MLA? Resident of MS? SLIS is now 100% online. Students could be from anywhere. Mara – let's table and vote on at the next meeting. Phillip – reading criteria. Must have evidence of commitment to a career in MS libraries. Sarah Mangrum – agree. Must show evidence of commitment to work in MS libraries. Justin – I am more for having it open to everybody But it's a little vague. Considering it's a scholarship worth \$1000 I did not want to make the call. The committee favored being a resident this year. Just to keep it consistent for the future, it should be a board decision. Sarah – Peggy May endowment is clearly tied back to MS librarianship. That was her mission in life. Intention was to be a MS scholarship. Mara – how much of the committee had the same feelings about it being vague? Justin – I didn't receive everyone's vote. But without question, it was that only MS residents could apply for those who voted. Sarah – let's table it. SLIS has been online since the 90's. Would like to get feedback from membership on this. Isn't unclear. You can live out of state and have a commitment to libraries in MS. Applicant must show evidence. That is the job of the committee. Mara – the committee should submit a proposal to the board if there is a recommended action. (Report Attached)

Social Justice: Mac Buntin – Had a great program presented by Kayla Martin-Gant about accessibility issues. Trying to show full breadth of social justice. Well attended. Good amount of interaction in the chat. Discussion between Mac and Mara about adoption of ALA 9th principle into MLA code of ethics.

Technical Services RT: Preston Salisbury – No report.

Web Committee: Jennifer Todd – Not much to report. Working with registration committee. 360 attendees. Not including vendors or speakers. A few registered today. Award committees – please send me those winners to post on the website. Mara – shout out to Jennifer. Clutch player. Maintains her job for the state at the same time. MLA super cape.

YPSRT: Carrie-Ann Pierson – Not present. No report.

Mississippi Libraries: Tina Harry – Fall issue published. Reminder to Mara and Stephen need president's page and conference wrap up pages by mid Nov. Anyone else with anything please send to me. This position is a 3 year commitment. In 2nd term of 2nd year. Ready to step down and will need a new editor. Mara – stipend \$500 a year. Covers Photoshop and InDesign.

Old Business: No old business

New Business:

Mara discussed concerns about lack of engagement in MLA. 10 roles are currently vacant. This mirrors many vacancies in full time positions as well. Commitments from full time jobs are overwhelming many now. How do we ask them to volunteer as well? Asked for ideas. Sarah Mangrum stated it started to become a problem before the pandemic but is worse now. Patsy Brewer stated this is happening in every organization. Phillip gave 2 challenges going into 2022. Let's make MLA an in-person party. Do our best to make it fun. Two, challenge for public library directors to encourage their staff to get involved with MLA. I offered to pay my employees' membership if they were willing to serve. Mara gave the location for the next MLA as the Riley Center. No decision on if it will be hybrid.

The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board is December 3, 2021.

Adjournment:

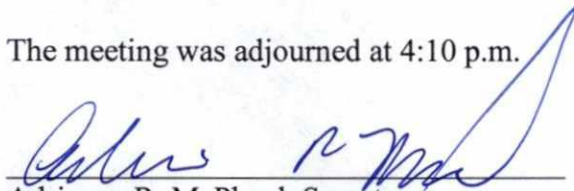
MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Meredith Wickham

Second: Sarah Mangrum

Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.



Adrienne R. McPhaul, Secretary