

**MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**Executive Board Minutes**  
**May 13, 2022**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**  
**Mississippi**

**Call to Order:**

The virtual meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by Stephen Parks, President, at 10:03 a.m. on Friday, May 13, 2022, via Zoom.

**Roll Call/Signature List of Attending Members:**

Present – Stephen Parks, President; Ryda Worthy, Secretary; Audrey Beach, Treasurer; Phillip Carter, Vice-President; Mara Polk, Immediate Past President; Amanda Clay Powers, ALA Councilor; and, Patsy Brewer, Parliamentarian.

**Others Present:** Joyce Shaw, Paula Bass, Justin Easterday, Jesse Pool, Danielle Terrell, Dr. Blanche Sanders, Kayla Martin-Gant, Hali Black, Jamie Elston, Cathy Austin, Melissa Brooks, Jenniffer Stephenson, Tisha Zelner, Caroline Barnett, Courtney Hicks, and Hulen Bivens.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**MOTION: To approve agenda**

**Made by: Joyce Shaw**

**Seconded: Amanda Clay Powers**

**Motion carries.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**MOTION: To approve the minutes from the March 4, 2022 meeting.**

**Made by: Amanda Clay Powers**

**Seconded: Phillip Carter**

**Motion carries.**

**MLA Officers and Staff Reports:**

Secretary: Ryda Worthy – No report

Treasurer: Audrey Beach – See attached.

President: Stephen Parks – See attached.

Anyone wishing to serve on the ad hoc committee on Censorship, please contact Stephen.

Vice-President: Phillip Carter – See attached proposals. Conference planning is underway. Requested reallocation of his travel budget to be used for the conference to engage speakers (see New Business).

Immediate Past President: Mara Polk -- No report.

MLA Administrator: Paula Bass – See attached report. Paula questioned using existing promotional materials at the MS Book Festival in August and if we need to order more supplies. Phillip requested information about the turn-around on ordering more supplies and the cost. Paula indicated the turn-around time on re-ordering would be approximately 3 days, but she would have to research the cost.

**Motion made by Phillip Carter to have a booth at the MS Book Festival; seconded by Jamie Elston. Motion carried.**

ALA Councilor: Amanda Clay Powers – No formal report. ALA group has been engaged in internal review since the first of the year, with no action.

SELA Councilor: Sarah Mangrum – No report, not present.

MLC Executive Director: Hulen Bivens – See attached report. Amanda Clay Powers inquired if the cost of OCLC (which has been covered by academic libraries) would be covered by the increased funding for MAGNOLIA. Hulen answered that it was not; OCLC usage is currently under review.

ACRL Section: Danielle Terrell – No report. Reminded everyone that she needs a co-chair. There has been interest in this section that may soon lead to an election.

Public Library Section: Jamie Elson – Stated that she is working to possibly host a session at conference featuring Tonja Johnson of Madison County Library System; needs a co-chair. Phillip offered that this section calls for a Vice-Chair and Secretary. Stephen stated that each section needs to review its by-laws. Phillip proposed moving section voting to online versus being held at the annual conference.

School Library Section: TBD –Stephen reported that he has two individuals interested and that there should be an election soon.

Special Libraries Section: Joyce Shaw – See attached report.

Trustees Section: Rickey Jones – No report; not present.

Advocacy Committee: TBD

Awards Committee: Melissa Brooks – The Committee has met; the next steps involve setting up accounting and advertising.

Black Caucus Roundtable: Dr. Blanche Sanders – No report. Dr. Sanders requested a list of current membership for the Black Caucus Roundtable, and Stephen responded he would supply this.

Election Committee: Jennifer Smith – No report. Not present

Fiscal Management Committee: Patsy C. Brewer – See attached report.

Gaming and Graphic Novels Roundtable: Hannah Berryhill/Jamie Stanfield/Dawn Collins/Elizabeth Minter – No report; not present.

Legislative Committee: Jenniffer Stephenson – Reported that eight MLA members attended the March 15 MLA Day at the Capitol to engage legislators, in particular regarding funding for MAGNOLIA. Jenniffer thanked everyone for their efforts to get funding increased.

Long Range Planning: TBD

Marketing/Public Relations: Courtney Hicks – See attached report.

Membership Committee: TBD

MS Author Awards: Caroline Barnett – Reported that the Committee has three new members; they are currently reading the nominated books (nine fiction, 6 nonfiction, and 8 youth titles).

National Library Week: Tori Hopper – No report; not present.

New Member Roundtable: Jesse Pool – Working with SELA new member chair to collaborate on conference session; had some questions for Phillip regarding what would be allowed in regards to virtual formatting. Jesse expressed that he was in favor of moving section voting online.

Nominating Committee: Tisha Zelner – Committee submitted a slate of nominees for 2022 Board elections.

**Stephen opened the floor for additional nominations. None were offered. Phillip made the motion to close nominations; Amanda seconded. Motion to accept nominations carried.**

Outreach Committee: TBD

Publicity Committee: Janessa Ullendorf – No report. Not present.

Scholarship Committee: Justin Easterday – Discussion of Terry Lajaunie Scholarship (see Old Business).

Social Justice: Nichole Larson/Kayla Martin-Gant – No report; not present (Nichole Larson).

Technical Services RT: Cathy Austin – No report.

Web Committee: Jennifer Todd – No report; not present.

YPSRT: TBD

Mississippi Libraries: Hali Black – The summer edition will be out mid-June.

**Old Business:**

Justin Easterday opened the discussion regarding the Terry Lajaunie Scholarship: who will govern the scholarship? Currently, the Scholarship Committee only oversees the Peggy May Scholarship. The Virginia Brock-Shedd Scholarship is handled by the Black Caucus Roundtable. Should the Scholarship Committee handle Terry's scholarship, or should it be under a separate committee? Review of the parameters of the scholarship showed that it will be annual once operational and can only be awarded to a public librarian. A suggestion was made that all three scholarships be administered by the Scholarship Committee, with representatives from the Public Library Section and the Black Caucus Roundtable serving on the Scholarship Committee to equitably facilitate awarding the scholarships. In order for this to happen, the MLA Handbook will have to be amended. Proceeds from the Silent Auction (overseen by the Scholarship Committee at the annual conference) would be split equitably between the three scholarships.

**Motion to table the discussion for a later date made by Jamie Elston; seconded by Phillip Carter. Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

Phillip Carter submitted three proposals or approval:

1. Amend MLA By-Laws/Handbook to reflect updated terms for the MLA Executive Board and all voting members of the board to serve 2-year terms (see attached).

Phillip: Loss of knowledge with short terms.

Amanda, Mara, and Jenniffer: Concerns over when it would be implemented; not ethical to expect individuals already in office to change terms mid-service.

Phillip: Not changing the terms of the President, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President at this time will cause a log-jam; cited ineffectiveness of the organization, particularly in regards to conference planning, as the reason for the proposed changes.

Patsy: (After consulting the Handbook) We cannot go backwards, but would have to implement for slate of 2024 nominees. Proposed splitting the vote—leave deciding the terms of President, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President for a later time.

Jamie: It will need to go before the membership for a vote.

Stephen: A six-year commitment for the individuals offering to serve first as Vice-President, then President, and finally Immediate Past President, seems like a long commitment. Supports Patsy's recommendation.

Amanda: A solution might be to have the President and Immediate Past President more involved in conference planning.

**Motion made by Phillip Carter to put before the membership a vote on amending the service of the Secretary and Treasurer to a two-year term, with two possible consecutive terms; and recommend to the Voting Section Chairs that they do the same. Seconded by Amanda Clay Powers. Motion carried.**

2. Raise the registration rate for MLA Annual Conference to \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members (see attached).

Phillip: Current rates are not in line with surrounding state conferences. A raise in price would allow the conference committee to create a more engaging conference and possibly add meals to be included in conference fee.

Jennifer and Mara: Concern over \$100/\$150 covering cost of all meals.

Joyce: Concerned over increase being accepted by membership. Not denying the need, just concerned on how to deliver the message. Requested data on past attendance meal events.

Jennifer and Joyce: Expressed concern on the effect of participation of school librarians.

Ryda: No mention of single day rates; what would these change to? If single day rates kept moderate, school librarians should still be able to participate.

Phillip: Proposed single day rates would be 50% of total fees (\$50/\$75).

Mara: Consider leaving out covering meals at this time.

**Motion to increase conference rates to \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members (single day \$50/\$75) with no inclusion of meals at this time made by Phillip Carter; seconded by Jamie Elston. Motion carried.**

3. Reallocate Phillip's travel budget to be used for conference presenters' fees.

**Motion made by Phillip Carter to reallocate the travel budget to the conference budget; seconded by Amanda Clay Powers. Motion carried.**

*The next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association Executive Board is July 8, 2022, at the Riley Center in Meridian.*

**Adjournment:**

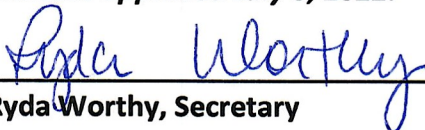
**MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.**

**Made by: Phillip Carter      Seconded: Jamie Elston**

**Motion carries.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

**Minutes approved July 8, 2022.**

  
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**Ryda Worthy, Secretary**