

MINUTES

Mississippi Library Association Executive Board Regular Meeting

Mississippi Library Commission
Jackson, MS

May 5, 2017

Call To Order

The regular meeting of the executive board of the Mississippi Library Association was called to order by the president, Jenniffer Stephenson, at 11:16 a.m. on Friday, May 5, 2017 at the Mississippi Library Commission.

Roll Call/Signature List of Attending Members: Present – Jenniffer Stephenson, President; Jennifer Wann, Secretary; Patsy C. Brewer; Melissa R. Dennis; Sheila Cork; Rickey Jones; Elizabeth Simmons; Molly McManus; Ellen Ruffin.

Absent – Sarah Mangrum, Vic-President; Blair Booker, Treasurer; Mary Beth Applin; Antoinette Giamalva.

Others Present: Paula Bass, MLA Administrator; Mara Villa Polk; Jennifer Todd; Jesse Pool; Susan Cassagne; Phillip Carter; Pamela Plummer; Lacy Ellinwood; Tina Harry; Susan Liles.

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion: Adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion by: Jones; *Second:* McManus. Unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes from March 10, 2017 as presented.

Motion by: McManus; *Second:* Ruffin. Unanimously approved.

MLA Officers and Staff Reports

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – No report.

President – President Stephenson introduced the new MLA Administrator, Paula Bass. Ms. Bass officially started on Library Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on March 14. New MLA office hours are: Tuesday, 11-5; Wednesday, 1-5; and Thursday, 11-5.

Library Advocacy Day was held at the Capitol on March 14 where the delegation passed out "Love Letters" from Mississippi library patrons. Friends of Mississippi Libraries provided

snacks. The Mississippi Library Commission and several public libraries had displays in the Capitol Rotunda.

On March 17, 2017 & March 20, 2017 electronic votes were taken with a majority of board members voting to approve the following motions:

- 1) Approve salary for the new MLA Administrator & establish new office hours; and**
- 2) Set probationary period at 3 months for the new MLA Administrator.**

Ed Hughes resigned as Public Library Section Chair effective April 13, 2017; Vice-Chair Antoinette Giamalva assumed the duties of the Chair.

National Library Legislative Day was May 1 in Washington DC. The MLA delegation spoke with Senators Wicker and Cochran, Representatives Harper and Kelly, and staff in the offices of Representatives Thompson and Palazzo. IMLS did receive an increase in FY17 funding.

Vice-President – No report.

Past-President – No report.

MLA Administrator – Ms. Bass introduced herself to the Board, thanked the Board for hiring her, and indicated that she is excited about learning more about libraries. She is available to make copies and assist with Board business. She reported that we have 349 active members that are paid in full & five pending payments. Jennifer Todd, Blair Booker, & Ms. Bass have been working closely to get membership roll and invoices caught up since Barbara Price's retirement in January.

ALA Councilor – There were many discussions at ALA Midwinter about how changes in the Executive Branch of the federal government will affect libraries. There has been a discussion on the Councilors' listserv about how Chapters maintain advocacy efforts between legislative sessions and how to keep momentum going. Please share thoughts with Councilor Ruffin to report back to ALA. Councilor Ruffin will be attending the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in June.

SELA Councilor – No report.

MLC Executive Director – MLC has not had official word from IMLS about funding to the states as of yet, although Congress' appropriation includes increased funding in the Grants to States Program. At the state appropriations level, all state agencies are in the same boat and will receive reduced funding for FY18. Reductions in state funding will require MLC to go through a Maintenance of Effort waiver process with IMLS.

Section Chair Reports

ACRL Libraries – No report. It was noted that ACRL will host a workshop in Starkville on May 25 on space usage in libraries.

Public Libraries – No report.

School Libraries – The School Library Section is having difficulty finding an affordable speaker/program for the MLA Annual Conference; there will be a 21st Century Learner Standards panel discussion at the conference.

The Mississippi Department of Education now has a full-time, permanent Librarian position on staff. Elizabeth Simmons, current School Library Section Chair has taken that position. Ms. Simmons requested that the Board consider a change in the Term of Office for the School Library Section. Discussion covered the fact that the Executive Board does not have the authority to make that change and that the School Library Section bylaws would have to be amended. The Board discussed inviting the MDE Librarian to make regular reports to the Executive Board just as the Executive Director of the Library Commission does.

Special Libraries – PERS will present the Special Library Section program “Your Story Continues” at the Annual Conference. PERS is also interested in having a vendor booth if MLA would waive fees.

Trustee Section – Working on conference program “Landscape We Find Ourselves in Now.” The Trustee Section is interested in developing partnerships between public and school libraries.

Roundtable and Committee Reports

Advocacy Committee – No report.

Awards Committee – No report.

Black Caucus Roundtable – No report.

Election Committee – No report.

Technical Services Roundtable – Conference program on cataloging non-book items.

Meeting was recessed for lunch at 12:19 p.m.

Meeting resumed at 1:18 p.m.

Board members who had to leave early gave proxy votes to others as they left so that a quorum was maintained.

Fiscal Management Committee – The new account with Regions is set up and we are earning interest.

Legislative Committee – Feedback from legislators affirms that the Association does need to continue to have a presence at the Capitol during the appropriations process, or we will be forgotten as a group. As a profession, librarianship needs more training on how to talk to legislators and other funding authorities.

Long Range Planning Committee – Request for input from membership at the MLA Annual Conference through whiteboards or flipcharts about needs from the Association.

President Stephenson suggested that perhaps there could be a program at the Conference on Strategic Planning and the end of that session transition into strategic planning for the Association.

Membership Committee – No report.

Mississippi Author Awards Committee – No report.

National Library Week Committee – No report.

New Member Roundtable – No report. Need a Committee Chair.

Nominating Committee – Committee Chair Pamela Plummer presented the following nominations for the 2018 Executive Board:

Vice President/President Elect – Phillip Carter; Antoinette Giamalva; & Sarah C. Ruskey

Secretary – Lori Barnes & Jeannie Burton

Treasurer – Kay Sappington & Jennifer Wann

SELA Councilor – Ashley Dees

Motion: **Accept the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee.**

Motion by: Jones; *Second:* Ruffin. Unanimously approved.

The board discussed the need to potentially revise bylaws of nominating committee especially with regards to the number of people on the committee and the makeup of the committee including members from school, public, academic, etc. libraries.

Outreach Committee – Participation in the Children's Book Festival was successful. Two free MLA memberships were raffled; 40+ entries for the free memberships were received each day. Winners were Ally Mellon & Elizabeth Catalano.

The Mississippi Book Festival in August at the State Capitol is the next big outreach event.

Merchandise for outreach events, such as coozies, and merchandise for purchase by the membership, such as t-shirts, is needed.

Publicity Committee – No report.

Scholarship Committee – No report.

Young People's Services Roundtable – No report.

Web Services Committee – Working on getting a Dropbox, Inc. Account set up and a new phone for the MLA office.

Mississippi Libraries

Working on summer issue now.

Old Business

Status of Changing Phone Systems for the MLA Administrator/Office – May have to keep the landline an extra month to ensure we can keep the same phone number.

Banner and Stand and/or Posters Printed for MLA – Possibly have a meeting to approve in conjunction with an advocacy workshop on May 15. Ms. Ruffin will talk to Vice-President Mangrum about getting quote from USM print shop for banners.

Conference Site Selection – Still attempting to negotiate contract in Tunica due to inclusion of cancellation charges.

New Business

John Chrastka, EveryLibrary.org – Mr. Chrastka joined the meeting via conference call. EveryLibrary is a national Political Action Committee dedicated to securing library funding on a local level. Currently working with the Hancock County Library System on local funding issues. Services are provided pro-bono through donor support. Interested in outreach campaign in Mississippi regarding generalized IMLS support. MLA's role would be to develop messaging. EveryLibrary could potentially provide workshop on advocacy/political literacy. No action was taken.

MLA Advocacy Training Workshop: May 15, 2017, Mississippi Library Commission – President Stephenson suggested a potential workshop on Advocacy be held on May 15; no action was taken.

Recommendation to the Governor for Appointment to the Board of Commissioners for the Mississippi Library Commission – §39-3-101 of the Mississippi Code requires that one member of MLC's Board of Trustees be a member of legally organized board of trustees of a Mississippi

free public library and that the Association make a recommendation of not less than six names to the Governor for the appointment of this position. President Stephenson will post a message to the public library directors' listserv seeking recommendations for public library trustees to potentially serve on the MLC Board of Commissioners.

MLA/MLC Vendor Booth at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Annual Conference (Biloxi, June 12-15, 2017) – Registration as a vendor allows for two individuals to attend. MLC will not be able to partner with MLA on the cost.

Motion: Register the Association as a vendor at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors Annual Conference.

Motion by: McManus; Second: Cork. Unanimously approved.

MLA/MLC Vendor Booth at the Mississippi Municipal League 2017 Conference (Biloxi, July 24-26, 2017) – Registration as a vendor allows for two individuals to attend. MLC will not be able to partner with MLA on the cost.

Motion: Register the Association as a vendor at the Mississippi Municipal League 2017 Conference.

Motion by: Simmons; Second: McManus. Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association is July 28, 2017, 11:00 a.m. at the Lake Terrace Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.



Jennifer Wann, Secretary