

## MINUTES

### Mississippi Library Association Executive Board Regular Meeting

Mississippi Library Commission  
Jackson, MS

March 10, 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 11:07 a.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 at the Mississippi Library Commission.

**Roll Call/Signature List of Attending Members:** Present – Jenniffer Stephenson, President; Sarah Mangrum, Vic-President; Jennifer Wann, Secretary; Blair Booker, Treasurer; Patsy C. Brewer; Melissa R. Dennis; Ed Hughes; Sheila Cork; Rickey Jones. Absent – Molly McManus; Ellen Ruffin; Mary Beth Applin; Elizabeth Simmons.

Others Present: Mara Villa Polk; Jennifer Todd; Jessie Pool; Joyce Shaw; Adrienne McPhaul; Susan Cassagne; Tonja Johnson; Courtney Thomas; Phillip Carter; Ashley Biggs; Pamela Plummer (via telephone).

#### Adoption of the Agenda

**Motion:** Adopt the agenda as presented.

*Motion by:* Hughes; *Second:* Mangrum. Unanimously approved.

#### Approval of the Minutes

**Motion:** Approve the minutes from Meeting 1 on December 9, 2016 as presented.

*Motion by:* Booker; *Second:* Dennis. Unanimously approved.

**Motion:** Approve the minutes from Meeting 2 on December 9, 2016 as presented.

*Motion by:* Booker; *Second:* Hughes. Unanimously approved.

#### MLA Officers and Staff Reports

Secretary – No report.

Treasurer – Since the Administrator retired, the CPA has not gotten everything needed for bookkeeping; that has been corrected. Deposits have been made, but no report is available. An update will be given in May.

President – President Stephenson introduced special guests and distributed a list of the executive board members, roundtable chairs, committee chairs, and important dates. The association still

needs a NMRT chair. The NMRT chair should be prepared to plan a program at the annual conference.

The LSTA Mid-year Evaluation has not yet been submitted, but will be by the end of March.

Library Day at the Capitol will be held on March 14, 2017. MLA, the Mississippi Library Commission (MLC), and a couple of public library systems will be exhibiting in the rotunda on the first floor. President Stephenson hopes to have a banner or posters printed for the event. Library supporters are encouraged to visit or contact their legislators at this time.

On February 3, 2017 President Stephenson polled the Executive Board electronically to determine whether, in light of the financial straits public libraries and institutions are currently facing, the Association should cancel the Legislative Lawn party. Nine board members, including Jennifer Stephenson, Sarah Mangrum, Ellen Ruffin, Molly McManus, Jennifer Wann, Ed Hughes, Mary Beth Applin, Patsy Brewer, and Blair Booker responded a clear majority, responded in favor of cancelling the event.

National Library Week is April 9-17. The theme is "Libraries Transform." Dr. Stacy Creel is the NLW committee chair. Materials to support NLW should be sent to her.

The Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival will be held April 5-7. Treasurer Booker will register the association as an exhibitor. The outreach committee headed up by Phillip Carter will recruit volunteers to work the booth and will provide MLA promotional materials.

National Library Legislative Day will be held May 1-2 in Washington, DC. President Stephenson, Vice-President Mangrum, and Legislative Committee Chair Mara Polk will represent the association; Susan Cassagne and two members of the MLC Board of Commissioners will represent MLC.

The Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) Annual Conference will be held in Biloxi, June 12-15, and the Mississippi Municipal League Annual Conference will be held in Biloxi, July 24-26. The Association should consider exhibiting at these conferences; MLC may be able to share the cost to exhibit at the conferences.

The Web Page Committee was asked to research the administrative office's phone system. President Stephenson invited Jennifer Todd to present the committee's recommendation to switch from a landline to a smartphone/wireless solution.

**Motion:** Accept the recommendation of the Web Page Committee to switch from a landline to a smartphone/wireless solution.

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

Vice-President – Everything is on track for the annual conference. The theme for 2017 will be "Tell Your Story" and focus on advocacy. Conference Committee Chairs are all in place, but volunteers, especially from public and school libraries, are still needed to round out the committees.



Vice-President Mangrum and Exhibits Committee Chair, Phillip Carter recently conducted a walk-through of the Lake Terrace Convention Center to begin planning convention layout. The executive board will have the opportunity for a walk through in July; however, the convention center has indicated that if the executive board wants to meet at the convention center there will be an additional meeting cost.

The association will not be receiving an LSTA award to support conference activities this year so committee chairs have been advised that speaker costs will be very limited. Vice-President Mangrum is in discussion with Jamie LaRue, Director for the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom to present the key-note address at a very reasonable rate.

Past-President – No report.

ALA Councilor – No report.

SELA Councilor – Mississippi's SELA membership is up to 23. Total SELA membership is 235. There will be a summer SELA conference at Birmingham-Southern College, August 11-12. Ms. Dennis reminded the board that the Nominating Committee needs to recruit two SELA members to be on the ballot for SELA Councilor this year.

MLC Executive Director – The MLC appropriation bill passed of the Senate Appropriation Committee with only slight changes from the House version. The bill now goes back to the House for concurrence; most likely the bill will be sent to Conference Committee. Conference Committee members won't all be appointed until just before conference weekend. MLC is focusing legislative efforts on the importance of MLC as an independent commission because they are the only state government agency that will look out for public libraries.

The Friends of Mississippi Libraries will provide water and cookies at the Library Day at the Capitol. Ms. Cassagne recommended that library supporters meet at the Library Commission and arrange individual carpooling to the capitol so that no one gets left behind at the capitol when it's time to leave. MLC is in agreement with the association's decision to cancel the "Legislative Lawn Party" in the current political environment.

MLC is trying to make budget cuts that will affect public libraries as little as possible so MLC will only send three individuals to National Legislative Day.

## **Section Chair Reports**

ACRL Libraries – No report.

Public Libraries – Public libraries are using different strategies to implement state budget cuts. Public libraries are being placed in an interesting position with the proliferation of "fake news" and how to determine which materials to add to the collection. Public libraries should be vigilant with at&t bills as many public libraries are being regularly over charged.

School Libraries – No report. President Stephenson noted that information about Library Day at the Capitol had been sent to the school librarians' listserv, and since Library Day will be held during Spring Break, she is hopeful that the association will have a good turnout of school librarians.

Special Libraries – The Special Library Section is planning a program about retirement called "Your Story Continues."

Trustee Section – There are concerns about public library privatization; advocacy efforts need to be developed to counter privatization.

### **Roundtable and Committee Reports**

Black Caucus Roundtable – No report. President Stephenson noted that there has been a question about whether or not the MLA Black Caucus Roundtable is a chapter member of the ALA Black Caucus Roundtable. Treasurer Booker indicated that dues have been paid.

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

Technical Services Roundtable – TSRT will sponsor a program at the annual conference and may offer a program in May.

Young People's Services Roundtable – No report.

Advocacy Committee – Committee Chair Jennifer Smith was not present. Blair Booker provided the following information on Ms. Smith's behalf: Lots of "Love Letters" from patrons have been sent in by a number of libraries; Ms. Smith will ensure that they are delivered to legislators during Library Day at the Capitol.

Awards Committee – No report.

Election Committee – No report.

Fiscal Management Committee – The new account with Regions is almost set up. Committee Chair Patsy Brewer provided the association's Articles of Incorporation and Tax ID number; we are only waiting on final paperwork from Regions. Ms. Brewer reminded the executive board that because the association has gone two or three months without an administrator we will have a few extra funds in our operating budget this year.

Legislative Committee – Committee Chair Mara Polk reminded everyone to wear red to the Library Day at the Capitol. As a part of National Legislative Day there will be a "Virtual Library Legislative Day" so that anyone who can't travel to Washington can still participate. Ms. Polk will send out additional information about that. Ms. Polk is in the process of setting up appointments with our Congressional offices for the Mississippi delegation to National Legislative Day.



Long Range Planning Committee – Considering using Google Hangouts to enhance communication.

Membership Committee – Committee Chair Ashley Biggs asked the Executive Board to dissolve the Membership Committee because the original intent of the committee is obsolete. The functions of the committee could be better performed by communication between other committees. The executive board asked Ms. Biggs to put together a formal proposal for further consideration. No action was taken.

Mississippi Author Awards Committee – No report.

National Library Week Committee – No report.

New Member Roundtable – The association needs a chair for this committee so much that President Stephenson included it on the agenda twice.

Nominating Committee – Committee Chair Pamela Plummer participated by telephone and indicated that she needed some guidance getting the nominating process started. Patsy Brewer noted that Ms. Plummer would need to appoint 2-4 more members to the committee and that they would need to meet quickly to develop a slate of officers. Offices that need to be elected this year include: Vice-President/President Elect; Secretary; Treasurer; and SELA Councilor. The Vice-President should be from the public library community this year. The nominating committee should recruit two candidates to run for each office.

Outreach Committee – Will be recruiting and coordinating volunteers to work at Children's Book Fest, MAS, Mississippi Municipal League, and later in the year, the Mississippi Book Festival.

Committee Chair Phillip Carter asked the executive board to consider offering a raffle for a free MLA membership each day at the Children's Book Festival.

**Motion:** Hold a random drawing for one free annual new or renewal membership to the association on both Wednesday and Thursday of individuals who visit the MLA booth at Children's Book Festival.

*Motion by:* Stephenson; *Second:* Booker. Unanimously approved.

Publicity Committee – Committee Chairman Adrienne McPhaul indicated that she needed some guidance appointing committee members. Blair Booker suggested that she ask committee members from prior year if they were interested in continuing to serve and go from there. Ms. McPhaul will serve as the Conference Reporter and will coordinate with the other committee chairs for social media coverage.

Scholarship Committee – No report. President Stephenson noted that at least two applications for the Peggy May Scholarship have been received.

Web Services Committee – No report.

## Old Business

ARSL MLA Roundtable – ARSL has not addressed this issue. President Stephenson will bring the issue up again with the ARSL Board, but the ARSL Roundtable may not happen.

### One “Free” Roundtable Option

**Motion:** Include one free Roundtable membership for all new and renewal association memberships beginning in 2018.

*Motion by:* Stephenson; *Second:* Mangrum. Unanimously approved.

**Motion:** Extend 2017 eligibility deadline for new and renewal memberships to March 31, 2017 for individuals to vote in MLA elections.

*Motion by:* Stephenson; *Second:* Booker. Unanimously approved.

Conference Site Selection – The site selection committee are tentatively recommending the Tunica Roadhouse as the site of the 2018 annual conference pending further negotiation.

Dropbox Account – Implementation of a Dropbox account is delayed until a new Administrator is hired.

MLA Hiring a Lobbyist – The executive board continued discussion on this topic. Concerns include identifying the right individual or firm, cost, approval of the general membership, and how it would be perceived by the Legislature. The executive board will continue to gather information and consider the issue.

## New Business

Hancock County Library System, LS&S, and Library Privatization – Courtney Thomas, Director of the Hancock County Library System, presented information to the executive board about Library Systems & Services, LLC (LS&S), a for-profit company that submitted a proposal to the Hancock County Board of Supervisors for privatizing the library. LS&S has exhibited at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS).

Susan Cassagne reported that the Attorney General’s office informally indicated that according to state statute, governance of a public library system belongs only to the library’s Administrative Board of Trustees, and therefore cannot be given away by the County Board of Supervisors.

On February 10, 2017 President Stephenson polled the Executive Board electronically to determine whether, the Association should send a letter to the Hancock County Board of Supervisors opposing the privatization of the Hancock County Library System. Ten board members, including Ed Hughes, Molly McManus, Patsy Brewer, Jennifer Wann, Elizabeth Simmons, Sarah Mangrum, Melissa Dennis, Ellen Ruffin, and Ricky Jones, a clear majority, responded in favor of sending a letter expressing opposition to the privatization of the Hancock County Library System.

Ms. Thomas thanked the executive board for sending a letter of support for keeping the Hancock County Library System public to the Hancock County Board of Supervisors. The Hancock County Library System will be working with the nonprofit organization EveryLibrary on a campaign for the library system.

#### **Executive Session**

MLA Administrator Position – The executive board adjourned to executive session to discuss the interview committee recommendations for the MLA Administrator position. Board member Ellen Ruffin gave her proxy to Patsy Brewer by telephone; a quorum was present. The executive board discussed the committee's recommendation, employment contract, and salary.

**Motion:** Offer the Administrator position to Paula Bass at a salary of \$1,070 per month (\$12,840 annually).

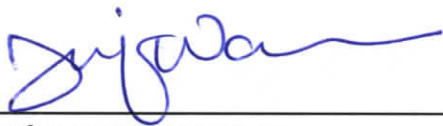
*Motion by:* Stephenson; *Second:* Hughes. Unanimously approved.

The board returned to open session.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

*Next regular meeting of the Mississippi Library Association is May 5, 2017, 11:00 a.m. at the Mississippi Library Commission, 3881 Eastwood Dr., Jackson, MS 39202.*



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Jennifer Wann, Secretary