

**MLA Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes**

Friday, February 9, 2024 10am – 12pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attending: Michelle Filleul (President), Noelle Boc (Vice President), Danielle Savin (Assistant Treasurer), Bernadette Rivard (Past Treasurer), Tina McAndrew (Secretary), James Lonergan (MBLC), Nora Blake (Legislative), Esme Green (Conference), Robert Hayes (Program Planners), Kristen Collins (Director of Operations) , Andrea Fiorillo(IF/SRC), Sara Slymon (Leadership), Will Adamczyk (Legislative), Kim Hewitt (Past President), Desiree Zicko (Paralibrarian), N Langley, (Leadership),Sarah Sogigian, MLS, Nanci Millone Hill, ALA Chapter Councilor, Krista McLeod, Membership

Guests: Ray Pun ALA Presidential Candidate, Sam Helmick, ALA Presidential Candidate

1. **Call to order at 10:06am**
   1. Vote to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2023 meeting

**Motion made to approve the December 8, 2023 minutes** by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Noelle Boc. All in favor.

1. **President’s Report**

Michelle attended the ALA Chapter Advocacy Academy Workshop meeting in Chicago in December. Carol Gafford has offered to be a co-chair for the Public Relations Committee.  Sara Slymon is creating a sub-group for the Leadership Committee called Managing Moms. MLSA/MLA may merge in a couple of years; discussions have started. Michelle thanked all the work done by the Legislative Committee.

Michelle is working to add both BillTrack50 and One Click Politics to the MLA website. She is working in partnership with MSLA to provide bill information to both organizations using these tools.

Both Noelle and Michelle met with Barb Fecteau and Jen Varney about how MSLA and MLA can partner and be a force together to support public, academic, and school libraries.

1. **ALA Presidential Candidate Ray Pun Meet and Greet**

Ray described his experience at his local library in Queens, NY as an immigrant trying to improve his English. Ray is a first generation college graduate and an advocate for DEIA and digital literacy. Ray described 3 of his goals:

1. To support and showcase library workers as we confront various challenges.

2. Strive to build a stronger working relationship between ALA and state chapters and workers.

3. Aim to expand ALA’s engagement with virtual programs across the country.

Ray is disheartened to see the book bans in MA but encouraged by the conversations being had to protect the right to read. Ray is committed to advocating for libraries of all types.

1. **Treasurer’s Report (Sarah)**

Sarah Breen is not present at the meeting and will present her report at the next meeting.

1. **Director of Operation’s Report (Kristen)**

Kristen thanked Andrea for always fielding the multitude of inquiries on book challenges.

Kristen is in the process of migrating from Wild Apricot to MC Trade although it will not be in place for conference but later this year. The head of committees will be notified by the Website Working Group when new content is needed.

Conference currently has 24 exhibitors and 5 sponsors registered. Gale is sponsoring this year instead of being an exhibitor.

The Sessionize software has been a game changer for feeding the conference website with content.

Michelle, Esme, Robert, and Nanci will form a Website Working Group.

1. **Conference Update (Conference Committee Co-Chairs)**

Esme reported using a software platform to manage submissions rather than Google Sheets which is great. Conference has a full schedule although programs were limited to help conference make more money. Esme has been working with Maura Healey’s team for her speech. The schedule is set.

Simmons is a major sponsor this year. Publicizing of the schedule will happen after next week. Kristen lined up great keynote speakers.

Members discussed a possible meetup at conference when not competing with any exhibitors or the reception. Possibly Sunday evening or after the President’s Reception.

1. **Committee Reports**

Sara reported that Leadership and Management met for the first time yesterday with more than 30 people attending. The Committee will try to meet monthly. Slack will be used for in between meeting conversations and those that can’t make the meetings. There will be an official meeting once a year and a semi-annual meeting in October. An annual book club will be offered in October to discuss a book read about leadership.

Sara started a Managing Moms group with lots of feedback received. Sara will determine the interest level for monthly meetings.

Noelle and Sara talked about a mentorship program with the PIE group.

Andrea thanked the Legislative Committee and described some of the recent bad behavior in book banning including at a North Attleboro elementary school. These egregious cases actually help turn the public’s sympathy and attention toward our cause. Andrea is hopeful there is increased energy to step up after realizing how serious these challenges are. Maura Deedy and Andrea guest lectured at an International Freedom course at Simmons.

Andrea spoke to Bernadette’s Friends of the Library at their annual meeting. There was a strong show of support at the Wilmington Legislative Breakfast.

Kristen recounted the different membership levels and perks and a possible survey to go out to members regarding expectations from MLA. Sustainable Libraries Initiative has been utilized by 19 people. A big membership push is needed, promoting MLA at conference and at meet and greets.

1. **ALA Presidential Candidate** [**Sam Helmick**](mailto:samhelmick.library@gmail.com) **Meet and Greet (11 am)**

Sam learned early on the responsibility of social involvement when their local library in Iowa had a library levy dispute. They volunteered at another local library and caught the library bug with a goal of collecting stories and amplifying them rather than spreading disputes. The narrative is not sharing love and affection right now; librarians need to remind themselves of the good they impart into the world

9. **Update**

* 1. **MBLC**

James reported staffing updates at the MBLC. The Governor’s budget is level funded making it challenging to get any significant increase. James thanked MLA, Will, Nora, and Kathy for their work on various bills. ALA is inviting key folks from congressional districts to go to Washington; Jason Homer from WPL and Maria McCauley were the two chosen from MA to attend to focus on funding, bills, and approaches to literacy. The Governor’s executive order instituting skills based hiring practices will not impact current searches but going forward there are no minimum education requirements. Will suggested the executive order is only in effect during this Governor’s term; the order expires after she leaves office.

* 1. **MLS**

Sarah thanked the legislative committee for all of their work. MLS consultants have released their spring training schedule which is in person and online. Sarah asked that if anyone has any training recommendations to send them in so MLS can be responsive to current needs. The requests for more informal engagement opportunities is increasing. Another community chat was added to the spring trainings. Jack Martin joined MLS as the new Communications Manager.

* 1. **Others**

Krista for MA Center for the Book reported on the continuation of the legacy program, the MA Book Awards, and the second year of the new reading challenge which has gained state wide interest. In May a MA Kids Literary Fest pilot project will be launched. A new long range planning process is starting during which stakeholders in the library community will be contacted to hear of their priorities. It is great to have a priority in the MBLC budget. NELA and MLA will be co-chairing a booth at conference.

10. **New Business**  
 A. **Vote on the Slate of Officers for 2024-2025**

Sara Slymon – Vice President

Bernadette Rivard - Assistant Treasurer

Tina McAndrew – Secretary

**Motion to approve the MLA Slate of Officers for FY 24-25** made by Esme Green, seconded by Noelle Boc. All in favor.

B. **Vote to become a** [**Unite Against Book Bans**](https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/)[**State Partner**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bcGrDLm9F9JRGwiy_ZjTKeL0wtridzSl/view?usp=sharing)

Kim will look into this.

C. **MLA Membership reminders**

Once the website is switched over to MCTrade it will be much easier to verify members. In the meantime, reminders will be sent that you must be an MLA member if you serve on a committee; MLA needs the money made from memberships.

Sara will draft some language and send a reminder to all regions

One Click Politics will make it easier to upload all members and then ask members if they want to opt in to receiving messages as a benefit of membership.

1. **Old Business**[SLI / Massachusetts Library Association Partnership](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11BrCBE2svNY17SwNU8cjSRtovTcON7rihqPXrAXuM2E/edit?usp=sharing)

If a someone is already a member, they do not receive the discount offered through the partnership. A member can join SLI but not the library. There is a 20% off discount to receive certification.

Sara S mentioned reinvigorating LLAMA where librarians can attend a program and complete a project; James suggested reaching out to Rob at the MBLC to discuss the possibility.

1. **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn** made at 11:27am made by Nora Blake and seconded by Bernadette Rivard.

*\*Next meeting: Friday, April 12, 2024*

Respectfully submitted,

Tina McAndrew

Secretary