

**MiALA Board Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 1:00pm**

Present: Darlene Johnson-Bignotti, Scott Garrison, Denise Leyton, Katrina Rouan, Edward Eckel, Carin Graves, Mies Martin, Aaron Kilgore, Jennifer Mikesell, Lori DeBie, Rebecca Tull, Sheila Garcia Mazari

Absent: Veronica Bielat

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

**Board Business Meeting:**

1. Approval of Agenda-Martin made a motion to approve; seconded by Garcia-Mazari. The motion passed.
2. Approval of [Board Minutes from December](#) (January 11 meeting was canceled by Darlene due to low attendance)
3. Approval of Consent Agenda: Johnson-Bignotti reminded liaisons to sign their reports, and also add “no report” if the committee has not met. Eckel moved; Tull seconded. The motion passed.
  - a. Committee reports
    - i. Advocacy –
    - ii. Awards – Included a teaser in the December President’s Message that the ALOTY award was being revived. Reaching out to D. Mikula (MLA) to get info regarding award deadlines and ceremony date. Still only one volunteer for potential committee. (Darlene)
    - iii. Conference Planning–
      1. Reviewers are reviewing the submitted regular sessions
      2. The call for posters has gone out
      3. Reviewing CoC
    - iv. Communications and Marketing – No formal meeting, nothing to report (Rebecca).
    - v. Executive – No formal meeting but we have addressed various questions/concerns from the Conference Committee via email. (Darlene)
    - vi. IDEA – Hosted first reading group discussion on January 24th. (Katrina)
    - vii. Membership – Question about pro-rating memberships for a new institutional member discussed over email in January. Additional request came in today from Madonna - we will go forward with the same process but discuss it as a committee. The Membership committee has a meeting on the 5th - Denise
    - viii. Nominating – Committee met to discuss timelines. We are looking for current position holder’s [to provide a blurb](#) on what serving in MiALA in

that position has meant to them. Nominations process begins mid-March with nominations opening in April (Carin)

- ix. Ad-Hoc Committees: Following a Motion passed at the December meeting a workgroup comprised of Denise, Mies, and Sheila met to review data and brainstorm possible next steps in moving forward with strategic planning. See item #1 under Old Business for further discussion. (Darlene)
- b. Partner Reports – Darlene and Mies attended ACRL Chapters Council Bi-annual meeting on January 24. No report for most Leadership updates. There was an interesting presentation from ACRL NJ chapter regarding their partnership with and advocacy for K-12 librarians. Here is the libguide for the NJ project: <https://comminfo.libguides.com/FirstYears> (Darlene)
- c. Treasurer’s Report – In January, Scott Garrison (MCLS) sent a historical month by month membership count document which shows that right now we have the most members we’ve ever had, 331.
- d. Interest Group Coordinating Council – Will work on a bylaws revision that sunsets IGs after 1 year. IGCC is planning an Interest Group Leadership Transition Retreat in early June to help IG leaders plan activities and transition between incoming and outgoing IG leaders.
- e. Board Actions via Email: No motions. (Darlene)

## **Old Business**

1. Strategic Planning- Next Steps (Denise, Mies, Sheila)

Leyton - We pulled together recent surveys and documentation so it is all co-located. We discussed some different strategic planning timelines. We are recommending the Board hire consultants to gather information from our membership and reporting to the Board. More aggressive timeline would have that completed in time for the Board transition over summer. Less aggressive timeline would have the consultation work happening in the fall. We do not need a formal RFP.

Martin - Keeping the process lean and keeping the existing work group as a steering committee works well for now. We will engage members during the next steps.

Johnson-Bignotti - My only concern with an aggressive timeline is getting a consulting group by March.

Leyton made a motion for the ad hoc strategic planning committee (Garcia-Mazari, Johnson-Bignotti, Leyton, Martin) to move forward with a timeline of hiring consultants for this fiscal year. Mikesell seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **New Business**

1. Institutional Membership

Leyton - We agreed via email to prorate membership fees for a new institutional member. Now, we have a second request from another institutional member.

The Board agreed to prorate membership fees for this second institutional member.

2. Agenda for Mid-Year Membership Meeting, February 23rd, 11am-noon (Darlene)  
Johnson-Bignotti - The mid-year membership meeting is coming up. The agenda will include information on events, an update on strategic planning, information on IG funding requests, and an update from the Conference Planning Committee. We will not be recording the meeting.

3. Preparation for budget approval in March (Denise)  
Leyton - We will dedicate a good amount of the March Board meeting to discussing next year's budget. I will send out documentation for review ahead of the meeting.

4. Proposed by-law additions/changes for 2024 (Darlene)  
Johnson-Bignotti - I believe there are a couple of potential by-law changes we have been discussing.  
Eckel - IGCC has two proposed changes. We want to revise the IG election information and frequency of reporting. We also want to revisit the idea of sunseting inactive IGs after one year.  
Graves - Article 10, Section 1. states that the Board has to approve the proposed changes two months before a vote. And proposed changes have to be shared with the membership at least 10 days before a vote.

5. IDEA code of conduct (Katrina, Darlene)  
Martin - If the Executive Board is in charge of reviewing complaints, should they go through some training to assist in this role?

6. Michigan Libraries Advocacy Day (see attached email on pg 3-4)  
Johnson-Bignotti - We have supported this event in the past and I'm looking for a motion to potentially support this event again.

Eckel made a motion for MiALA to sponsor Michigan Library Advocacy Day. Leyton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. LOM Partner reports  
Johnson-Bignotti - I create reports for our Library of Michigan partnerships meetings. We should work to archive/share these.

Martin - The conference planning documents say we start looking for next year's location around this time.

Johnson-Bignotti - We can start by bringing that up at the mid-year membership meeting and in the February newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

**Issue Bin / Future Agenda Items:**

1. Student Liaison Position

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** First Thursdays at 1pm unless otherwise noted.

- March 7
- April 4
- May 2

**Next Executive Officer's Meetings:**

TBD (convenes as needed)

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From: Debbie Mikula <dmikula@mibraries.org>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:50 AM  
To: Johnson-Bignotti, Darlene <dxjohnso@oaklandcc.edu>  
Subject: MIALA support for Michigan Library Advocacy Day

Darlene –

Strong Libraries = A Stronger Michigan

MLA has officially launched the website for the April 16, 2024 Michigan Library Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. <https://www.mibraries.org/advocacy-day>

Over 150 passionate and committed library professionals from all across Michigan will gather in Lansing to meet with legislators to advocate for library funding, Freedom to Read legislation, and educate lawmakers about library issues. Our committee has planned a full day of special events to attend in between legislative visits to help make the most of your time in Lansing.

We hope that you will again become one of Partners who support the Michigan Library Advocacy Day – your endorsement is crucial to holding a successful event. We would like to invite those organizations listed below to partner with us: Michigan Cooperative Directors Association or any of the 11 regional cooperatives independently; Michigan Collaborative for Library Services (MCLS); Michigan Association of Academic Librarians (MIALA); Michigan Association of School Librarians (MASL); Library of Michigan **Foundation**; **Friends of Michigan Libraries** (FOML); other statewide or national library associations, schools or consortia, and any supporters of Michigan libraries.

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PARTNERSHIPS - \$250

- Your name and logo will be added as a partner to the event website, social media, MLA Newsletter and signage at the event;
- Full day registration will be included for one participant from your organization;
- Podium recognition during opening remarks; and
- A one-page overview of your organization will be added to the packets delivered to each legislator the week prior to the event. (200 supplied copies required from you.)

We hope to hear from you by March 15, 2024 which is our deadline for partnership applications. Below is a link to the partnership form.

<https://www.milibraries.org/advocacy-day-sponsors>

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Debbie

**Deborah E. Mikula**

Executive Director

Michigan Library Association