

## **MiALA Board Meeting Minutes**

### **February 5, 2026 at 11:00am**

**Attendance:** Julie Garrison, Mary O'Kelly, Mies Martin, Linda Miles, Jessica Hronchek, Edward Eckel, Kelli Herm, Kyle Ceci, Gina Bolger, Jen Bowen, Katie Edmiston, Kayln Huson

**Guests:** Lee Parker

**Absent:** Samantha Minnis

**Call to Order:** Julie Garrison called the meeting to order at 11:01

1. The new website task force – Ed Eckel and Kyle Ceci are leading, with representation from every committee, the IGCC, and one person so far from volunteer form. That form will remain open for the rest of February in case other members would like to volunteer.
2. Thank you Lee Parker for being here to talk about the IDEA committee.
3. A glance at the issues bin (below). We will tackle at least two of these next month.

### **Board Business Meeting:**

1. Approval of Agenda – Mies Martin made a motion to approve the agenda and Kyle Ceci seconded. The motion carried.
2. Approval of Minutes from the [January Meeting](#) – Katie Edmiston made a motion to approve the minutes and Kyle Ceci seconded. The motion carried.
3. Approval of Consent Agenda – Ed Eckel made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Mies seconded. The motion carried.
  - a. Committee reports
    - i. Advocacy – no report
    - ii. Communications and Marketing – Committee is working on the following items:
      1. Review Policy Manual suggested changes - to be done by Friday Feb.6.
      2. Draft Social Media decision - will be discussed at Feb.13 mtg
      3. Draft Revision to the MiALA Communications and Marketing Website - will be discussed at Feb.13 mtg
    - iii. Conference Planning – Meeting later today
    - iv. Executive – No meeting in January
    - v. IDEA – No meeting in January
    - vi. Membership – No meeting in January
    - vii. Nominating – Committee is formed and met 2/4 (Mies)  
2026-2027 Election Timeline
      - Call for Nominations opens February 20, 2026
      - Nominations will close March 20, 2026
      - Balloting opens March 30, 2026
      - Balloting closed April 13, 2026

- b. Partner Reports-
  - i. MCLS – No report
- c. Treasurer's Report – No updates
- d. Interest Group Coordinating Council – Received one funding request, will be reviewing at our Feb meeting. We would like to plan an IG Leaders happy hour event at the MiALA Annual Conference for IG leaders to meet members of the IGCC and network with one another. Funding request has been placed to provide appetizers at the event.
- e. Board Actions via Email –
  - i. Email Vote: *Motion made by Jessica Hroncheck: to approve the Advocacy Committee speaker honoraria at \$500 for the program "Developing the Collective Power of Library Workers.", seconded by Ed Eckel, passed with 8 votes.*

## **New Business**

1. IDEA Committee update (Lee Parker, guest)
  - a. Planning a mid-year engagement event for membership and those interested in membership. This will follow the plan from last year's event, promoting the value of membership, and the benefits of committee work and interest group participation. Looking at mid- to late March. Lee will send out a scheduling poll to key potential participants.
  - b. Possibility for virtual conference participation
    - Discussion: this would not only address accessibility, but could also promote greater engagement by participants and presenters who are geographically dispersed across the state. Possible models: select sessions that are presented live are also streamed (possibly presenter can elect to opt in); select sessions are virtual-only (presenters can also be remote). This has come up often in the Conference Planning Committee. There is a strong desire for online professional development. Depending on the facility/equipment available, the hybrid experience can be poor for both in-person and virtual participants. If there is a facility that is already configured for streaming, this may be easier and less costly than bringing in equipment. One option might be to host a mid-year 100% online mini-conference, with the IDEA committee involved in the planning.
    - Next steps:
      - Lee will share contact information with Julie for someone on the ALAO conference planning committee so we can learn more about how they facilitated virtual participation.
      - Possibility of charging a group to pilot a mid-year virtual event for 2026-27.
        - IDEA has a half-day PD subcommittee, which Lee is about to work to revive. He will reach out to the Chairs of the other committees to see if there is interest in working with IDEA for a pilot.

- Regarding timeline: Lee will bring a proposal back to the Board once the project has some momentum. Committee leadership transitions in July so it will be best to build some good momentum before that.
- c. Julie Garrison – kudos to Lee and the IDEA Committee for looking broadly across the organization for engagement.

## Old Business

1. [Archivist](#), next steps (Julie Garrison & Mies Martin)
  - a. Discussion: the draft plan calls for library school student to be hired to work with the MiALA Secretary and the MDLS Admin to accomplish a number of tasks, the work to be completed by the end of June.
  - b. Are these the right people to work with the archivist?
    1. The work of the secretary and the admin align very closely with the tasks at hand. They should definitely be part of the decision-making process as they will have key input and will need to understand the implications of the decisions made. They will be able to provide support so that the archivist is not working in isolation. Their involvement will also support training and ongoing maintenance of the systems after the proposed work.
    2. There is a pedagogical structure needed to utilize a library school student including, for example, learning outcomes. An alternate idea would be to turn this model on its head: build a three-person task force from within membership to accomplish these proposed tasks. Then, going forward, we could invite a student to serve as archivist for a full year, under the direction of the Board. We put the hardest work first.
  - c. How much authority/autonomy should this person or team have? General agreement that a significant amount of autonomy would make the work more efficient and timely. The responsibility that goes with that autonomy also suggests that the task group of members might be a better choice than a library school student.
  - d. Is the timeline realistic? Some of these are very big tasks. General consensus that the timeline will need to be extended quite a bit.
  - e. Should this work also address IG documentation? It might be good to have consistency of practice across all parts of MiALA, but including the IGs would increase the workload and might not be appropriate to the IGs informal documentation. Is archiving the end-of-year reports enough, or do we need to archive the more informal IG working documents?
  - f. Next steps – Mies & Julie will send out a call to the membership via email before the next Board meeting.

## New Business

2. 2027 Conference Location – [RFP responses](#) (Julie Garrison & Kalyn Huson)
  - a. Discussion: Kensington seems most economical. With WCC we would still need local arrangements people to request that local hotels hold blocks of rooms for

us. For WCC we will need to conduct a site visit before they can give us numbers for food/AV. General appreciation for the idea of partnering with a community college, but their spaces may be too small and the location is not really walkable. General inclination to opt for a larger space because of the concentration of campuses in mid-Michigan. We may also draw from Ontario and Ohio. There is no real interest in the other two sites originally considered.

- b. Next steps – Julie, Kalyn, and Linda Miles will conduct a site visit for both WCC and the Kensington.
3. Funding Request for \$300 from IGCC to host an IG Leaders Happy Hour at the MiALA Annual Conference (Jessica Hronchek & Katie Edmiston)
  - a. Discussion: this is a way to support IG leaders. There is a desire to learn from each other more about strategies and what is happening in other IGs. They will also invite incoming IG Chairs. Nice focus on transitioning leadership.
  - b. This would happen between other conference happenings from 5-6:30 on Thursday evening at Minerva's—the restaurant at Park Place. Maybe about 30 people. The funding could come either from the Committee line or the IG line.
  - c. Ed Eckel made a motion to approve and that the funds come from the IG line. Mary O'Kelly seconded. The motion carried.
4. Recent ACRL Chapters Council meeting (Julie Garrison)
  - a. ACRL Chapter benefit of 2 free [webcasts](#) - Do we want to pursue? Discussion: these could potentially be drawn from their archive and incorporated into a half-day mini-conference. Julie will get confirmation about that format availability.
  - b. Chapters Council leadership has offered to join as a guest for a future Board meeting. Discussion: what would we need/want from Chapters Council? General agreement that this would be positive. Julie will reach out to find out more about topics and time needed. She may schedule as part of a regular meeting, or seek a separate meeting if needed.

Jessica Hronchek motioned to adjourn and Kyle Ceci seconded. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:24pm.

#### **Issue Bin / Future Agenda Items:**

1. Format and location of the policies and procedures information (i.e., possible changes to the current P&P Manual format/location) – March
2. Partnerships and how to formalize those
3. A MiALA Annual Report – something written after the conference – March
4. Mid-year fully online mini-conference (possibly IDEA committee in collaboration with other committees)

**Upcoming Board Meetings:** Mar. 5, Apr. 2, May 14, Jun. 4 at 11:00am

**Upcoming Executive Committee Meetings:** Feb. 19, Mar. 19, Apr. 16, May 21, Jun. 18 at 11:00am

