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**PLA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Virtual Meeting – 1:00pm-3:00pm Central, January 18, 2024**

**Present:**  Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, President, Michael Lambert, President-elect; Dr. Maria Taesil Hudson McCauley, Immediate Past President; Clara Nalli Bohrer, Fiscal Officer; Deb Sica, ALA Division Councilor; Directors-at-large: Michael Colford, Erica Freudenberger, Mary Ellen Icaza, Tamara King, Dr. Brandy A. McNeil, Veronda Pitchford

**Guests:** Stephanie Chase, ALA Executive Board liaison; Deborah Caldwell-Stone, Director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom

**PLA Staff:** Mary Davis Fournier, Executive Director; Melissa Faubel, Meeting and Special Events Planner, Sara Goek, Project Manager, Data and Research; Mary Hirsh, Deputy Director, Programs; Katina Jones, Program Manager, Evaluation and Assessment; Eliana Kleiman, Communication Associate; Angela Maycock, Manager, Continuing Education, Talaisha Whitaker, Program Coordinator

**Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, *Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, President*

2. **EDISJ work,** *Michael Lambert, PLA President-elect*

Prompt: PLA Strategic Plan: PLA centers EDISJ in working with and for libraries as places of equitable opportunity. What one word best describes where we are today? What one word best describes your hope for where we will be in the future?

3. **Approved** the adoption of the meeting agenda.

4. **Approved** the consent agenda with change of moving the Conference Report to the Action/Discussion/Decision Item agenda.

**Consent Agenda Document Number**

1. *Organizational Excellence and Governance*
   1. Draft November 2023 Board Minutes 2024.12
   2. Alan’s last name was misspelled.
   3. Nominations Committee Report……………………………………………………………...2024.13
2. PLA Membership Report 2024.14
3. Conference Report (Moved to Executive Director Update) 2024.15
4. Committee Reports ……………………………………………………………………………………………2024.16

**Action/Discussion/Decision Items Document Number**

1. PLA President Update, *Alcántara-Antoine* no document

Alcantara-Antoine updated on progress of Maryland Freedom to Read Bill, which will be advancing soon.

1. PLA President-elect Update, *Lambert* no document

Lambert shared details of employee and community engagement for new vision of SFPL. Sharing draft Strategic Plan with Commission today.

1. PLA Immediate Past President Update, *Maria McCauley* no document

McCauley shared experience participating in San Jose State’s Library 2.0 talk that focused on Equity and Inclusion this past fall. Also reported on the work of the nominating committee which has a final slate. She is also active on the committee of legislation of ALA, and hosting the next ALA Banned Book Club Meeting.

1. PLA Executive Director Update, *Mary Davis Fournier*  no document

Conference Report moved from consent agenda………………………………………………(2024.15)

* March 13 will be the PLA Presidential Candidates Forum. Announcing slate after LLX is over.
* Over 8,300 participants in Digital Learn.
* AT&T has invited us to apply for another round of funding.
* Google is talking to us about another project due to the results of the training program.
* The conference report was discussed. Early registration for the conference closed with 3,846 full conference registrants and a total of 4,585 registrants.

1. Executive Board Liaison Update, *Stephanie Chase ………………………………………*no document

ALA ED search committee update: Press release with committee composition coming soon. Bohrer asked about the new virtual, no open chat format for BARC meetings, and raised concern about the scale back of interaction and dialogue. Stephanie said she will share feedback with ALA Treasurer Peter Hepburn.

1. Fiscal Officer Report, *Clara Bohrer, Davis Fournier, all*
   1. FY23 Unaudited Close August 2023 Budget Reports 2024.17a-b
   2. FY24 Budget Adjustment 2024.18
   3. Operating Agreement Update ……………………………………………………………2024.19a-b

* Bohrer reported on the positive financial results for FY23, a planned deficit year, noting that the projected 500K deficit had been reduced to $107,000 due to increased revenues and lower expenses. Clara attributed this success to an improved economy and the exceptional performance of Web CE. McCauley expressed their appreciation for the work of the CE team, particularly Stephen Hoffman and Angela Maycock.
* Bohrer and Fournier discussed the financial concerns of their association, The team also discussed the financial challenges facing smaller divisions of ALA, with Alcantara-Antoine expressing concern about their viability. McCauley raised concerns about the lack of strategic support, and Sica highlighted past tensions around division mergers.
* Bohrer emphasized the need for successful divisions to subsidize the whole and mentioned that the board would deliberate on the best scenario for PLA’s future. Lambert expressed concerns about the perceived lack of acknowledgement and incentive for divisions. Bohrer confirmed that they were still investigating the issue of gifts and overhead costs and shared the new Operating Agreement timeline for decision-making.
* She characterized the new timeline, with eventual implementation of a new overhead model in FY26 as positive. Discussion also emphasized the need for clarity regarding the criteria for the ALA CFO and ALA Treasurer’s final decision for a new overhead model. The proposed 75% to 25% split of the net result between ALA and the division was also questioned. Fournier expressed that these issues are being advanced with the CFO and Treasurer.
* Chase spoke to the disconnect from members of the ED board about how much engagement comes from division work.

1. ALA Division Councilor Update*, Deb Sica (*no document)

* Sica reviewed the updated ALA Values statement and thanked the board for its input. The board unanimously agreed on Sica’s conveyance of that feedback to Council.
* The streamlined membership model on the ALA level has rolled out, without bundling because divisions have widely different dues ranges, from $53 to $85/per regular member. PLA has the most expensive membership rate. A group of staff and member stakeholders has been designated to discuss the merits of a consistent rate across divisions.

1. Intellectual Freedom update, *Deborah Caldwell Stone (no document)*

* ALA OIF recorded 1100 Challenges trend in challenges to books, programming events, and library policies in 2023. Concerning trend of 16% of challenges in public libraries which has grown to 50% of overall challenges.
* Concerning trend of potential action of removing autonomy of library boards to elected officials.
* Rise in hostile legislation towards libraries and librarians in several states. Deborah also discussed the progress of legislation in various states, ongoing litigation involving public libraries, and introduced new challenge support resources
* Plans in motion to relaunch the Lawyers for Libraries program.

1. Committee Restructure Update, *Mary Hirsh* ***ACTION (***2024.20)

Hirsh updated the board on the transition of several standing committees to advisory groups, with title and related changes proposed by several groups whose motions appear as follows:

* + It is hereby resolved that the Digital Literacy committee name is changed to Digital Literacy Advisory Group and the revised charge is adopted.
  + It is hereby resolved that the Committee on Family Engagement name is changed to Family Engagement Advisory Group and the revised charge, deliverables and outcomes, and time commitment is adopted.
  + It is hereby resolved that the Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment Committee name is changed to Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment Committee Advisory Group and the revised time commitment is adopted.
  + It is hereby resolved that the Technology Committee name is changed to Technology Advisory Group and the revised charge is adopted.
  + It is hereby resolved that the Public Library Advisory Committee name is changed to Public Library Advisory Group and the revised charge, deliverable, and skills are adopted.

The five motions were moved (MacCauley), seconded (King), and unanimously **approved.**

Alcántara-Antoine indicated that the topic of board liaisons to various committees and advisory groups will be discussed further at a future board meeting.

1. New Business
   1. Conference Social Media Promotion…………..…….………………………………..……2024.21

Kleiman proposed a social media promotion strategy for upcoming conference, requesting short videos from anyone willing to participate. Details to be posted to the Board’s Connect page.

* 1. Sica introduced a vendor, PAVE, which provides safety and security training for libraries. Pitchford confirmed their positive experience with PAVE.
  2. Alcántara-Antoine congratulated Mary Ellen Icaza on being elected as Chair Elect for the Ohio Library Council board.

***Next PLA Board Meeting (Virtual): Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1 – 3 p.m. CT***