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**Board of Directors—2018 Fall Meeting**

**Sunday, November 4, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Thompson Hotel, Nashville, TN**

**Present:** Monique le Conge Ziesenhenne, President; Pam Sandlian Smith, Past President; Ramiro Salazar, President-elect; Directors at Large: Cindy Fesemyer, Michelle Jeske, Richard Kong, Carrie Plymire, Tracy Strobel, Kelvin Watson; Stephanie Chase, ALA Division Councilor

**Approved Absences:** none

**PLA Staff/Consultants:** Barb Macikas, Executive Director; Larra Clark, PLA/OITP Deputy Director; Lian Drago, Program Officer, Continuing Education; Melissa Faubel, Conference Manager; Angela Maycock, Manager, Continuing Education

**Guests:**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**, *Monique LeConge Ziesenhenne*.
2. **By consent, approved** the adoption of the meeting agenda with the addition of a new discussion item on the ALA 2022 Midwinter Meeting.
3. **By consent, approved** the 2018 Annual Conference Board Meeting Draft Actions (2019.1).
4. **By consent, approved** the consent agenda as presented, with PLA 75th Anniversary moved to discussion/new business.

**Consent Items Document Number**

* 1. Draft 2018 Annual Conference Board Actions 2019.1
  2. PLA Committee Semi-Annual Reports 2019.2
  3. PLA Document re: ALA Investment 2019.3
  4. PLA Initiatives 2019.4
  5. PLA Operations - Membership 2019.5
  6. PLA Operations - Fundraising 2019.6
  7. PLA Operations - Communications 2019.7
  8. PLA Operations - Publications and Products 2019.8
  9. ALA Investment Plan 2019.9

**Action/Discussion/Decision Items**

1. **PLA President Update**, *Le Conge Ziesenhenne* (no document). Le Conge Ziesenhenne reported on recent conversations with the president of Canadian Federation of Library Associations. They discussed the possibility of a new membership option that might connect Canadian public libraries, many of which also are remote and rural libraries, to PLA resources and networking. Le Conge Ziesenhene also reported completing 1-2 interviews for PLA and ALA per week, which have been going well. She keynoted a library conference in Turkey, reviewing five years of Gates grants for about 200 attendees, including 160 library workers throughout Turkey. The similarities between sessions at the Turkish conference and at US public library events was noted. Le Conge Ziesenhenne reported interested in Project Outcome, “sister library” initiatives, international attendee participation at the PLA 2020 Conference, and podcasts with Public Libraries Online. Finally, Ziesenhenne and Smith reported on efforts to develop a better, shared understanding of PLA’s legal status as an entity within ALA, the agreements that regulate that relationship, and ALA bylaw information regarding the creation and dissolution of a division.
2. **Review of Actions from Annual Conference Meeting**, *Macikas* (2019.10). Macikas reported that most activities have been accomplished or are in progress. It was noted that the ALA board did add public library representation to the ALA Organizational Effectiveness/Governance Review: Steering Committee as a result of the PLA board input. The PLA board’s request that ALA reconsider salary increases for staff was also discussed, and it was reported that increases will go into effect in January 2019.
3. **PLA Strategic Plan Update and Talking Points**, *all* (2019.11 and 11a). The board appreciated the talking points and expressed pride in the direction that the plan sets for PLA and the field. Macikas reported that PLA has received a few member comments about the plan, with some enthusiastic and some suggesting certain efforts or areas were not sufficiently addressed in the plan (for instance Every Child Ready to Read and literacy). The board suggested PLA strengthen the relationship between conference programming and the strategic plan, to add meaning and help connect PLA work with local library work. They hoped this would also help with membership retention, and suggested PLA should determine incentives or other strategies to reduce the drop off rate during non-conference years.
4. **PLA Leadership Model and Concepts**, *Macikas, all* (2019.12 and 12a). The next Leadership Academy will be held in March 2019 in Chicago, IL. The board praised the revised leadership model and offered a few suggestions regarding wording on tolerance and social justice. They felt the “leadership and values concepts,” as well as other documents such as the planning assumptions in the new strategic plan, should be shared more broadly with the field. Ideas were suggested, such as journal articles, guidance on how to use these tools in staff training, and outreach to state library agencies.
5. **Financial Reports**, *Macikas, all* (2019.13, 14, 15 and 16). **ACTION.** Board members reviewed reports including the status of Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) as of the third close, the comparison of FY16-FY18 performance, and the FY18 to FY19 budget comparison. Results of FY18 were strong, with conference net revenue near budget despite higher location costs and weather challenges. An FY19 final budget was presented and changes since initial board approval in June 2018 were noted. As such, the board moved and **approved** the revised FY19 final budget. It was noted that FY19 does not include conference revenue and as such negative net revenue is projected, but fundraising efforts including individual giving, sponsorships and grant writing may eventually reduce PLA’s losses in non-conference years. The board discussed spending down PLA’s fund balance. Potential new projects suggested included research related to public library hiring and value of the MLS degree; building stepping stones connected to leadership; doing collaborative work with other divisions; continuing to build on and expand Inclusive Internship Initiative; and bring back the PLA Spring Symposium or other in-person continuing education. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.
6. **ALA Governance Review Committee Update**, *all* (no document). Macikas reported that PLA’s representatives on the ALA Organizational Effectiveness/Governance Review: Steering Committee (Vailey Oehlke and Felton Thomas) are pleased with the progress of the committee.
7. **ALA Council-Communication from PLA**, *all* (2019.17). It would be mutually beneficial to PLA and Council members if the members of ALA Council who work in or otherwise represent public libraries better understood PLA’s activities and perspectives. In the short term, PLA should increase engagement with those Council members, and a long-term goal may be having more influence on the ALA Executive Board. It was agreed to start an event at ALA conferences to convene public library Councilors, share information on PLA, and encourage ongoing dialogue. The board also discussed encouraging PLA members to run for election to Council. During discussion, it was agreed PLA members should be aware of PLA’s contributions to ALA via overhead funds and other revenue, and strategies to use Public Libraries articles were discussed.
8. **Nominations Committee Report**, *Macikas* (no document). Macikas will share the slate of 2019 candidates for information as soon as it is confirmed by the Nominating Committee. Smith reported she will hold her first meeting of the 2020 Nominations Committee during the 2019 Midwinter Meeting.
9. **Feedback on Draft "Meeting Rooms: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights,***" *Chase, all* (2019.18). Board members reviewed the latest draft and agreed it was much improved. Creating a “frequently asked questions” companion piece about applying the interpretation locally was suggested. The board also thanked Chase for her diligence on this issue, and she reminded the board that additional document revisions are forthcoming.
10. **PLA Fiscal Officer Position/Board Composition**, *Macikas* (2019.19). **ACTION.** Macikas reminded the board that adding a fiscal officer is a bylaw change and therefore requires a vote by the membership. She reviewed the draft revision, and the board discussed details such as term limits and which President should appoint the position. It was moved and **approved** to proceed with recommending that the fiscal officer be a three-year appointment made by the Immediate Past President be added to the 2019 PLA ballot to allow the membership to vote on this recommended bylaws change.
11. **Review of Plans for Immersion Event**, *all* (2019.20). Macikas reviewed the guidelines developed in the wake of the decision to keep the 2020 PLA Conference in Nashville despite anti-LGBTQ legislation at the state level. The idea for the immersion experience grew out of that discussion and is intended explore ways to focus attention on equity, diversity and inclusion as part of the conference. PLA staff currently are exploring how to create meaningful experiential learning opportunities on the Saturday of the conference, while maintaining the same amount of library education content on the other days. Nashville Public Library Director and PLA 2020 Local Committee Co-Chair Kent Oliver joined parts of the experience and post discussions.
12. **New Business**, *all* (no document).
    1. **PLA 75th Anniversary Plans**, all (2019.7). The Communications report was pulled from consent so that the Board could ask for more information about plans for the anniversary. A full report will be available at Midwinter.
    2. **ALA 2022 Midwinter Meeting**, *all* (no document). Macikas reported that ALA Executive Board voted to withdraw from San Antonio as the 2022 ALA Midwinter Meeting location. PLA board members expressed concern about both the decision and the process, which did not allow for input or explain the ALA Executive Board’s rationale. Macikas agreed to get more information, and the PLA board will consider responding. State travel bans to other states and their potential impacts were briefly noted.
    3. **EDI Trainings,** *Kong* (no document).Kong noted that the PLA Task Force on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will begin regional trainings in 2019 and that there has already been a request to add training closer to the west coast.