**TO:** PLA Board of Directors

**FROM:** Barb Macikas

**RE:** Midwinter Meeting Time Slot for PLA Board Meeting and Future of Midwinter

**DATE:** January 14, 2019

**ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT:** INFORMATION

**ACTION REQUESTED BY:** PLA Staff

**DRAFT OF MOTION:**  n/a

**OVERVIEW**

The PLA Board has met on Saturday afternoons at both ALA Midwinter and ALA Annual conferences for at least ten years. This schedule provides consistency for board members, staff, and PLA members planning their conference schedules and the rest of the PLA meeting schedule is built accordingly.

At the 2018 ALA Annual Conference, ALA determined to add a no-conflict time slot for Midwinter--2-3 pm on Saturday. Because there was no ALA-wide communication about this change until September, PLA wasn’t informed of the new no-conflict time slot until approximately 2 weeks prior to ALA’s deadline for reserving meeting space at Midwinter. Given we didn’t have time to readjust, we were allowed to schedule this year’s Midwinter board meeting at the standard time, against the no-conflict rule.

Here are Midwinter no-conflict time periods as of June per ALA Conference Services:

“The NO CONFLICT times have changed, and are as follows; Friday, June, 4:00pm - 7:00pm, Saturday, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, and Sunday 10:30 am - 11:30 am.  Requests during these times will not be accepted.”

**KEY CURRENT ACTIVITIES/METRICS**

Staff initially planned to recommend to the PLA Board that we meet on Sunday afternoons at Midwinter. This would keep our board meeting on the weekend. Our all-committee time slot would then be moved to Saturday morning. However, plans for the future of Midwinter continue to evolve.

In subsequent conversation with ALA leadership, we were told PLA could keep the 2020 board meeting on Saturday afternoon, despite the no-conflict time. This seems to be the easiest course of action for 2020.

The Board will need to have future discussions about what PLA’s role is at Midwinter for 2021 and beyond and whether our board and committees should meet there. At this point in time, there isn’t enough information about plans for Midwinter to have that discussion.

As of this writing, this is what we know of ALA’s plans for Midwinter’s future, based on comments ALA conference contractor Paul Graller made at a staff meeting earlier in January:

* Beginning with the 2021 meeting, Midwinter will cease to exist and a new, program-based conference will be planned.
* The new concept will completely separate meetings from content sessions/exhibits, with an emphasis on programming in the exhibits and generous no-conflict times.
* There will be a focus on youth award content and on leadership programming.
* Fewer meetings will be held. Which groups will be encouraged to meet at Midwinter is not clear but assuming division boards are allowed to meet, those meetings would need to occur at the front or back end of the new conference schedule. For example, if the current pattern continues, the PLA board would need to meet on Friday. Saturday-Tuesday morning would be for programs/exhibits. Tuesday afternoon would be another option for meetings.

**BUDGET**

An overall review of the implications for PLA board and committees of not using the “new Midwinter” to hold meetings is needed and there will be budget implications, even if we chose to stay at the January meeting.

Given ALA’s parallel discussions related to its structure and review/revision of the ALA/Division operating agreement, financials related to what ALA supports at the January meeting will likely change from current practice.

**ASSESSMENT**

We will need to wait until ALA provides more information about its plans for the January meeting, as well as its re-organization plans, before determining the best course of action for PLA. Any documents that become available ahead of Midwinter will be shared with the board.

**PLA STRATEGIC GOAL LINK (check all that apply)**

TRANSFORMATION   LEADERSHIP  ADV. & AWARENESS  E.D.I.S.J.  ORG. EXCELLENCE