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**Board of Directors, 2020 Winter Meeting**

**February 25, 2020**

**Music City Center, Nashville, Tennessee**

**Present:** Ramiro Salazar, President; Monique le Conge Ziesenhenne, Past President; Michelle Jeske, President Elect; Directors-at-large: Cindy Fesemyer, Toby Greenwalt, Amita Lonial, Pam Sandlian Smith, Kelvin Watson, Carrie Willson; ALA Division Councilor: Stephanie Chase; Fiscal Officer: Clara Bohrer

**Approved Absences:** none

**PLA Staff:** Barb Macikas, Executive Director; Larra Clark, Deputy Director

**Guests:** PLA candidates for board:Melanie Huggins and Kent Oliver (candidates for president-elect); Brandy McNeil, Steve Potter, Kevin King, and Dara Schmidt, (candidates for director-at-large); ALA presidential candidates: Steven Yates, Patti Wong; ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall; and PLA past presidents Carolyn Anthony, Larry Neal, and Ron Dubberly.

*Follow-up items are listed at the end of the document.*

1. **By consent, approved** the adoption of the meeting agenda.
2. **By consent, approved** the Draft 2019 Fall Board Actions (2020.29) and Board Jan. 7, 2020 call minutes (2020.30)
3. **By consent, approved** the consent agenda with the addition of new business: discussion of ALA division merger to Core. Consent agenda items were:

**Consent Items Document Number**

*Organizational Excellence and Governance*

* 1. Draft 2019 Fall Board Actions 2020.29
  2. Draft Conference Call Minutes (Jan. 7, 2020) 2020.30
  3. Board Follow Up List  2020.31
  4. PLA-ACRL Response to SCOE 2020.32

*Leadership*

* 1. Leadership Combined Report 2020.33

*Transformation*

* 1. Transformation Combined Report 2020.34

*Advocacy and Awareness*

* 1. Advocacy and Awareness Combined Report 2020.35

*Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice*

* 1. EDISJ Combined Report 2020.36

**Action/Discussion/Decision Items**

1. **PLA President Update**, *Ramiro Salazar* (no document). President Salazar introduced ALA and PLA board candidates. ALA candidates for president Patty Wong and Steven Yates made presentations to the board and answered questions. Salazar then introduced new ALA Executive Director Tracie Hall.

Next Salazar reviewed status of e-book negotiations and collaborations, including reviewing Midwinter Meeting sessions with Macmillan. He recognized Kelvin Watson’s role as co-chair of the ALA e-book working group and proposed a small working group that could discuss options and new models. Salazar reported that John Sargent from Macmillan planned to write ALA and PLA with a proposal of three possible new models.

President Salazar reviewed ALA Midwinter Meeting discussions related to ALA’s finances. ALA Council, BARC, PLA’s breakfast for Council, and other meetings all pointed to how challenged ALA finances are. ALA’s short-term investments, primarily made up of the fund balances of the divisions, were almost completely spent down in November, creating a serious liquidity problem. At Midwinter, Salazar met with ALA president Wanda Brown and other division presidents and all shared concern about finances and decision-making processes. ALA’s new executive director, Tracie Hall noted ALA is the process of building budgets. Salazar and the board thanked Hall and noted the urgency of these issues.

While recognizing the work of ALA SCOE and thanking its chair Lessa Pelayo for her strong leadership, Salazar and the board expressed continued concern about ALA’s financial status and accountability, and the role of the group that will be reviewing the ALA policy related to divisions, aka the “operating agreement.”

1. **Report from PLA Fiscal Officer**, Clara *Bohrer* (documents 2020.37-2020.42). Bohrer reviewed current budget status and noted that most revenues and expenses were not yet reflected in reports and that board would have a better picture after the PLA conference. All indicators are positive for PLA conference to exceed budget. Bohrer also noted that PLA’s webinars are a bright spot; working with a group of practitioners to seek out and select topics has resulted in stronger programs and better financial results for webinars.

Bohrer noted that PLA’s plans to transfer into our LTI may be postponed due to ALA financial challenges. ALA is signaling they won’t allow such transfers. In the past, divisions were not allowed to transfer but the reason then was not the dire liquidity situation ALA faces now. Rather, in 2008-09 when ALA had $16-$17M in short term investments available, they postponed LTI transfers so as not to lose associated interest income. (ALA receives interest from our fund balances (their STI) and needed that interest.) The situation now is much different.

The Board discussed the need to determine when ALA’s cash flow problems will ease and the need for more information about how PLA can access its fund balance. What are plans for creating cash flow statements? What are plans for future budgets and stemming deficits, particularly in the ALA general fund? Bohrer noted that the previous CFO observed at the fall 2019 BARC meeting that ALA has a cash flow problem and needed a cash flow study. PLA board members shared with the new ALA Executive Director their concern that ALA needs to respect PLA and divisions. Better communication and collaboration is needed. We want to work in partnership with ALA.

It was moved and **APPROVED** that PLA write a letter to ALA related to questions and concerns about finances and that other ALA divisions be brought into the process so that a joint message could be shared with ALA.

1. **Social Work Training/COSLA Partnership – ACTION** (document 2020.43). Barb Macikas and Cindy Fesemyer provided an overview on the idea of exploring a partnership with COSLA related to social work training. The board and moved and approved and **APPROVED** the plan to begin conversations with COSLA state CE organizers.
2. **Scenario Planning**. The board discussed the idea of extending the May meeting in order to begin scenario planning. The board wants everyone’s voice to be heard. Staff were instructed to consider extending the May meeting schedule to accommodate more in-depth discussion.
3. **PLA Spring Event in 2021**. The idea of PLA hosting a spring event in the odd years was discussed. Through the conversation, the board noted there is already a great deal of competition and was concerned about market saturation. Before planning went any further, the board suggested considering: survey of field needs; a hybrid (face-to-face/virtual) approach; partnerships with organizations like ARSL; whether/how such an event would impact planned regional trainings; focus on shorter events (even 3 days may be too long); topic is critical; people like intimate programming; we want to have space and time to advance our strategic goals. Overall, the board felt the planned regional trainings might suffice.
4. **PLA Board Assessment Results**. The board reviewed the assessment results (documents 2020.45 a&b). These assessments will continue so that we are assured effective and positive governance for PLA.
5. **Next PLA Board Meetings**. The board discussed future meetings (document 2020.46). Staff were encouraged to consider holding future board meetings in conjunction with planned regional trainings.
6. The board went into closed session to discuss a personnel matter at approximately 4:15 pm and resumed the open meeting at approximately 4:30 pm.
7. **PLA2020 Conference Update**. Board and staff reviewed conference plans and board responsibilities at conference.
8. **New Business.** Salazar raised the issue of “First Amendment” audits where library staff and patrons are videotaped. Others on the board were aware of this practice and the board suggested it would be a good topic for a future PLA webinar.
9. **Adjourn**. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05pm.

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**Action Items/Discussions Requiring Follow Up**

The following actions were drafted based on discussion at the 2020 Feburary meeting of the board.

1. **Ebooks**
   1. Salazar and Watson will continue to engage, monitor, and report updates/status about the library’s role in providing electronic content and what the various publishers’ actions mean for communities.
2. **PLA Participation in ALA Executive Board Calls**
   1. Macikas will conduct a Doodle poll to determine board member coverage and alternates for ALA Executive Board calls.
3. **Future PLA Board Meetings** 
   1. Staff will investigate hosting meetings in conjunction with regional trainings.
4. **Communication to ALA Regarding Finances**
   1. Staff will begin work on reaching out to other divisions and drafting communication to go to ALA board immediately following the PLA 2020 conference.
5. **Follow up with COSLA re Social Worker Training**
   1. Staff will follow up with COSLA CE group to determine next steps for PLA-COSLA CE group collaboration related to social work training.