



NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 2021

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

via Web Conference

NYLA President, Claudia Depkin Presiding

In Attendance: Claudia Depkin, *President*; Dr. Jen Cannell, *Immediate Past President*; Beth Merkle *President-Elect*; Roger Reyes, *Treasurer*; Grace Riario, *Treasurer-Elect*; Jim Teliha, *ASLS President*; Karen Sperrazza, *FLS President*; Jean Currie, *LTA President*; Jennifer Byrnes, *PLS President*; Annalee Dragon, *LAMS Representative*; Steve Bachman, *SMART President*; Dawn Pressimone, *SSL President*; Amanda Schiavulli, *YSS President*; Simone Yearwood, *Councilor-at-Large*; Lisa Kropp, *Councilor-at-Large*; Kristina Graves, *Councilor-at-Large*; Cassie Guthrie, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

Absent: Alana Mutum, *RASS Representative*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jane Verostek, *Councilor-at-Large*

Guests: Rocco Staino, *Director of Empire State Center for the Book*; Nicola McDonald, *LAMS President*; Briana McNamee, *NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy*; Christina Romeo, *NYLA Communications & Marketing Manager*

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2021 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION I: Motion to approve Minutes from February 4th, 2021 NYLA Council Meeting as presented.

Made by: AnnaLee Dragon, Seconded by: James Teliha

Approved unanimously.

3. Finance Report

NYLA Treasurer Roger Reyes reviewed the January Monthly Financial Statement. QuickBooks provides a 'condensed' report for our update calls, and a 'complete' report that will be used for 'full' meetings. Our position continues to improve, though the year is still projected to end with a deficit. Development of the FY21-22 budget is underway and will be distributed well in advance of the May 6 meeting. A fund-raising appeal is planned for the Legal Defense Fund in relation to the support of the Flower Memorial Library.

4. President's Update

NYLA President Claudia Depkin reported on her ongoing work with the Civil Service Committee, the Alternative Pathways to Librarianship Task Force, and participation in Virtual Library Advocacy Day.

The first school librarian, Joanna McCloskey, has been certified through the Sustainability Initiative.

5. Executive Director's Update

NYLA Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen reported on the following:

Membership: Bulk organizational memberships, coordinated with library systems, are being retooled to engage individual participating libraries via an "open enrollment" model; under which each library will build their own renewal order online. This will reduce staff time in processing bulk orders. Staff will be supporting SSL in a membership renewal letter campaign to off-set non-renewals previously supported by school library systems.

LTAS will be distributing a postcard to promote membership to former LTA members. An automated Welcome Message has been instituted which is sent to every new / renewing member.

NYLA2021: Conference program review and selection is underway by the Conference Curators. The event will incorporate a virtual conference option, and an in-person event. If there are unforeseen circumstances and a gathering cap below 500 remains in effect, NYLA will pivot to an all-virtual conference. Final determination will be made before August 1 when registration will open.

Staffing: After four years, Becky Czornobil is leaving NYLA and her last day is Friday, March 26. A new Professional Development Manager will be identified.

6. Legislative Update

NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Bri McNamee, review the following:

NYS Budget: The one house budgets have been released, and both reject the Governor's proposed cuts to Library Funding. The Assembly proposes \$96.6M in Aid / \$34M for Library Construction. The Senate proposes \$94.1M in Aid, and \$34M in Library Construction. The Assembly also includes a \$15M Digital Inclusion project, that is absent from the Senate bill. NYLA is coordinating ongoing grassroots advocacy campaigns to support \$123M in Library Aid and the \$45M in Library Construction Aid.

Policy: The Governor signed the NYLA endorsed Library Petition Bill, reducing for 2021 the number of petition signatures required for individuals seeking to be listed on ballots as a candidate for library trustees, as well as libraries seeking ballot access via Edu Law 259.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Special Election for Councilor-at-Large Vacancy

MOTION II: Motion to approve the slate for a special election to fill the vacancy in the Councilor-at-Large position, to include Ginger Tebo and Sharon Fox, and for the election to be conducted April 1 – 30, 2021.

Made by: AnnaLee Dragon, Seconded by: Dawn Pressimone

Approved unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Center for the Book Affiliation Agreement with Library of Congress

Director of the Empire State Center for the Book, Rocco Staino, presented on recent activities, and explained the requirement for a renewal agreement for affiliation via the Library of Congress.

MOTION III: Motion to approve the three-year renewal of the affiliation between the Empire State Center for the Book, and the National Center for the Book through the Library of Congress.

Made by: Karen Sperrazza, Seconded by: Steven Bachman

Approved unanimously.

b. Independent Auditor Contract Process

In keeping with best practice, it is again time for the periodic replacement of NYLA's outside independent auditing firm. The NYLA Executive Director will serve as administrative support to the process, to include issuing an RFP, sharing the responses with an audit committee, and scheduling interviews as requested.

MOTION IV: Motion to charge the Audit Committee to review proposals and make a recommendation to Council for a new auditing firm by the August meeting; to be chaired by Grace Riario, and to include Jim Teliha, Jennifer Byrnes, Jean Currie, Roger Reyes, and Claudia Depkin.

Made by: Grace Riario Seconded by: Dr. Jen Cannell

Approved unanimously.

c. Strategic Plan 2022-2025

NYLA's current Strategic Plan is dated 2017-2020. It is being held over in deference to the pandemic. A new planning process must be completed, and a new plan for 2022-2025 needs to be developed. Claudia Depkin

called to interested members of Council. Kristina Graves, Beth Merkle, Simone Yearwood, and Steven Bachman volunteered to participate, along with an open call to NYLA members. No formal action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:08PM

NOTE

Next Meeting: May 6, 1:30PM – 4:30PM

Reports Due April 22

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