



## **NYLA Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, June 18, 2020

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

via Conference Call

NYLA President, Dr. Jennifer Cannell Presiding

**In Attendance:** Dr. Jen Cannell, *President*; Claudia Depkin, *President-Elect*; Roger Reyes, *Treasurer*; Grace Riario, *Treasurer-Elect*; Ryan Perry, *ASLS President*; Lisa Wemett, *FLS President*; Tim Furgal, *LAMS President*; Jean Currie, *LTA President*; Kelly Yim, *PLS President*; Dana Sinclair, *RASS President*; Tara Thibault-Edmonds, *SSL President*; Amanda Schiavulli, *YSS President*; Stacey Rattner, *Councilor-at-Large*; Simone Yearwood, *Councilor-at-Large*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*; Ana Canino-Fluit, *Councilor-at-Large*; Cassie Guthrie, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

**Absent:** Michelle Young, *Immediate Past-President*; Rosemarie Gatzek, *SMART President*; Stephanie Hartwell-Mandella, *Councilor-at-Large*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*; Jane Verostek, *Councilor-at-Large*

**Guests:** Briana McNamee, *NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy*; Christina Romeo, *NYLA Communications & Marketing Manager*

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

### 1. Welcome / Review of Agenda

NYLA President Jen Cannell welcomed everyone to the call, and the agenda was approved.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2020 NYLA Council Meeting

**MOTION I:** Motion to approve minutes from the May 7, 2020 Council Meeting with noted corrections.

Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Tim Furgal

Approved unanimously.

### 3. Finance Report

#### a. March Monthly Statement

NYLA Treasurer Roger Reyes reviewed the March 2020 Financial Statement. It was noted that the delay in reporting data is a symptom of the staffing transition, and we are working to get back on a more timely schedule. Financial report reflects 75% of the fiscal year, with 81% in revenue actualized, and 83.09% expenses. Membership revenue is lagging at 65%, and while gains are expected, it is anticipated to fall short of budget.

### 4. President's Update

NYLA President Jen Cannell reported on her recent activities including numerous online events. This year's ALA Annual Conference will be the first she has been able to participate in – albeit virtual. Jen also welcomed Colleen Smith as NYLA's new Finance & Administration Manager.

### 5. Executive Director's Update

NYLA Executive Director reported on recent activities including:

- Colleen Smith started with NYLA as of June 8, and is managing onboarding well.
- NYLA Council Election is open. Please encourage participation.

- The June issue of *The NYLA Voice* is out, and a weekly poll (The Footnote) has been added to the News You Can Use.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> is set as a deadline for determining the format for the 2020 Annual Conference. Options include a hybrid event, where some of the content presented in-person is available virtually; or a fully online virtual event.

#### 6. Legislative Update

NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Briana McNamee, provided an update on recent activities, including:

- The bill providing an extension on completion deadlines for current active Library Construction projects has been signed by the Governor.
- Due to the pandemic, public library trustee oaths of office can be administered virtually and remotely.
- The Legislative Session continues to operation, well beyond its scheduled conclusion, with actions likely well into July.
- Advocacy efforts are planned relative to the potential mid-year cuts to library aid in the FY20-21 NYS Budget.
- The Legislative Committee is reviewing potential revisions to how NYLA determines and acts on priority items for the inevitably modified 2021 Legislative Session.
- NYLA has made important inroads with the Executive Chamber as the Governor's Office has worked to navigate library policy relative to COVID-19.

#### 7. Unfinished Business

- a. None

#### 8. New Business

- a. Memorial Resolution for Michelle Miller <action anticipated>

As previously noted, former NYLA Council member, and SSL President, Michelle Miller passed on 4/26. Sara Kelly Johns has crafted a Memorial Resolution, which has been advanced to ALA for adoption. The same language is being presented to Council for consideration.

**MOTION II:** Motion to approve Memorial Resolution for Michelle Miller as presented.

Made by: Tara Thibault-Edmonds, Seconded by: Stacey Rattner

Approved unanimously.

A ceremonial copy of the resolution will be distributed to Michelle's family.

- b. Organizational Communications

Recent events have exposed NYLA's current lack of official guideline for NYLA unit communications, both internally to members, and externally to other entities, specially the authority and autonomy in issuing statements. The Communications Committee is being charged with crafting draft guidelines to be presented to Council.

- c. Anti-Racism Conversation

Following the endorsement of Black Lives Matter, there was discussion on how NYLA can continue to work closely with the New York Black Librarians Caucus to address access to the profession and the organization. There was broad consensus for NYLA to pursue activities and actions that are specifically antiracist. The NYLA President will explore options and report back for action at the next Council meeting.

- d. Pathways to Librarianship Discussion

LAMS President Tim Furgal brought this topic forward for consideration by Council.

- Currently, the only pathway to a titles librarian position is earning an MLS. The NYS Civil Service program presents an additional barrier. Recruitment to the profession must begin far earlier, beginning these conversations in high school or in a person's undergraduate career.

- NYLA must be more intentional with breaking down systematic barriers to becoming a librarian, especially with marginalized peoples. There should be a better way to acknowledge the work of paraprofessionals and honor their experience of living and working in a library.

NYLA President Jen Cannell and Tim Furgal will continue this conversation, based on the feedback received from Council, and will report back with next steps at the August Council meeting.

**MOTION III:** Motion to adjourn the June 18, 2020 Council meeting at 4:33 PM.

Approved by unanimous consent.