



The Voice of the Library Community

New York Library Association

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NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 29, 2020

1:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Online via Zoom Web Conference NYLA President, Dr. Jennifer Cannell, Presiding

In Attendance: Dr. Jen Cannell, *President*; Claudia Depkin, *President-Elect*; Michelle Young, *Immediate Past- President*; 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*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*, Rosemarie Gatzek, *SMART President*; Tara Thibault-Edmonds, *SSL President*; Amanda Schiavulli, *YSS President*; Simone Yearwood, *Councilor-at-Large*; Cassie Guthrie, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

Absent: Dana Sinclair, *RASS President*; Stacey Rattner, *Councilor-at-Large*; Stephanie Hartwell-Mandella, *Councilor-at-Large*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jane Verostek, *Councilor-at-Large*; Ana Canino-Fluit, *Councilor-at-Large*

Guests: Beth Merkle, *incoming NYLA President-elect*; Jennifer Byrnes, *incoming PLS President*; Kristina Graves, *incoming Councilor-at-Large*; Lisa Kropp, *incoming Councilor-at-Large*; Nicola McDonald, *incoming LAMS President*; Dawn Pressimone, *incoming SSL President*; Karen Sperrazza, *incoming FLS President*; Briana McNamee, *NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy* and Christina Romeo, *NYLA Communications & Marketing Manager*; Colleen Smith, *NYLA Finance & Administration Manager*; John Bryans, *Bryans & Gramuglia CPAs*

Council Meeting Notes

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda

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

2. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2020 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION I: Motion to approve minutes from the September 17, 2020 Council Meeting with noted corrections. Made by: Claudia Depkin; Seconded by: Tim Furgal
Approved unanimously.

3. Finance Report

a. Presentation of FY2019-20 Audit Report – John Bryans, Bryans & Gramuglia, CPAs

The highlights of the presentation include:

- No material deficiencies in internal controls
- No significant changes in internal controls
- No disagreements with Management

- Qualified Opinions:
 - Membership dues are recognized on a cash basis, not on accrual; this is a deviation from generally accepted practices
 - Financial Statements do not include assets, liabilities, net assets, revenue and expenses for Sections and Roundtables.
- Interim (between audits) Information provided by NYLA was reliable
- Auditors offer a clean (unmodified) opinion with no significant deficiencies or material weakness in internal controls
- NYLA is in sound financial position

Other notable findings include:

- Assets decreased for FY'19-20 by \$167K
- The assets to liabilities ratio is 2.08 : 1 – leaving NYLA well positioned
- The debt to assets ratio is .38 : 1 (up slightly from .35 : 1)
- Total net assets were down by \$195K for the year (includes investments)
- Operations were nearly break-even with a loss of \$7038

Direct questions from Council members were addressed by John Bryans.

b. Approval of Auditors Report

Following the Independent Auditor's presentation, the report was officially accepted.

MOTION II: Motion to accept the Auditor's Report as presented.

Made by: Jean Currie; Seconded by: Roger Reyes

Approved unanimously.

c. September Financial Statement / Report

NYLA Treasurer Roger Reyes presented the September monthly financial statement, and addressed questions. The account lines that were notably high each were in need of reclassification of conference related expenses.

4. Unfinished Business

a. NYLA Anti-Racist Actions Update

A NYLA member survey is planned to gather a baseline of need, and to solicit a coalition of interested members to advance this effort.

b. Pathway's to Librarianship Update

LAMS President Tim Furgal reported on the efforts undertaken to date. A virtual Town Hall discussion is planned for Thursday, December 3 @ 3PM via Zoom. The effort is anticipated to result in a whitepaper and to serve as a framework for other state library associations.

5. New Business

a. NYLA Committee Reauthorizations

i. Communications Committee

MOTION III: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the Communications Committee as presented, and the appointment of Kerstin Cruger (MHLS) as chair, and Lori Salotto (Haverstraw Kings Daughters Public Library) as at-large member.

Made by: Michelle Young, Seconded by: Simone Yearwood

Approved unanimously.

ii. Continuing Education Committee

MOTION IV: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the Continuing Education Committee as presented, and the appointment of Claire Lovell (South Central Library Resources Council) as chair, and Sandra Michele Echols (consultant) and Lisa Hewel (Josephine-Louise Public Library) as at-large members.

Made by: Tim Furgal, Seconded by: Michelle Young

Approved unanimously.

iii. Intellectual Freedom Committee

MOTION V: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the Intellectual Freedom Committee as presented, and the appointment of Sara Dallas (Southern Adirondack Library System) as chair, and Matthew Cassidy (New York State DOCCS & Albany Public Library) and Samantha Mairson (Rye Free Reading Room) as at-large members.

Made by: Michelle Young, Seconded by: Rosemarie Gatzek

Approved unanimously.

iv. Legislative Committee

MOTION VI: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the Legislative Committee as presented, and the appointment of Cassie Guthrie (Greece Public Library) as chair, and Mark Kissinger (trustee, Bethlehem Public Library), and Jade Jacobs (South Side Middle School) as at-large members.

Made by: Roger Reyes, Seconded by: Jean Currie

Approved by all present with the exception of Cassie Guthrie who abstained.

v. Membership Committee

MOTION VII: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the Membership Committee as presented, and the appointment of Laurie Dreyer (Newburgh Free Library) as chair, and Indira Mukherjee (Queens Public Library), and Elizabeth Portillo (Finkelstein Memorial Library) as at-large members.

Made by: Tim Furgal, Seconded by: Kelly Yim

Approved unanimously.

vi. NYLA Sustainability Committee

MOTION VIII: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the NYLA Sustainability Committee as presented, and the appointment of Rebekkah Smith Aldrich (MHLS) and Matthew Bollerman (Hauppauge Public Library) as co-chairs.

Made by: Jean Currie, Seconded by: Kelly Yim

Approved unanimously.

b. Establishment of Civil Service Committee

MOTION VIII: Motion to approve the charge and composition of the Civil Service Committee as presented, and the appointment of Geoff Kirkpatrick (Bethlehem Public Library) chair (all other members appointed by the chair).

Made by: Lisa Wemett, Seconded by: Kelly Yim

Approved unanimously.

c. NYLA Communications Committee – External Communications Statement Policy

The NYLA Communications Committee has completed and put forward for consideration a proposed policy to govern how NYLA units issue communications.

MOTION IX: Motion to approve the External Communications Statement Policy with revisions as discussed.

Made by: Lisa Wemett; Seconded by: Claudia Depkin

Approved unanimously.

d. Approval of NYLA Dewey Scholarships 2020

Motion X: Motion to approve the 2020 NYLA Dewey Scholarship nominations as received from the eligible library school deans, to include:

Name	School
Charice Thompson	U. Buffalo
Jaklin Sweis	Syracuse
Ruth Hurwitz	LIU POST
Elliott Hadwin	Pratt
Jennifer Grunenberg	Queen's
<not received>	St. John's
Amanda Ospina	U. Albany
Jennifer McCorry	St. John Fisher College

Made by: Kelly Yim; Seconded by: Rosemarie Gatzek

Approved unanimously.

6. Presidents Reports

NYLA President Jen Cannell delivered her final Presidents report and reflected on the year that was. NYLA Immediate Past President Michelle Young also presented her final report to Council and thanked the group.

NYLA President-Elect Claudia Depkin noted looking forward to the work ahead in the coming year.

7. Executive Director’s Report

NYLA Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen reviewed his written report and answered questions.

8. Legislative Report

NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy Briana McNamee provided an update on recent legislative activities, and spotlighted the six part Advocacy Fundamentals webinar series being sponsored in partnership with the Western New York Library Resources Council, as well as an upcoming hearing held by the NYS Assembly Libraries Committee on the topic of the impact of COVID-19 on libraries.

9. Section / Roundtable / Committee Reports

Section, round table and committee representatives presented on their submitted written reports.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:18 PM.