



NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 2, 2023

3:15 PM to 4:45 PM

via Web Conference

NYLA President, Arlene Laverde Presiding

In Attendance:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arlene Laverde, <i>President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Delaney, <i>SMART President</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kropp, <i>President-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Pressimone, <i>SSL Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beth Merkle, <i>Immediate Past President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joyce Laiosa, <i>YSS Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Harris, <i>Treasurer</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank McKenna, <i>Treasurer-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristina Graves, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keturah Cappadonia, <i>ALA Chapter Councilor</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Osterhout, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julia Corrice, <i>ASLS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginger Tebo, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerstin Cruger, <i>FLS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Kenney, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Perrine, <i>LAMS Representative</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rakisha Kearns-White, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Currie, <i>LTAS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AnnaLee Dragon, <i>Executive Director (ex-officio)</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joe Burke, <i>PLS President</i> | |

Absent:

Michelle Isopo, *IDEAS President*

Guests:

Lauren Hoyt, *NYLA Director of Association Operations*

Max Prime, *NYLA Director of Government Relations and Advocacy*

C Romeo, *NYLA Director of Communications and Member Engagement*

Kristin Charles-Scaringi

Tim Furgal

Rachel Ivy Clarke

Terry Mulee

Tay Roylance

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda

NYLA President Arlene Laverde called the meeting to order at 3:15pm and welcomed the group.

MOTION I: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Made by: Kelly Harris

Seconded by: Laura Osterhout

Approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2022 NYLA Council Meeting

Joyce Laiosa noted one slight change to be made on page 3, under item b, Motion V. It says the Arlene Laverde made the motion, but she was not present at the meeting. AnnaLee will review the recording and correct this error.

MOTION II: Motion to approve Minutes from December 15, 2022 NYLA Council Meeting as amended.

Made by: Kelly Harris

Seconded by: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn

Arlene Laverde and Kerstin Cruger abstain. Motion approved.

3. Update on IMLS – Alternate Pathways to Librarianship Grant
Tim Furgal, co-founder of the NYLA Pathways to Librarianship Task Force, and Tay Royland, graduate student working on the IMLS Grant, presented an update. Tim and his co-Principal Investigator from NYLA’s IMLS grant partner Syracuse University, Rachel Ivy Clarke presented the project website for review, which is available here: <https://pathways.ischool.syr.edu/>. They have created an advisory board, and you can review the board members and their current grant activities on that website. The grant leadership is beginning to recruit research assistants for the upcoming phases of the work, and the assistants will be paid a \$500 honorarium. They hope to get 2 representatives from each of the 9 ESLN Councils to get representation from all over the state. Please spread the word about this opportunity within your own networks.
4. Unfinished Business
 - a. Confirmation of electronic vote regarding funds transfer from the Fund for the Future
NYLA Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon reported that an electronic vote had been held to move \$60,000 from the Fund for the Future to the operating account, to cover the remaining expected deficit budget for the year.
19 Councilors voted electronically, all in the affirmative. Motion approved.
 - b. NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy
AnnaLee Dragon reported that the hiring process had been completed, and Maxwell Prime had begun work at NYLA as the new Director of Government Relations and Advocacy on Monday, January 30, 2023. Briana McNamee, who held the position prior to Max, is working on the onboarding process and helping smooth the transition as we are at a pivotal time for advocacy in our calendar year.
 - c. NYLA/SLI MOU
After the Council vote directing AnnaLee Dragon to reach out to the Sustainable Libraries Initiative (SLI) to pursue a possible MOU between NYLA and the SLI, AnnaLee has a meeting with two of the founders of SLI, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Roger Reyes, on Friday, February 3.
5. New Business
 - a. Nominating Committee Members for Approval
Beth Merkle, Immediate Past-President, presented a slate for the Nominating Committee. In addition to Beth Merkle, the proposed slate included:
Lisa Perkowski, SSL
Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, LAMS
Emily Clasper, ASLS
Alana Mutum, IDEAS

Julie Corrice, ASLS President raised a question because she believed that ASLS had put forth a name for the Nominating Committee, Amanda McCormack. This began a discussion about if section representatives on the Nominating Committee were rotated, so not every section was represented every year but took turns instead and also how the committee is created. Due to these confusions, a vote was not taken at this meeting. Beth Merkle will speak with the proposed slate and with NYLA staff and will bring a slate to the March meeting for a vote.
 - b. Financial Barriers to NYLA Leadership Positions
NYLA President Arlene Laverde raised the issue that there are financial barriers to members taking on leadership roles within NYLA. The cost of travel for meetings and events, and the time

off needed to attend those events, can make it difficult for those who aren't library directors or who work in schools and aren't reimbursed by their organizations to become more involved in the association. Arlene proposed finding some way to help future leadership with expenses to ensure equitable access to those roles. Rakisha Kearns-White echoed Arlene's concerns. President-Elect Lisa Kropp suggested that the Executive Committee should look at creating a strategic plan, in concert with the work being done by the Balanced Budget Task Force, that might address some of these concerns. AnnaLee suggested that possibly while reimbursements for full Council may not be possible, potentially there could be reimbursements or financial assistance for the Executive Committee roles for the extra trips they are asked to make throughout the year above and beyond regular Council meetings.

c. Membership Database

Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon discussed that she and Director of Association Operations Lauren Hoyt had shopped around for a replacement membership database. After reviewing 3 proposals from different companies, AnnaLee announced that NYLA has signed a contract for a new membership database, Member Clicks, beginning in January 2024. NYLA will end its relationship with MemberMax, due to its lack of a web-based platform, its expense, and its frustrating user experience. The plan is for NYLA to begin transitioning to the new database behind the scenes over the summer of 2023, with a launch to membership in January 2024. This will save NYLA money, improve all user interfaces with our database, and give us a new and improved website as well.

d. Staff Restructuring

Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon updated Council on staffing. Since both Briana McNamee and Kate Pauly had left NYLA at the end of December for other opportunities that paid significantly more, AnnaLee decided after discussions with the Executive Committee to not fill Kate's position. This allows for the flexibility to offer better salaries which will attract and retain quality staff to NYLA, while not making NYLA's financial situation worse. Lauren has taken on an increased role, with a new title and commensurate salary, as our Director of Association Operations. Lauren will take over several of Kate's responsibilities that are closely tied to membership, including events registrations and contracts, and some operational functions. C Romeo has agreed to take on the Developing Leaders Program and the Library Skills Academy, and AnnaLee will pick up the other tasks. We are also considering hiring a temp worker for some administrative support for a few months out of the year leading up to conference (which is the busiest time of year). This may also mean re-prioritizing and asking for increased assistance from Council and Committees.

6. Finance Report

a. December Financial Statement

NYLA Treasurer Kelly Harris presented the December Financial Statement. AnnaLee clarified two issues:

- 1) At the December meeting, Council had asked what was listed under the Unrestricted Gifts line that was showing as roughly \$14,000. Those were funds that needed to be reclassified in Quickbooks, and that has now been corrected and those funds have been moved to their proper lines.
- 2) In this December statement, at the very top, under line 4150: Affiliate Dues/Income, it shows \$95,629.00. That is in the incorrect location, it actually represents the NYALS Excelsior Dues which belong under lines 4580: Advocacy Support and 4585: Advocacy Materials and Event Support. It will be corrected in the next statement.

b. Balanced Budget Task Force Update

NYLA Treasurer Kelly Harris updated the Council on the Balanced Budget Task Force (BBTF) activities and plans. Due to the complexity of the issues at hand, Kelly requested that we extend the deadline for the BBTF recommendations, and to update the BBTF charge to include revisiting membership dues and structure. AnnaLee Dragon will send out an update with a new due date and an updated charge for the BBTF so Council can take an electronic vote before the end of the month.

c. Audit Process

AnnaLee Dragon reported that we are still in process in with BST on our 2021-2022 audit. It has taken longer than anticipated to locate and collect the necessary documentation due to turnover at NYLA in both staff and bookkeepers.

7. President's Report

Arlene Laverde reviewed her written report.

8. President-Elect's Report

Lisa Kropp reviewed her written report.

9. Past President's Report

Beth Merkle reviewed her written report.

10. Executive Director's Report

AnnaLee Dragon reviewed her written report.

11. Legislative Report

Max Prime introduced himself as NYLA's new Director of Government Relations and Advocacy. Max then summarized the recently released Executive Budget, which included:

- \$96.127M in State Aid to Libraries (down \$3.5M from last year's enacted budget of \$99.627M)
- \$14M in Library Construction Aid (down \$20M from last year's enacted budget of \$34M)
- \$6.25 per pupil in Library Materials Aid (static since 2007)

There is a Legislative Committee Meeting scheduled soon which we will need to reschedule as Max will be testifying at the Education Committee budget hearing on the same day.

Max is working to set up meetings with the new Chairs of the library committees in both the Senate and Assembly, along with AnnaLee.

12. Section/ALA/Committee Reports

Section representatives reviewed their written reports. The only correction from the packet was that it said no report was received from SSL, but that was incorrect. Dawn Pressimone did in fact send in her report, and AnnaLee apologized for that error.

Dawn reported for SSL:

- Winter Board Meeting is in Fishkill on February 4, 2023
- SSL Conference is May 4-6, 2023 in Binghamton – Registration is now open
- SSL 2024 Conference will be in Lake Placid
- Summer Leadership Institute is July 27-28, 2023 in Syracuse
- SSL is currently accepting applications for scholarships to conference and awards for administrators

- SSL is collaborating with YSS on the NYLA Youth Advocacy Committee

13. Review/Adjournment

MOTION III: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Kelly Harris Seconded by: Kerstin Cruger

Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 16 via Zoom at 3:15pm