LAMS Minutes of March 18 2009


President Lubin called the meeting to order at 10:30.

There was no objection to adding to agenda: a request by NYLA Executive Michael Borges’ consideration of a proposal that NYLA affiliate with NYSUT; that LAMS manage a job center at Conference; and, that we take a role in the management of the Leadership and Management Academy.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion Julie and Ed.

Frank provided a Treasurer’s Report. The beginning balance for February was $12,120.78. Dues for February were $317.75 (YTD $897.25). There were $210 year to date expenses and an end of February balance of $12,228.53. The Treasurer’s report was approved on a motion by Julie and a second by Ed.

Under Legislative Committee it was reported that we had a very successful Lobby Day with over 1,000 people in attendance and that leaders in both Chambers said that their chambers had either already restored the $18 million in library funding into their budget versions or had support for restoration. We were cautioned that the Governor has a line item veto however.

It was also reported that due to a Broome Co. challenge a language change for 414 needs to be made replicating school district law. (There needs to be a mechanism to decrease rates). Also, there is a proposed change to Central Library Aid funding law to allow CBA to apply to any format of materials and to allow system bidding for materials that would be valid for member libraries. Finally it was reported that NYLA PAC has raised $25,000 after five years with 200 regular contributors.

Under Membership Julie reported that we now have a record 459 members: an increase in both basic and additional from 2008. Of concern is that we did not get an expiring member list and are trying to do so.

Evaluations show that our 2008 Continuing Education conference program on creating library policies was very well received. The highest scores were for presenter knowledge and practical application. It was reported that CE’s in Saratoga took in $57,887, a record amount.

Rebecca provided a NYLA Council Update from February. There was an issue as to whether NYLA should pay to send ALA Councilor for travel which had been cut – however our councilor’s previous trip will be paid. The question on later travel costs will be decided at a later date. Michael’s advocacy work was discussed and it was noted that he was a guest on a Legislative Cable show. The new Educational CE requirements of 60 hours over five years was also mentioned.

A proposal was submitted by the Executive Director that we become an affiliate of NYSUT. One serious issue of concern involves section 2. D. that “Each library employee organized by NYSUT for the purpose of collective bargaining on and after the effective date of this Agreement shall, by virtue of such organizing, automatically become a member of NYLA if not already a member (“newly organized membership”). NYLA shall receive as dues for each member comprising such newly organized membership $25 per year per full dues equivalent (FDE) NYSUT member, with such dues amount being reduced proportionally for less than full dues equivalent members”. One concern is that NYLA would be officially endorsing a union, another was that due to our relative size we would still not be a priority for NYSUT, another was that NYSUT already represents school librarians (the main component of NYSUT membership) and thus this would not really be a change. Finally there was concern about the affect of this on our dues structure and income. It was pointed out that our hope is that the agreement would provide Michael access to the legislative leadership.
NYLA Executive Director asks if we would manage a Job Center at Conference. In discussion it was suggested that if we are to do that we need to have a good booth location and appropriate space. There was concern that Saturday is not the best day for this. It was suggested also that if we do it, we need to either recruit experienced HR people or pay a job counselor.

Regarding our assistance with the Leadership Institute Rebecca will speak to Michael to get more information. There was no agreement that we would serve as room monitors, although we could ask LAMS members for volunteers. Rebecca will meet with Michael to discuss. We are interested but need more specifics.

LAMSCOM Update: Frank and Julie will work on this with Frank as the spearhead. Rebekkah did a Launch Strategy Proposal. Frank will go to CIL Conference in March and will write posts from there. They will then look for other leaders to post issues. We could aim for one post per month. We could each take a month. Each Board member will be an administrator and thus able to post. There was discussion about how we could allow LAMS members to opt-out but other than limited to new posts to one per month there was no resolution to that.

Elections: Treasurer and President-Elect are up for election. Julie will head the nominating committee – Pat or Phyllis will be asked to serve on the committee.

Rebekkah distributed a spreadsheet of planned programs, following feedback from the NYLA programming Committee.

Ed asked about paying for the travel for Kimberley’s programs. 21 ideas and Creating Spaces. There were no Board objections as it was felt that while she is a librarian she is not practicing in New York. It was suggested that PLS should help with the cost since they are co-sponsor of 21 Ideas. $100 was suggested.

The Luncheon keynote and Creating We program was discussed. Richard was able to negotiate a price of $4,000 for Judith Glaser whose regular corporate fee is $25,000. It was felt that this is on the high side for us but that if we can get RASS to chip in we should proceed. Rebecca will check with them. If we do it, we would like to have taping rights for non-profit within the association use. If that does not work, I will contact Lisa Giruzzi from Transformational Conversations to do a similar program.

There was discussion of whether we should do the Teleconferencing program and in what form. A panel with several systems considered was suggested as a possibility.

Rebekkah proposed a sale item for conference, LittleMismatched.com sells very colorful, playful socks in sets of three, unmatched. We would sell the socks at our booth and possibly through the NYLA store. Rebecca will check on the price and whether we could send back what is not sold. She will also look into a way to have the design done.

Regarding the booth Richard suggested that we raffle off a WII this year for conference.

The Board concurred that we want to do the “best program idea provided” again for $600 for scholarship for Conference in Saratoga 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:46pm on a motion by Richard and a second by Julie.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Richard Naylor
Appointed secretary for the meeting