



## **NYLA Council Meeting**

Thursday, January 30, 2020

11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

NYLA Headquarters, Guilderland, NY

NYLA President, Dr. Jennifer Cannell Presiding

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

**Via Web-conference:** Kelly Yim, *PLS President*; Ana Canino-Fluit, *Councilor-at-Large*;

**Absent:** Dana Sinclair, *RASS President*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*

**Guests:** Briana McNamee, *NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy*

## **Council Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2019 NYLA Council Meeting

**MOTION I:** Motion to approve minutes from the December 12, 2019 Council Meeting with noted corrections. Made by: Lisa Wemett, Seconded by: Stacey Rattner  
Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2020 NYLA Executive Committee Call  
The NYLA Executive Committee met on January 16 to discuss the final recommendations of the Sandra Nelson organizational review, and the implementation plans for the recommendations.

Questions regarding the source of the funding for the implementation plan (as approved on the 1-16 call) were requested, and provided. The complete final report from Sandra Nelson will be shared with Council.

**MOTION II:** Motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2020 NYLA Executive Committee call as presented.

Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Tim Furgal  
Approved unanimously.

4. Finance Report
  - a. January Monthly Statement

NYLA Treasurer Roger Reyes reviewed the December 2019 NYLA Financial Statement and addressed questions.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Library System Bulk Purchase Based on Blanketed Individual Membership

The proposed model for allowing (large public) library systems an alternative model for purchasing bundles of 500 or more individual memberships was revisited. While the audience for the model is definitely limited, it was agreed it was sensible to make available.

**MOTION III:** Motion to approve the proposed bulk purchase of individual memberships via a library system as presented.

Made by: Grace Riario , Seconded by: Roger Reyes

Approved unanimously.

6. New Business

a. Endorsement of EarthDay.org Education Partnership Agreement

NYLA President-Elect and President of the Sustainable Thinking and Action Round Table, Claudia Depkin, presented on the zero-cost opportunity for NYLA to sign-on as a partner to EarthDay.org.

**MOTION IV:** Motion to endorse EarthDay.org as an organizational partner.

Made by: Claudia Depkin, Seconded by: Stacey Rattner

Approved unanimously.

b. Approval of FY19-20 NYLA 990 (distributed separately)

The FY2018-2019 IRS 990 form was not received in time for action at this meeting.

c. Adoption of LTAS Membership Rider

In order to assure that the newly formed Library Trustees Association Section has adequate resources to underwrite the continuation of their activities from prior to becoming a Section, a flat-rate to imbue all trustees of a public library, which is a NYLA organizational member, with full NYLA membership was devised. This 'rider' would be available to NYLA organizational members annually. The collected rider dues would be transferred to LTAS.

**MOTION V:** Motion to approve the LTAS membership rider platform and associated dues rates as presented.

Made by: Jean Currie, Seconded by: Grace Riario

Approved unanimously.

d. Legal Defense Fund Request – Suffolk County Library Director

A request for support from the Legal Defense Fund was received from a NYLA member in Suffolk County. The member is the former director of a library, and is being subjected to a frivolous lawsuit by the board of her former employer, based on whistle-blower actions undertaken. The Public Library Directors Association of Suffolk County has agreed to provide a donation to the LDF to off-set this award.

**MOTION VI:** Motion to provide \$2500 from the NYLA Legal Defense Fund in support of the legal fees of the former library director from Suffolk County.

Made by: Cassie Guthrie, Seconded by: Todd Schlitt.

Approved unanimously.

e. Legal Defense Fund Request – Flower Memorial Library, Watertown, NY

A request for support from the Legal Defense Fund was received from the Flower Memorial Library in Watertown, NY. The library has incurred legal expenses of \$37K for defending the library, and their use of provisions of Education Law 259, against a complaint filed with the NYS Commissioner of Education. Should the ruling be against the library, it would cut-off 51 libraries statewide from school district ballot access.

**MOTION VII:** Motion to provide \$20K from the NYLA Legal Defense Fund in support of the Flower Memorial Library in relation to their defense of the complaint to the Commissioner of Education, and to conduct a fund raising appeal with a goal of \$50k in order to develop the Legal Defense Fund.

Made by: Grace Riario, Seconded by: Michelle Young

Approved unanimously.

f. NYLA Personnel Policies Review Taskforce

The NYLA Personnel Policies Handbook is overdue for review and revision to current operational practices.

**MOTION VIII:** Motion to establish a taskforce to be chaired by Claudia Depkin, to complete a review of the NYLA Personnel Policies Handbook, and return recommendations for revisions by the September 2020 Council meeting.

Made by: Tim Furgal, Seconded by: Tara Thibault-Edmonds

Approved unanimously.

7. Strategic Planning Discussion

The NYLA Council engaged in an exercise to explore baseline assumption about effective organizations, as a starting off point for the Strategic Planning process slated to conclude in November 2020.

8. Executive Committee Reports

a. President's Report

NYLA President Jen Cannell reviewed her written report.

b. President-Elect's Report

NYLA President-elect Claudia Depkin reviewed her written report.

c. Immediate Past President's Report

NYLA Immediate Past President Michelle Young reviewed her written report, which included slates for the following committees:

i. Nominating Committee

Members to include:

Marcy Strong (ASLS), Jill Leinung (SSL), Debbie Emerson (PLS), Sandra Echols (LAMS)

**MOTION IX:** Motion to approve the slate of the 2020 Nominating Committee as presented.

Made by: Michelle Young, Seconded by: Stacey Rattner

Approved unanimously.

ii. Awards Committee

Members to include:

Tim Burke (PLS), Kelly Wilson (SSL), Kelsey Milner (ASLS)

**MOTION X:** Motion to approve the slate of the 2020 Awards Committee as presented.

Made by: Michelle Young, Seconded by: Claudia Depkin

Approved unanimously.

9. Executive Director's Report

NYLA Executive Director Jeremy Johannesen amended his written report to include,

- status on the 2020 Conference program proposals (97 at meeting time),
- responses to the online advocacy engagement regarding the Executive Budget (1400 at meeting time),
- attendance at the Governor's Census Conference, and participation on a panel,
- success of the NYers Reception at ALA MidWinter Conference
- an invitation for a board liaison from NYLA to the State University of New York Librarians Association (SUNYLA),
- the status of the technology upgrades for the NYLA HQ Conference Room.

10. Legislative Report

NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Briana McNamee, presented updates on the 2020 NYLA Legislative Agenda, as well as other monitored legislation, and the status of library funding in the Executive Budget.

11. Section / Roundtable / ALA / Committee Reports

NYLA Section, Roundtable, ALA Chapter Councilor and Committee Reports were reviewed.

**MOTION XI:** Motion to adjourn the January 30, 2020 Council meeting at 3:43 PM.

Made by: Todd Schlitt, Seconded by Rosemarie Gatzek

Approved unanimously.