



## **NYLA Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 17, 2020

3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Online via GoToMeeting 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*; Dana Sinclair, *RASS President*; Todd Schlitt, *SCLA Representative*, Rosemarie Gatzek, *SMART President*; Amanda Schiavulli, *YSS President*; Simone Yearwood, *Councilor-at-Large*; Cassie Guthrie, *ALA Chapter Councilor*; Ana Canino-Fluit, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jeremy Johannesen, *NYLA Executive Director (ex-officio)*

**Absent:** Kelly Yim, *PLS President*; Stacey Rattner, *Councilor-at-Large*; Tara Thibault-Edmonds, *SSL President*; Stephanie Hartwell-Mandella, *Councilor-at-Large*; Tom Vitale, *Councilor-at-Large*; Jane Verostek, *Councilor-at-Large*

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

## **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 August 6, 2020 NYLA Council Meeting

**MOTION I:** Motion to approve minutes from the August 6, 2020 Council Meeting with noted corrections.  
Made by: Claudia Depkin; Seconded by: Tim Furgal  
Approved unanimously.

### 3. Finance Report

#### a. July Monthly Financial Statement

- i. The report represented the first month of the fiscal year, as well as the first monthly statement generated via QuickBooks.
- ii. Roger reviewed the June 2020 monthly statement, reflective of the year-end. Expected expenses were 759K, with an actual of 732K. We remained on budget, despite the peak of COVID-19.

#### b. Update on Financial Procedures

- i. NYLA, and all units, have new chart of accounts which will provide a clearer picture of income and expense categories.
- ii. NYLA will host a webinar for all Unit Treasurers, to review the new operations.

c. Update on FY 19-20 Independent Audit

- i. The independent auditors have completed their field work for the FY19-20 audit.
- ii. For 2021 an RFP will be issued and reviewed to select a new Independent Auditor based on best practices.

4. President's Update

In the last month, NYLA President Jen Cannell has participated in several advocacy efforts which included meetings with Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kristen Gillibrand, and Congressman Joseph Morelle. Jen also presented at the University of Buffalo, School Librarians Institute. These speaking opportunities were focused on technology and adaptation during these times as librarians.

5. Executive Director's Update

The NYLA Staff has been working at 115% and juggling many responsibilities with a new staff. Currently, Conference Registration stands at a 186. Typically, 75% of registrations are received by the Early Bird Registration deadline. This year, we are able to accommodate group registration, submitted via organizational membership. Trade Show revenue is already at 65% of budget and we have a plan to expand upon that.

A live pre-conference program (11/3) focused on libraries response to COVID-19 is being planned that will feature a panel of speakers and will be free for all.

6. Legislative Update

a. Expanded Advocacy Opportunities & Tracking Model

The Legislative Committee has reviewed and advanced a proposal developed by NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy Bri McNamme, to expand the model of advocacy operations. This new model is intended to make NYLA's advocacy activities more proactive, and centers on sorting legislation impacting the library community into eleven broad categories. A complete overview and FAQ document was shared.

**MOTION II:** To approve and adopt the expanded advocacy operating model as presented.

Made by: The Legislative Committee; Seconded by: Jean Currie

Approved unanimously.

b. FY 2021-22 NYS Budget Ask

The Legislative Committee has reviewed and advanced a proposal developed by NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy Bri McNamme, to set the budgetary ask for the coming State fiscal year. The proposal calls for \$123.1M in Library Aid, and \$45M for Library Construction Aid.

**MOTION III:** To approve and adopt the FY2021-22 Budget asks of \$123.1M for Library Aid and \$45M for Library Construction Aid.

Made by Legislative Committee; Seconded by Roger Reyes

Approved unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business

a. NYLA Anti-Racist Actions Update

The Executive Director was charged with developing and executing a strategy for reaching out to the membership to assemble a working group to begin the task of establishing realistic deliverables. This is a

large task and we need to ensure these are SMART goals as we tackle the intersection of the New York Library Association, the library community, and systemic racism.

b. Pathway's to Librarianship Update

Councilmember, Tim Furgal is moving ahead with gathering a working group together to define deliverables and assess how best to bring the right voices to the conversation. Further updates to come.

8. New Business

a. Recommendations from the NYLA Awards Committee for 2020

i. Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director

**Motion IV:** Motion to award the 2020 Mary Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award to Melissa Tacke from the Castleton Public Library.

Made by: the Awards Committee; Seconded by Claudia Depkin

Approved unanimously.

ii. Intellectual Freedom Award

**Motion V:** Motion to award the 2020 NYLA Intellectual Freedom Award to James Neal.

Made by: the Awards Committee; Seconded by Grace Riario

Approved unanimously.

iii. Dewey Fellowships (FLS, LAMS, PLS, RASS)

**Motion VI:** Motion to award 2020 Dewey Fellowships to, Kerstin Cruger, representing FLS, Emily Dowie, representing LAMS, and Chanté M. Hope, representing RASS.

Made by: Michelle Young; Seconded by: Grace Riario

Approved unanimously.

(note PLS did not advance a nominee)

iv. NYLA Above & Beyond Award

**Motion VII:** Motion to award the 2020 NYLA Above & Beyond Award to Barbara Stripling.

Made by: the Awards Committee; Seconded by Lisa Wemett

Approved unanimously by all present with the exception of Dr. Jen Cannell, who abstained.

v. NYLA-NYBLC Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship – Rebecca Garcia

**Motion VIII:** Motion to award the 2020 NYLA-NYBLC Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship to Rebecca Garcia.

Made by: the NYBLC; Seconded by: Michelle Young

Approved unanimously.

b. St. John Fisher - Master of Science in Library Media – Dewey Scholarship Eligibility

A proposed change in the eligibility requirements for the Dewey Scholarship has been put forward for consideration. The Master of Science in Library Media program at St. John Fisher has completed its national accreditation. The program leads to an ALA accredited degree, and graduates are typically placed as school librarians.

**Motion IV:** Motion to include the Master of Science in Library Media in the eligible degrees available to those applying for a NYLA Dewey Scholarship, effective immediately.

Made by: Cassie Guthrie; Seconded by Claudia Depkin

Approved unanimously by all present with the exception of Dr. Jen Cannell, who abstained.

c. NYLA Councilor-at-Large – replacement approval

Elected candidate, Stephanie Hartwell-Mandela, has resigned her current seat effective 8/7/2020, and vacated her not-yet-seated term as Councilor-at-Large (as she is moving to California). The candidate garnering the second highest number of votes in the recently completed election was Lisa Kropp. Lisa has agreed to accept the appointment as Council-at-Large if approved.

**Motion IV:** Motion to approve the appointment of Lisa Kropp to fill the Councilor-at-Large seat vacated by Stephanie Hartwell-Mandela, based on the results of the June-July 2020 election.

Made by: Cassie Guthrie; Seconded by Lisa Wemett

Approved unanimously.

9. Unit Updates (Good of the Order)

a. ALA Chapter Councilor – Cassie Guthrie

The Midwinter Meeting has been converted to a virtual event.

ALA is conducting Council business online, including advancing the “Forward Together” project.

b. FLS – Lisa Wemett

Next week is the “Engaging Millennial’s as Friends Volunteers” Webinar on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2PM.

c. SMART – Rosemarie Garcia

SMART is looking for questions for the upcoming recording on “The Library of Things.”

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