LAMS Board Meeting  
Friday, March 23, 2012  
Mid-Hudson Library System  

Attendees: Tim Burke, President; Claudia Depkin, President-Elect; Pat Kaufman, Secretary; Mary Trev Thomas, Treasurer; Rebekkah-Smith Aldrich; Rob Carle; Ed Falcon; Richard Naylor  
Excused: Rebecca Lubin; Frank Rees; Gillian Thorpe  

Meeting called to order 10:45am.  

Approval of Minutes: Mary Trev moved to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2011 Board meeting as amended. Bekkah seconded. Passed unanimously.  

Treasurer’s Report—Mary Trev Thomas [Copy attached.]  
For the eight months ending February 29, 2012:  
- Revenues total $7,680.35 from dues and conference allocations and miscellaneous.  
- Expenses total $7,978.97 for Conference expenses.  
- Closing balance $14,139.52.  
Claudia moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Richard seconded. Passed unanimously.  

Confirmation of Electronic Votes  
There were no electronic votes.  

NYLA Liaison Reports  
NYLA Council —Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich  
Michael Borges’ resignation precipitated a major discussion. He was thanked and recognized for his thoroughness and for the refinancing of the mortgage. A recommendation was made to hire him as an advocacy consultant during Jeremy Johansen’s interim term.  
Tim reported on the executive session regarding the replacement of Borges. Having two administrative heads, one for operations and one for advocacy will not work. We need to have the CEO as the talker to funders. Jeremy can run the operations; Michael is not good at that. Council did agree to hire an assistant for Jeremy so he can be both the interim director and plan the conference.  
The search committee consists of the Executive Committee of NYLA, the Council Treasurer, the Senior Councilor at large, and the three Presidents of NYLA (Past, Present, Incoming). Bekkah said that April 1 was unrealistic target date. It is more likely that a new director will be hired in June or mid-summer.  
Tim said this is a good time to fill the position and Albany is a good place to be. The salary still is to be discussed.
Michael asked Council to hold off on hiring anyone for three months in case his new position doesn’t work out. He said that he did struggle with the decision to leave; he enjoyed the library world and was very sympathetic to its mission.

Pat suggested that it might be time to rethink how we view the structure and responsibilities of NYLA.

Tim and Richard both said we need to pay top dollar for an advocate. Richard was surprised that Michael stayed so long.

Bekkah said the Leadership Management Academy will continue its scheduled sessions in June at Saratoga.

The digital literacy project – the goal is to have 1400 librarians trained to train and patrons will get a certificate of completion. The curriculum is being developed through a three-year federal grant.

**Membership—Tim Burke**

Tim said Rebecca agreed to serve as chair until we bring some new people in.

**Continuing Education—Pat Kaufman**

Discussion of the overhead charge backs to sections for preconference CEs.

**Public Awareness—Gillian Thorpe**

No report.

**Legislative—Rebekkah Smith-Aldrich**

The Senate supported a 4% increase. The Assembly supported only 1.5% increase. That both agreed to give an increase was a plus. Michael’s advocacy work in New York City was probably a major factor.

It looks like the MTA tax on libraries will be repealed.

She handed out the 2012 Legislative Priorities sheet that was distributed on Advocacy Day.

- Discussion of access to funded research.
- Discussion of system funding flexibility. Carol Desch did an excellent presentation. There was concern among Central Library directors that they would not get funding; it was put back into the bill. The flexibility would save DLD money. Tim and Richard said we need to speak with a unified voice.
- Michael organized a round table discussion of diverse library people and elected officials the night before Advocacy Day. The difficulty we have with e-books was an eye opener for the officials. [A discussion of the three publishers’ models for selling e-books to libraries.]

Tim thought on the whole Advocacy Day went very well and that we will have a budget on April 1.

**LAMS Reports**

**JLAMS—Richard Naylor**

Now up to four people who are working on articles for the Spring issue. There had been five but
one person sent her article to other journals. Richard sent it out for review; it needed some work but was accepted as is at another journal. Richard said the hard part is getting articles.

Web Liaison—Frank Rees
Frank said the content management system was updated in February so he postponed updating our information. He hopes to get all LAMS updates done by the end of March. Richard suggested using Constant Contact or something similar to touch base with our members on a regular basis. We should do something in addition to Facebook. Bekkah mentioned some marketing guidelines – print four times a year, e-newsletter monthly, Facebook daily. Claudia will look into finding a vendor and setting it up but someone needs to take charge of it, possibly Gillian. Pat suggested having some set pieces to facilitate getting the newsletter together. Bekkah suggested using hoot suite to amalgamate the social media inputs. Tim asked if LAMS ever had someone coordinate all communication/public awareness. We will approach Gillian to see if she would be interested. It may require a budget. Mary Trev and Rob offered to help.

Old Business
2012 Conference Planning
All presenters are set except…. Tim and Claudia will rework the descriptions to liven them up.

- **The two half day CEs**
  - Policy Handbook Boot Camp: People want to walk away with policies but the purpose of the CE is to provide a framework for developing policies.
  - Discussion of the title Board Leadership Begins With You.

- **The programs**
  - Leadership on the Digital Frontier: Bekkah is the point person. Need two table top mikes.
  - I Still Don’t Want to Talk About It: Jennifer Rogers is the moderator. Both Pat and Bekkah raised questions about her familiarity with our program format, especially since it is our membership meeting. Tim and Claudia will talk with her. Mary Trev is the point person. Need two table top mikes.
  - Design on a Dime: Bekkah suggested adding Patti Haar to the program. She has introduced some controversial things in Patterson.
  - Carson offered to do some face time with a consultant. We need to think of the best way to offer this to a conference attendee. Do panel before luncheon.
  - Community Leaders: Rebecca is the point person.
  - Luncheon: Jeremy suggested we raise our price. We declined. We aren’t trying to make money and if we lost attendees, our speaker cost would go up. Bekkah emphasized that the presentation must focus on the leadership aspect of embracing the change, not the technological aspects. She feels we are challenging him. We need to talk to Jeremy about the service aspects of the luncheon. Menu? We will discuss in June.

- **Other**
  - We need head shots for those presenters that we do have them for. They are due in April.

- **Booth**
  - Tim has every confidence that Gillian will do a great job. She presented some thoughts at last meeting – a big book.
**New LAMS Board Members**

List of current people interested in the LAMS Board. We have two openings. Tim is not sure about all the names. We also are looking for geographical diversity.

- Lauren Smedley, Fayetteville Public Library – has done some great things at her library. Tim will call her to invite her to the Board. If she is agreeable, then we hold an electronic vote.
- Jim Kellerher – is he still at Queens?
- Lauren Comito, Queens- dressed up as Super Librarian at Advocacy Day. Tm will call her to assess her interest in a possible position.
- Gloria Goverman, East Fishkill Public Library.
- Sukrit Gowami, Saugerties Public Library.
- Lisa Paolo, Franklin Square.

Possible assignments

- Regional ambassadors
- Telephone contact with expiring members
- Assisting Gillian

**Leadership Academy – LAMS role**

Tim feels we have an opportunity to make it better. He believes Jeremy will be open to our suggestions and he will resume the conversation with Jeremy. Rebecca also is currently involved. Richard thinks it is more administrative than leadership. Tim thinks it has merit. There had been some issues with the LIU program. Neither wanted the other to encroach on the other’s territory. Claudia looked at the NYLA website to see what the syllabus is. The structure consists of 10 courses. Claudia read the overview and course offerings.

Tim said that NYLA is looking for suggestions for speakers, refreshing the content/offerings, and making the distinction between leadership and management. Concerns have been expressed regarding the quality of the presenters.

**New Business**

**Appoint new NYLA Membership Liaison**

Pat moved to appoint Rebecca Lubin NYLA Membership Liaison. Claudia seconded. Passed unanimously.

**NYLA Executive Director Discussion**

Bekkah said that NYLA is a member driven organization so the Executive Director and Council need to work together. We need to look for someone who has built coalitions, who is a team builder, not a cowboy.

Tim said that treating the membership with respect is also important so that the members will be supportive. If everybody paid something, then NYLA would have funding. The Executive Director and Council must be on same page.

**Other Issues**

Richard asked if Council will bring up e-book issues? He believes that NYLA should pass a resolution that publishers have to sell e-books to libraries for same price that they sell them to book retailers, etc.
Richard asked how can we bring academic librarians into the mix? They are an untapped market yet they have been working in isolation, presenting their own legislative priorities.

**Next Meeting**
Tim will do a doodle survey to come up with a meeting date in June.

Claudia moved to adjourn. Mary Trev seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia Kaufman*
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Secretary