LAMS Board Meeting
Mon., November 26, 2013
Mid-Hudson Library System, Poughkeepsie, NY


Excused: Mary Trev Thomas.

1. Meeting called to order: 10:40am.

2. Approval of Minutes: Claudia moved to accept the minutes from the September 25, 2013 meeting. Frank seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report:
Mary Trev was not present, but she sent her report by email. The current balance is $15,993.13, and board members had several questions about details in her report. Gillian decided the report needs further clarification from Mary Trev.

4. Confirmation of Electronic Votes
There were no electronic votes.

NYLA Liaison Reports

NYLA Council (Tim)
- Council received and accepted the annual audit report, which NYLA passed without any significant issues.
- The 2013 NYLA Conference did not do well financially, falling short $25,000.00 from projected expectations. This was anticipated since the WNY conferences do not do as well as others. One of the big issues was that vendor attendance was lower than it had been in the past.
- NYLA member attendance at the conference was good. Libraries given vouchers for Hurricane Sandy attended in significant numbers.
- Discussion on travel to conferences far away from New York City, and Lauren mentioned chartering a bus for the 2015 Lake Placid Conference.
- Council passed resolution condemning the surveillance activities of the National Security Administration (NSA).
- The NYLA Legislative Committee’s agenda was reviewed and discussed by NYLA Council.
- Council approved the petition for the new section, Empire Friends.
- NYS Black Librarian Caucus asked for affiliate status with NYLA.
- Council approved a $1,000.00 donation from the NYLA Disaster Relief Fund for the Putnam Valley Public Library.
Legislative Committee (Rebekkah)

- Slight changes were made by the committee to the legislative agenda (order of items, etc.)
- The Legislative Committee discussed proposed legislation that would require six hours of training through State Education for all new public library trustees.
- The Legislative Committee discussed proposed legislation requiring all elementary schools in NYS to employ at least one librarian.
- Discussion ensued on an eBook proposal and how legislators should approach publishers. Propositions from Connecticut and Massachusetts were mentioned. Rebekkah said the Legislative Committee does not have anything specific to move forward on the eBook issue, but will keep on top of the issue.

Membership Committee (Rebecca)

The October membership report notes an increase to 461 from 416 members in July. As a goal, Rebekkah said we should break the 500 mark, and everyone cheered in agreement.

As a way to increase contact with LAMS members, Rebecca suggested we use an active member form similar to the one used by the YSS section, and YSS is happy to let us model our form after theirs.

Continuing Education (Pat)

No report, but Pat said she might have lost contact with the people chairing the committee. She said she would investigate further.

LAMS Reports

JLAMS Report (Richard)

Richard said two articles are works in progress. Rebekkah recommended an article written by the Kingston Climate Committee who is looking for a publisher. Someone suggested that new LAMS members could help find articles for JLAMS. Also discussed was a succession plan for JLAMS when Richard decides to no longer carry on this responsibility.

Website & Social Media Report (Frank, Gillian)

Gillian said there is new information on the NYLA website and LAMS Facebook page. Frank added that it is now easier for board members to upload images directly to the NYLA website.

Old business (Gillian)

Gillian led an appraisal discussion on the 2013 Conference. Overall, the programs and the booth experience went well, with some minor criticisms:

- Room was too small for the Rob and Kim Cullen program.
- Luncheon presentation overall fell short of expectations, but parts of the program were great.
- Saturday’s program attendance was low due to people using Saturday for traveling back home.
Next came a brainstorming session for programs at the 2014 NYLA Conference. The following ideas were discussed:

- Sarah Houghton, a.k.a. ‘The Librarian in Black’, might lead a panel discussion on technology related topics. Polly Farrington, with other technologists, might join the panel. The possibility of a CE could evolve from this. Lauren will follow-up and keep the board posted.
- A program on social media backlash: How librarians should present themselves in a digital environment.
- “Still don’t want to talk about it”. Continuing with a program we have had great success with in the past.
- How to design and organize an institutional structure.
- Trustees and Friends groups and how they create partnerships in fund raising projects. Possibly a joint session with the newly formed Empire Friends section, and a joint sponsorship with LAMS.
- Clive Thompson would be invited to speak. He writes about digital technologies and their social and cultural impact for a number of publications, including the New York Times Magazine and Wired magazine.
- “21 New Ideas”. Reviving a program, we have had great success with in the past.
- Program on sustainability; the role of public libraries and green initiatives.

Lauren said she might need help writing program descriptions, but the group assured her that the presenters usually write their own, so this is not a difficult task.

E-book Project (Richard)
Richard updated everyone on the eBook project (attached), followed by discussion. Some important questions raised by the board:

- Who owns eBooks? That includes licenses, and other contractual agreements with vendors and publishers. NYS legislation needs to clarify ownership.
- How would we break a lifetime lease with the vendor if we decide to move the eBook to another platform? Legislation would need to broaden the language of the leasing agreement.

Lauren suggested PLS and RASS could be a great source for reviewers, and that NetGalley could provide the librarians access to the material.

New business (Gillian)
New Board Membership Selection
To fill a vacancy on the LAMS Board, seven LAMS members sent letters explaining why they are interested in joining the LAMS Board. Each letter was carefully reviewed, and after some discussion, Tim recommended Barbara Madonna as the new board member.
Motion: Tim moved to select Barbara Madonna as our new LAMS Board member. Rebecca seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

A more general discussion followed on how the board should proceed on selecting new members. The discussion led to the following questions:

- Do we have adequate regional representation from around New York State? Should we select our members accordingly?
- Should we have regional subgroups, so all regions are represented? Should new members then be selected from these advisory committees? If we did have advisory committees, what would we ask them to do?
- What methods do we employ to determine how long each member should remain on the board? Should board members have term limits (5 years)?

Nothing conclusive was drawn from the discussion, but a committee was established to look at the LAMS Board by-laws in light of these concerns. Tim, Ed, Frank, and Rob volunteered to be on the committee.

Gillian moved to adjourn the meeting, Claudia seconded.

Meeting adjourned 1:45pm
Next meeting: TBA

Minutes respectfully submitted by,
Robert Carle,
LAMS Secretary