LAMS Board Meeting
Fri., March 28th 2014
Mid-Hudson Library System, Poughkeepsie, NY

Attendees  Rebekkah-Smith Aldrich, Tim Burke, Rob Carle, Lauren Comito, Julie Dempsey, Claudia Depkin, Ed Falcone, Rebecca Lubin, Barbara Madonna, Richard Naylor, Frank Reese, Mary Trev Thomas.
Excused Gillian Thorpe

1. Meeting called to order 10:40am.

2. Approval of Minutes Claudia moved to accept the minutes from the January 10, 2014 meeting. Tim seconded. Minutes approved.

3. Treasurer’s Report (Mary Trev)
The closing balance is $15,441.38.
Rebecca moved to approve the treasurer’s report, Tim seconded. Report approved.

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

5. NYLA Liaison Reports
NYLA Council (Rebekkah, Tim) Telephone meeting;
- As NYLA Treasurer, Tim commented on the financial solvency of NYLA.
- There was further discussion on the newly restructured organizational membership dues system, which is now in place. Libraries will have to think about how to plan their membership renewal, and this could have an effect on membership totals.
- Rebekkah discussed a resolution she proposed to Council on how libraries can promote sustainability by acting as role models for the community. The resolution was adopted by the Council. Tim proposed that LAMS focus on sustainability as a theme for conference programming next year.
- Annual conference sites for 2016 and 2017 will be Saratoga, and Jeremy is working on Rochester as a potential site for 2018.

Legislative Report (Rebekkah)
- Library Aid has been set at $86.6M, an increase of $5M over the Executive Budget, and $1M above FY2013-14.
- MTA tax exemption for libraries will be included in the budget.
- 800 people attended Advocacy Day, and 6000 emails were sent to legislators. Rebekkah emphasized emails to legislators has proven to be effective, and a more aggressive campaign is needed to get NYLA members to send more emails. She said reports indicate some legislators received far fewer emails than should be expected.
- The list of legislative priorities will once again be on the front burner now that the budget is passed.
Membership Committee (Rebecca)

- Currently, LAMS has 401 members. Membership numbers are in flux for all sections as libraries and NYLA members settle into the new organizational dues structure. Ed asked if the plan was already rolled out, and Tim answered it began in the beginning of the year, but also pointed out that NYLA has taken a few months to get the membership database ready to accept the restructured system.
- There is a continuing effort to visit Information Science programs (iSchools) to drum up NYLA and LAMS membership. This led to some discussion on establishing NYLA student chapters at the individual schools. Tim asked if each school taught a public library course and suggested that as a possible way to reach more students. Schools that did were identified, for the others, no one knew for sure.

Continuing Ed

We discussed and had questions on what were the objectives of the committee, and Gillian, who said at the previous meeting she would investigate, was not present to report.

JLAMS (Richard)

- The spring edition is ready with three articles.
- There will be a special edition in the fall on sustainability and the role libraries play in promoting sustainability initiatives in the community.
- Carol Anderson from SUNY Albany will co-edit the fall issue.
- There was some discussion on having the iSchools ask students and faculty to contribute articles for JLAMS.

Web & Social Media (Frank)

Frank suggested all board members be granted contributor privileges to the Facebook account. Rebekkah noted that videos as posts receive more ‘likes’ and encouraged us to do more of these.

NYLA Conference

- Lauren said everything is submitted and we are now waiting for final program time slots.
- Luncheon rates for all sections have been regularized at $35.00 (raising the LAMS lunch ticket by $1). Someone asked how room sizes were determined, and Tim answered sizes were dependent on ticket sales and attendance at past luncheons.
- There was discussion on the C.E. programs, and Barb Madonna volunteered to take the lead on organizing the C.E. for this year. The board decided they could manage a full day C.E. with activities and speakers.

E-Book Initiative (Richard)

- The Mid-Hudson Library System will adapt the Best of the Small Presses link on their OverDrive website page. Richard said now a greater effort is needed to get other public library systems to use this feature on their websites.
There was discussion on how different public library systems coordinate the purchase of e-content material: the central library or the public library system, or should titles be purchased by individual libraries.

**Leadership Academy (Tim)**

- Tim reported on the changes made to the program structure and curriculum; librarians would take a greater role in the instruction rather than relying on professional consultants.
- A LAMS member would act as facilitators at every session.
- Barb asked if there could be an informal reception at the annual conference for current academy students, graduates and LAMS members Tim said he would pass that idea along to Jeremy.
- Barb also asked about scheduling conflicts where conferences impact staffing at the library.
- Discussion ensued on how we can develop better library managers.

**6. New Business**

Claudia reported on topics covered at a conference call of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, which was then followed by a discussion on the value of standards for public libraries and potential changes to the standards.

Mary Trev Thomas announced that she wasretiring from Bethlehem Public Library, so she will be leaving the LAMS board after completing her term as LAMS treasurer. Her term will end at the end of the 2014 NYLA Conference. The group expressed regrets to lose Mary Trev on the board but was happy for her on her retirement.

**Leadership Academy Scholarship**

Everyone agreed there would be an essay contest for the LMA scholarship scheduled for this year. Julie Dempsey volunteered to work on the committee to judge essays for the scholarship. She and others will use last year’s schedule to set up this year’s schedule.

Mary Trev moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard seconded.

**Meeting adjourned** at 2:02 PM.

**Next meeting:** TBA

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Robert Carle,
LAMS Secretary