



NYLA Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 4, 2021

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

OnCenter / Ballroom West and Online via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 am by President Beth Merkle.

President Beth Merkle presided. Immediate Past President Barbara Stripling served as secretary of the meeting.

A quorum was established, and the following was adopted.

1. Adoption of the Rules

- a. Art Friedman moved to adopt the Rules of Order for the meeting. Sara Kelly Johns seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the Agenda

- a. President Beth Merkle read the agenda aloud with the addition of a resolution for Black Poetry Day to New Business. Jean Currie made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Jill Hurst-Wahl seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes

- a. Approved by NYLA Council, December 17, 2020

4. Introduction of Council Members and Staff

5. President's Report

- a. President Beth Merkle stated that the reports from committees, sections, round tables, task forces, and staff on their activities over the past year she received in advance of the November 3, 2021, Council meeting were impressive in the volume and quality of important work that we all continue to do for NYLA. She provided highlights from staff on their work in finance, communications, continuing education, conference, and advocacy, and concluded by thanking all for their hard work and wishing Sarah Sherlock and Colleen Smith the best in their next opportunities.

6. Treasurer's Report

- a. Treasurer Kelly Harris provided an overview of 2020-2021 financials and reported on the continuing work of the Balanced Budget Task Force.

7. Report on 2021 NYLA Elections

- a. President Beth Merkle reported on the results of the 2021 elections: Arlene Laverde moved into the position of President-Elect, Kelly Harris moved into the position of Treasurer, Frank McKenna was elected Treasurer-Elect in a special election, Laura Osterhout was elected as Councilor-at-Large for Academic/Special Libraries, and Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn was elected Councilor-at-Large for Public Libraries.

8. New Business

a. Resolution on Black Poetry Day

- i. Art Friedman made the following motion, which was seconded by Sara Kelly Johns. The motion passed unanimously:

WHEREAS the New York Library Association has a long history with supporting the arts and especially poetry, and

WHEREAS New York has the distinction of being the birthplace of the first African-American poet to publish his own verse, and

WHEREAS a number of regions of New York State have deemed it appropriate to declare October 17th, the birthdate of Jupiter Hammon, who while born as a slave of the Lloyd Family of the Plantation of Queens Village, now known as Caumset State Park, publish his own verse in 1760, and

WHEREAS the poet, Nikki Giovanni, has stated that “Poetry is part of the strong oral tradition of Black people.”

BE IT HERBY RESOLVED that the members of the NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, call upon our legislative leaders and all our state representatives to codify into law that October 17th shall now and forevermore be declared Black Poetry Day in New York State, and recognize the contributions of Jupiter Hammon and other Black poets to American life and culture, and

FURTHERMORE, we implore our colleagues throughout the State to observe this date with appropriate activities and programs that raise awareness and foster appreciation of poetry by Black poets.

Presented by NYLA Member Dr. Arthur L. Friedman on behalf of NYLA Member Stanley Ransom
NYLA Annual Conference, Syracuse, NY November 4, 2021

b. Recommended Revisions to Bylaws

- i. Past President Barbara Stripling presented a summary of the proposed changes to the NYLA bylaws and provided answers to questions submitted by members. Treasurer Kelly Harris made the motion to accept the proposed amendments to the bylaws. Sheryl Knab seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the 2021 NYLA Annual Membership meeting was made by Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn and seconded by Alana Mutum. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am by unanimous consent.