NYLA Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 4, 2022
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
In person and via Web Conference
NYLA President, Beth Merkle Presiding

In Attendance:
☒ Beth Merkle, President
☒ Arlene LaVerde, President-Elect
☒ Barbara Stripling, Immediate Past President
☒ Kelly Harris, Treasurer
☒ Frank McKenna, Treasurer-Elect
☒ Cassie Guthrie, ALA Chapter Councilor
☒ Kerstin Cruger, FLS President
☒ Amanda Perrine, LAMS Representative
☒ Jean Currie, LTAS President
☒ Meg VanPatten, PLS President
☒ Dawn Pressimone, SSL Representative
☒ Amanda Schiavulli, YSS Representative
☒ Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, Councilor-at-Large
☒ Kristina Graves, Councilor-at-Large
☒ Lisa Kropp, Councilor-at-Large
☒ Laura Osterhout, Councilor-at-Large
☒ Ginger Tebo, Councilor-at-Large
☒ Simone Yearwood, Councilor-at-Large
☒ AnnaLee Dragon, Executive Director (ex-officio)

Absent:
Angela Hackstadt, ASLS President
Alana Mutum, IDEAS President
Rosmarie Gatzek, SMART President

Guests:
Briana McNamee, NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy
Christina Romeo, NYLA Director of Communications & Member Engagement

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome / Review of Agenda
   NYLA President Beth Merkle called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and welcomed the group. There was a change to the agenda under 5.b, numbers ii, iv, viii will not be acted upon, but rather given updates as these awards are not normally announced at this time.

MOTION I: Motion to approve the amended agenda.
Made by: Arlene LaVerde       Seconded by: Kelly Harris
Approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 16, 2022 NYLA Council Meeting
   Several names were misspelled in the minutes. AnnaLee Dragon will correct the spellings.

MOTION II: Motion to approve corrected Minutes from June 16, 2022 NYLA Council Meeting.
Made by: Frank McKenna       Seconded by: Dawn Pressimone
3. Treasurer's Report
   a. June Monthly Statement
   NYLA Treasurer Kelly Harris reviewed the June financial statement, noting that there may be a few small changes to amounts as the year is closed out and items are moved from the suspense account to their correct lines. As of this statement, we ended the year at a deficit of $156,943.16, which is still a deficit, but better than the budgeted $162,800.00.

   There were questions on several budget lines show in the financial statement. The lines in question and the explanation of the expenses are as follows:
   - **4599: Misc. Income** – This line contains money that was transferred from the Fund for the Future this year.
   - **6085: Special Initiatives** – This line is used for grants and other special projects. It is only budgeted for $1,500 as there is no way to accurately predict grant activity in any year. This year’s $25,620 in expenses is from two grants, the ASLS research grant and the ULU Trauma Study IMLS grant.

   AnnaLee will look to add an income and an expense line to the current financial statement in order to track specific grant income and expenses. This should allow the current operational financial statement to more accurately reflect operational income/expenses and also allow for better tracking of grant money.

   b. Financial Review Presentation by Stephanie Mumford of Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte
   The independent auditor’s financial review report for FY2020-2021 was delivered, and recounted no operational deficiencies.

4. Unfinished Business
   There was no unfinished business to discuss.

5. New Business
   a. Selection of Accounting Firm for FY2021-2022 Audit

   **MOTION III:** Motion to approve the Executive Committee’s recommendation to hire BST & Co. CPAs, LLP for a multi-year contract to perform NYLA’s audits for FY2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 at the prices of $16,600, $17,500, and $18,400 respectively.
   Made by: Meg VanPatten    Seconded by: Laura Osterhout
   Approved unanimously.

   b. Recommendations from the NYLA Awards & Recognition Committee for 2022
      i. Distinguished Achievement Award

   **MOTION IV:** Motion to name Melissa Jacobs as winner of the Distinguished Achievement Award.
   Made by: Ginger Tebo    Seconded by: Dawn Pressimone
   Approved unanimously.

      ii. Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award

   **MOTION V:** Motion to name Tamara Gaskell as winner of the Bobinski Innovative Public Library Director Award.
   Made by: Lisa Kropp    Seconded by: Meg VanPatten
   Approved unanimously.
iii. Academic/Special Librarian of the Year Award
No nominations were received for this award, so it will not be given this year.

iv. Public Librarian of the Year Award

**MOTION VI:** Motion to name Frank E. Meriweather as winner of the Public Librarian of the Year Award.
Made by: Meg VanPatten         Seconded by: Arlene LaVerde
Approved unanimously.

v. School Librarian of the Year Award

**MOTION VII:** Motion to name Beth Cuddy as winner of the School Librarian of the Year Award.
Made by: Dawn Pressimone         Seconded by: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn
Approved unanimously.

6. President’s Report
Beth Merkle reviewed her written report.

7. President Elect’s Report
Arlene LaVerde reviewed her written report.

8. Past President’s Report
Barbara Stripling reviewed her written report.

9. Executive Director’s Report
AnnaLee Dragon reviewed her written report.

10. Legislative Report
NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Briana McNamee, reviewed recent activities and addressed questions. NYLA’s Legislative Advocacy Day for 2023 will be Tuesday, February 28, meaning our Pre-Advocacy Day activities will be held on Monday, February 27. The plan is to be in person this year, barring any other pandemic-related issues. The NYLA Legislative Committee will be meeting on August 17 to discuss the priorities, both legislative and financial, for the upcoming session. There are 8 pieces of policy that are moving forward from the last session, and at least 3 new pieces for this upcoming session.

11. Section/ALA/Committee Reports
Section representatives reviewed their written reports.

**MOTION VI:** Motion to adjourn.
Made by: Kelly Harris         Seconded by Arlene LaVerde
Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:03pm.

**Next Council Meeting:** Thursday, September 15 via Zoom from 3:15pm – 4:45pm.