



NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 14, 2024

3:15 PM to 4:45 PM

Online via Zoom

NYLA President, Lisa Kropp Presiding

In Attendance:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kropp, <i>President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah O'Shea, <i>LAMS Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tim Spindler, <i>President-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Bartolomeo, <i>SMART Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arlene Laverde, <i>Immediate Past President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank McKenna, <i>Treasurer</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Schiefer, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Bollerman, <i>Treasurer-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginger Tebo, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keturah Cappadonia, <i>ALA Chapter Councilor</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caitlin Kenney, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Perry, <i>ASLS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rakisha Kearns-White, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jerrie Grantham, <i>FLS Representative</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerrie Burch, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Charles-Scaringi, <i>IDEAS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AnnaLee Dragon, <i>Executive Director (ex-officio)</i> |

Absent:

Jean Currie, *LTAS President*

Joe Burke, *PLS President*

Lisa Perkowski, *SSL Representative*

Joyce Laiosa, *YSS Representative*

Guests:

C Romeo, *NYLA Director of Communications and Member Engagement*

Lauren Hoyt, *NYLA Director of Association Operations*

Max Prime, *NYLA Director of Government Relations and Advocacy*

Kelly Harris

Sam Helmick

Nancy Howe

Tony Iovino

Jen Park

Ray Pun

Maureen Squier

Adam Traub

Council Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome

NYLA President Lisa Kropp called the meeting to order at 3:15pm and welcomed the group.

2. Review of Agenda

Kelly Harris, Chair of the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee, requested that a discussion about setting up a Bonfire campaign to sell NYLA t-shirts be added under New Business.

MOTION I: Motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Made by: Matt Bollerman

Seconded by: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn

Approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

MOTION II: Motion to approve Minutes from November 2, 2023 Annual Membership Meeting.

Made by: Matt Bollerman Seconded by: Kerrie Burch

Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from February 1, 2024 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION III: Motion to approve Minutes from February 1, 2024 NYLA Council Meeting as presented.

Made by: Matt Bollerman Seconded by: Frank McKenna

Approved unanimously.

5. Meet Sam and Ray – ALA Presidential Candidates

Sam Helmick and Ray Pun are both running for ALA President Elect, and while NYLA does not endorse ALA candidates, we wanted to offer the opportunity for both candidates to share their visions and goals for the role. Both were given 3-5 minutes to speak to the group.

6. Treasurer's Report

a. February Financial Statement

Treasurer Frank McKenna reviewed the February Financial Statement. We are at the 8-month mark in our fiscal year, 66.6%. Membership dues are at 64%. Total income is at 103%. Total expenses are at 81%, and personnel costs are right on the mark at 65%.

b. Audit Process

Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon reported that the auditors are working on a draft opinion now, and that they are on schedule to present their findings to Council at the May 2 meeting. When AnnaLee receives the draft report, she will first share it with the Audit and Finance Committee, and then the auditors will present their report to the full Council in May. This year went more smoothly than last year, and the results are being presented several months earlier than in 2023.

AnnaLee also noted that the Audit and Finance Committee did meet for the first time under Chair Laura Schiefer. The plan is to include a draft budget for FY2024-2025 in the May 2 Council meeting packet, and we can discuss it at the May meeting. The Council will then vote on the draft budget at the June 13 meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Draft of NYLA Position Statement

Executive Director AnnaLee Dragon and Director of Communications and Member Engagement C Romeo revised the draft statement, taking into consideration the suggestions from Council at the February meeting. The revised draft has been shared with Council, and now Council can make the decision as to whether to publish this statement.

MOTION IV: Motion to adopt the statement as presented as a position NYLA is taking.

Made by: Matt Bollerman Seconded by: Frank McKenna

There was discussion as to if accepted, what would NYLA do with this statement? Where would it be housed? Some Council members were hesitant to publicize the opinion, lest it raise awareness or make a mountain out of a molehill. Other members felt that when NYLA takes a stand on an issue, it's important to let the membership know, as a way of illustrating the work the association does on behalf of its members. The group decided to vote on the statement, if it passed, NYLA would add it to the website under a new section of NYLA Position

Statements/Policies, and then a future NYLA Voice could mention the new website section as a resource for library boards and directors.

Approved unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Nominations for NYLA Elections

NYLA Immediate Past President Arlene Laverde led the Nominating Committee in choosing the candidates for the slate. We had a good response, and anyone not chosen for the official slate is allowed and encouraged to use the petition process to be added as a nominee. Any member who collects 25 electronic signatures of active NYLA members by the deadline is added to the slate once the signatures have been received and verified by the NYLA office.

President-Elect (School Libraries) – Ginger Tebo

Councilor-at-Large (Academic/Special Libraries) – Hope Dunbar

Sue Luddington

Councilor-at-Large (Public Libraries) – Angelina Alicia

Bonnie Foster

MOTION V: Motion to approve the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee.

Made by: Arlene Laverde Seconded by: Matt Bollerman

16 yes votes, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

b. Code of Ethics Policy

The Governance Committee met and began working through policies that need to be reviewed, revised, or written. This policy was provided in advance of the meeting, with suggested edits noted from the Committee. It is being presented for review and discussion and will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

c. Social Media Policy

The Governance Committee met and began working through policies that need to be reviewed, revised, or written. This policy was provided in advance of the meeting, with suggested edits noted by the Committee. It is being presented for review and discussion and will be voted on at the next Council meeting. Tim Spindler, President-Elect, noted that perhaps we should not name specific social media platforms, as we all understand what social media is.

d. External Communications Policy

The Governance Committee met and began working through policies that need to be reviewed, revised, or written. This policy was provided in advance of the meeting, with suggested edits noted by the Committee. It is being presented for review and discussion and will be voted on at the next Council meeting.

It was requested that since Council is reviewing a large number of policies, and since Council trusts the work of the Governance Committee, that moving forward we do not wait until the next meeting to vote. In other words, from now on, draft policies will be sent to the Council with the packet one week in advance of the meeting, and then those policies will be discussed and voted upon at the same meeting in the interest of expediency.

- e. Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee – Bonfire Campaign
Committee Chair Kelly Harris noted that the committee has planned out and would like Council’s approval to move forward with a merchandise campaign on the Bonfire platform. They would like to start with a t-shirt reading Celebrate Freedom. Read Banned Books. It would also have the NYLA logo on it. The campaigns are print on demand, they last from 2-21 days, and when the campaign ends, you can restart the campaign if you’d like. NYLA would get a percentage of the profit from the campaign, but there is no upfront cost. If the first campaign is successful, the Committee would like to have a contest for membership to create the next design.

The Council discussed the idea. The fact that NYLA has sustainability as a core value was raised by Matt Bollerman, and he wondered if the sourcing of the t-shirts was sustainable, and if there was any sense of stewardship around the resources used in the making of the shirts? Kelly said the Committee felt that the print-on-demand model meant that only as many shirts as were sold would be created, eliminating potential waste.

The group asked to reword the shirt to take the focus off “banned books.” It was decided to have it read “Celebrate Freedom. Read.”

MOTION VI: Motion to approve the Sponsorship and Fundraising Committee to create a Bonfire campaign selling NYLA t-shirts to raise funds and awareness.

Made by: Ginger Tebo Seconded by: Kerrie Burch

16 yes votes, 1 no vote. Motion passes.

6. President’s Update

Lisa Kropp reported that Advocacy Day went well, and we had a great turnout. She also noted that she liked that NYLA has moved our Advocacy Day events a month earlier in the year. Lisa attended the IFRT meeting, the Governance Committee meeting, and is busy with planning for Conference with Lauren and AnnaLee.

7. Executive Director’s Update

AnnaLee Dragon submitted a written report. Also included was a membership report from the new database. Spring on the Hill will be on April 23, and registration is open until April 9. AnnaLee worked with the Executive Committee on hiring Stephanie Cole Adams to write an Amicus Brief in support of the Board of the Clyde-Savannah School District. They are currently dealing with a challenge to remove 5 books from their shelves, and their decision to retain the titles has led to an appeal to the Commissioner of Education. Our brief is meant to support the school and the right for the freedom to read in the hopes that the Commissioner will uphold the school board’s decision to retain the books on the shelves.

8. Legislative Update

Max Prime submitted a written report. Since the report was submitted, we’ve had the release of the Senate and Assembly one-house budgets. Both the Senate and Assembly have proposed a further \$2.5million increase over the Executive Budget, for a \$5million increase to library operating aid totaling \$104.6million. The Assembly proposed \$68million in construction aid, while the Senate proposed \$54million. Both the Senate and Assembly have included an increase in Library Materials Aid to \$11 per pupil, but the Senate also included a measure that would tie that amount to future increases in the consumer price index. Both Senate and Assembly also include the \$3million new allocation for the continuation of NOVELny.

9. Review/Adjournment

MOTION VII: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Made by: Matt Bollerman Seconded by: Kristin Charles-Scaringi

Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, May 2 via Zoom at 3:15pm.

Reports are Due to AnnaLee by Thursday, April 18