



NYLA Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 16, 2022

3:15 PM to 4:45 PM

via Web Conference

NYLA President, Beth Merkle Presiding

In Attendance:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beth Merkle, <i>President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alexandra Mercado, <i>SCLA Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arlene LaVerde, <i>President-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rosemarie Gatzek, <i>SMART President</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Stripling, <i>Immediate Past President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dawn Pressimone, <i>SSL Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Harris, <i>Treasurer</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Schiavulli, <i>YSS Representative</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank McKenna, <i>Treasurer-Elect</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cassie Guthrie, <i>ALA Chapter Councilor</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristina Graves, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerstin Cruger, <i>FLS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Kropp, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alana Mutum, <i>IDEAS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Osterhout, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Perrine, <i>LAMS Representative</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginger Tebo, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Currie, <i>LTAS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simone Yearwood, <i>Councilor-at-Large</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meg VanPatten, <i>PLS President</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AnnaLee Dragon, <i>Executive Director (ex-officio)</i> |

Absent:

Angela Hackstadt, *ASLS 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 3:17pm and welcomed the group. There was one additional item added to the New Business section of the agenda.

MOTION I: Motion to approve the amended agenda.

Made by: Dawn Pressimone Seconded by: Rosemarie Gatzek

Approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2022 NYLA Council Meeting

MOTION II: Motion to approve Minutes from May 17, 2022 NYLA Council Meeting as presented.

Made by: Frank McKenna Seconded by: Kelly Harris

Approved with minor change: Dawn Pressimone and Amanda Schiavulli were mislabeled as Presidents of SSL and YSS respectively. These titles will be corrected to "Representative" of their section in the minutes and moving forward.

3. Treasurer's Report

a. May Monthly Statement

NYLA Treasurer Kelly Harris reviewed the May financial statement. With one month remaining of the fiscal year, we are at 61% of the projected budget, or about a \$100,500 deficit, which is a better financial position than projected at the beginning of the year.

The Treasurer is planning to call a meeting of the Audit & Finance Committee soon to review the FY2020-2021 Financial Review, which was recently completed. Once reviewed by the Committee, the results will be shared with the full Council for approval.

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:

- **6060: Organizational Dues** – Some memberships had lapsed during the change in leadership. AnnaLee is working to restore NYLA memberships where that occurred.
- **6710: Travel/Lodging** – The majority of this line is travel and lodging associated with the ULU Trauma Study IMLS grant, which NYLA is being reimbursed for through the grant although the reimbursement will likely come in our FY 2022-23.
- **6730: Business Meals**– The majority of this line is meals associated with the ULU Trauma Study IMLS grant, which NYLA is being reimbursed for through the grant although the reimbursement will likely come in our FY 2022-23.

Meg Van Patten raised the issue that NYLA should ensure the auditors send their final reports directly to the either the whole Council or to the Audit & Finance Committee members to ensure that many eyes are on the financial situation at the organization, not a single NYLA staff member, for oversight purposes.

4. President's Update

Beth Merkle reviewed her activities since the May 17 Council meeting, including work on conference planning and the committee appointment process.

5. Executive Director's Update

AnnaLee Dragon reviewed her activities since the May 17 Council meeting, as listed in her attached written reports. Jean Currie asked that the minutes for Committee meetings be linked on the agenda for transparency. Currently those minutes are posted on the website. Council agreed that having the minutes live on the website was preferable to sending them around with meeting packets.

6. Legislative Update

NYLA Director of Government Relations & Advocacy, Briana McNamee, reviewed recent activities and addressed questions relative to the end of legislative session, the legislative wrap-up featured in the NYLA Voice June issue, and a reminder that there will be 2 primary elections in New York this year due to redistricting. One will be on June 28, and the other on August 23.

7. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

8. New Business

a. SSL – Request for Approval of Exception to NYLA Honoraria Policy

MOTION III: Motion to approve an exception to the NYLA Honoraria Policy allowing SSL to pay an honorarium, not to exceed \$1,500 (includes registration, travel expenses, and honorarium) to an SSL member who is going to present at the SSL Summer Leadership Institute: "Teaching Diverse Books in Difficult Times."

Made by: Kelly Harris Seconded by: Jean Currie
Approved. Dawn Pressimone abstained due to conflict of interest.

b. SCLA Separation from NYLA

The Suffolk County Library Association (SCLA) came under the NYLA umbrella over 10 years ago, through a vote by NYLA Council and a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both NYLA and the SCLA. The mutual understanding was that while we would work cooperatively, SCLA's money would remain their money, and that if either party sought separation, each would leave with their own distinct funds. At this time, the SCLA has decided to separate from NYLA. The SCLA Board has met with the NYLA Executive Director and the NYLA Treasurer to compare books and all parties have mutually agreed to use the number provided by NYLA's Auditor for the last fiscal year, less this year's activity. The total amount is \$97,842.50.

Council needs to vote to approve that these funds be moved from our investment account to our operational account so that a check can be cut to SCLA, and the separation finalized in this fiscal year.

MOTION IV: Motion to approve that \$97,842.50 of SCLA funds be moved from NYLA's investment account to our operational account so that a check can be cut to SCLA, and the separation finalized in this fiscal year.

Made by: Jean Currie Seconded by: Amanda Perrine
Approved unanimously.

c. IFC Item

AnnaLee has received communications from membership expressing concerns around intellectual freedom challenges/issues and looking for NYLA to take more visible action on the subject to both educate the public and to support library workers around the state. Briana is working on a one-pager for legislators on the issue, and Ron Kirsop is working on a sample letter to the editor specifically about book bans. Is Council supportive of NYLA staff working with IFC, IFRT, Legislative Committee, PULISDO, SLSA and interested members to create a standalone website with the dual purpose of raising public awareness of challenges and supporting the library workers who are currently under a great deal of pressure from the public? Is this a good use of NYLA resources? Council came to consensus that this is important work and NYLA should be involved. We will not replicate the Texas Library Association's website, but will use it as inspiration.

MOTION V: Motion that Council supports the NYLA ED and the NYLA staff to identify committees and sub-committees to work with on the creation of a website in support of intellectual freedom in New York State.

Made by: Meg Van Patten Seconded by: Kerstin Cruger
Approved unanimously.

MOTION VI: Motion to adjourn.

Made by: Kelly Harris Seconded by Laura Osterhout
Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:19pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, August 4 in person and via Zoom from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.