Business Meeting Minutes

83nd MWMLA Annual Meeting
Detroit, MI—October 24-26, 2024

I. Call to Order

Paul Cary called the meeting to order at 12:47PM Eastern Time.

II. 2023 Meeting Minutes Approval

Paul reported that 2023 meeting minutes had not been distributed in advance of the meeting and will be approved at a later date.

III. Treasurer's Report

Jill King reported that the 2024 meeting had 51 in-person registrations and 13 virtual registrations. The Midwest Chapter currently has 86 members. The checking account balance is approximately $18,000, which reflects a gap between last year's income and 2023 meeting expenses. There was an effort to lower meeting costs for the 2024 meeting, including eliminating the Thursday night reception. The Board and Program Committee will continue to look at balancing the cost of meetings with reasonable registration rates. Scholarship funds balances remain stable, but the Chapter needs to consider ways to sustain these funds in order to continue providing scholarships. Jill will investigate adding a PayPal donate button to the Chapter website to streamline contributions.

IV. Committee Reports

By-Laws

Therese Dickman reported that a new Chair will be elected, and new members are welcome.

Membership

Sarah Ward reported the committee now better reflects chapter membership with representation from five states, as well as members representing students, emerging professionals, paraprofessionals, staff and faculty. Sarah shared a summary of the committee's activities, including:

- Invited the MLStEP MW-chapter liaison to join the committee, ex-officio, to ensure a voice for students and emerging professionals
- Along with Charlie Roush from TMLA, met with the Chapter Chairs to discuss chapter membership ideas and gather ideas from other chapters about what ideas have shown success
- Connected with MLA Membership Committee to monitor larger strategic goals of the organization and keep the chapter committee in alignment with the work done at the national level
- Developed a list of ideas for strengthening membership to present to the Executive Committee covering general themes of communication, engagement, belonging, and professional development

Sarah also shared the committee's goals from the coming year:

- Begin outreach to interdisciplinary librarians who cover music/performing arts but do not currently belong to MWMLA, dependent on coordination with chapter executive committee
- Determine if/how the current wording of the chapter by-laws regarding the Membership Committee should be updated to reflect the new emphasis on not only attracting, but supporting and retaining existing membership as well
- Work with Chapter Exec Committee to identify achievable expansion ideas from the list provided

Program

Program Chair Kate Lambaria thanked members of the Program Committee (Paul Bishop, Jacey Kepich, and Vivian Tompkins) for their work soliciting and reviewing proposals. Kate shared that a post-meeting survey will be coming out after the meeting, which will include best-of-chapter nominations.

Publications

No report

Scholarship

Kristi Bergland announced that two scholarships from the Leslie Troutman Scholarship fund and one scholarship from the Phyllis J. Schoonover Scholarship fund were awarded this year. The recipients are Colin Hochstetler, Rachel Jacobson, and Emily Paulson.

V. Election Results

Paul Cary announced that Jacey Kepich was elected Chapter Chair. Paul thanked Karen Olson for running in the election and recognized members of the nominating committee.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

A moving tribute to Michael Fling was presented by Chuck Peters.

Paul Cary and Kristi Bergland requested feedback on the state of the Chapter Newsletter and chapter communications. Paul acknowledged that a newsletter has not been published recently and shared that Kristi has not received content from members. In the past, the newsletter has been a vehicle for chapter members to communicate, document and preserve chapter activities. Kristi added that the newsletter should be relevant and helpful to members, a vehicle for members to make a professional contribution, and communicate between meetings. Paul and Kristi invited feedback and input from members, which is summarized below:

- The newsletter has been a means to communicate oral history; how can we accommodate these stories? It's helpful to have a record for chapter history.
- One purpose of the newsletter is to let us know who we are and what we're doing; email is ephemeral; members can be invited to write about what's happening in their institution to generate content.
- The direction for the newsletter may be informed by the Membership Committee's earlier recommendations; prospective members should be able to look to the newsletter and new members can contribute content.
- Sarah Ward commented that the Membership Committee recommends highlighting members' collections; the newsletter can serve as a vehicle for outreach and in-reach. Professional development opportunities, such as writing for the newsletter, is a benefit of membership. Sarah asked if there are options for an evergreen resource/website for occasional publications.
- We are all struggling with bandwidth; can the MLA blog accommodate chapter new/stories?
- Members confirmed that they refer to session summaries published in the newsletter.
- Reading other chapter meeting summaries is also useful; the newsletter is an important document of meetings for those who can't attend.
- Kristi Bergland commented that the newsletter is already operating on a rolling deadline. There is flexibility in the structure, but members need to participate in a consistent way.
- Has a blog been considered and only publishing when there are updates?
- Examples of local newsletters and blogs were shared; one key to success is limiting word count and featuring lots of photos.

Paul Cary announced that the 2025 Chapter meeting will be held virtually, and the 2026 meeting is scheduled to be held in Evanston, IL.

Paul also shared that a joint meeting with SEMLA in Nashville has been proposed for 2027 and members responded with enthusiasm.

VIII. Announcements

Paul Cary announced that Tom Jencks' term as Webmaster is ending and the Board is seeking a new candidate for this role. Please let Paul know if you are interested.

Paula Hickner and Jason Imbesi presented details about a new process for getting involved in MLA's committees and subcommittees. The process includes a committee interest form and is intended to provide more transparency, while being easier to navigate and more inclusive. More information is coming from MLA.

IX. Adjournment

The business meeting adjourned at 1:42PM Eastern Time.

-Submitted by Jill King