The meeting was held online via Zoom.

1. Call to Order

Ashley Dees, MLA president, called the March meeting of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Library Association to order at 10:11 a.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024.

Attending Members:
Ashley Dees, President; Matt Gully, Vice President; Audrey Beach, Treasurer; David Powell, Secretary; Paula Bass, MLA Administrator; Miriam Garner, School Library Section Chair.

Others Present: Justin Easterday, Josh Cromwell, Miranda Loper, and Joyce Shaw.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as submitted
Made by: David Powell
Seconded: Matt Gully
Result: Motion carries

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes as submitted
Made by: Matt Gully
Seconded: Audrey Beach
Result: Motion carries

4. Financial Reports - Audrey Beach

Audrey stated that the financial reports are being provided in a more timely manner. The latest report is from January through March 2024. The ending balance for the checking account on 3/31/2024 was $33,297. The most significant purchase of late was $599 for Schedule event scheduling software.

5. MLA Administrator Report - Paula Bass

The following statistics of MLA membership (as of May 7, 2024) were reported:
- 733 members in the MLA database.
- 342 active members.
- 356 members whose membership has lapsed.
- 24 new pending members.
• 11 members with renewals pending.
• Approximately 100 lapsed members are up for deletion due to inactivity since 2021.

6. Old Business

a. **Trustee Candidate Bio & Next Steps** – Ashley Dees
Nicholas B. Phillips has provided a candidate bio and is willing to serve as the Trustee Section Chairperson. Next week, one more call will be made for candidates. If none are added, a slate of Nicholas B. Phillips and a write-in option are proposed.

Motion: To approve the 2024 Trustee Section Chairperson candidate slate of Nicholas Phillips with a write-in option available if no other candidates are put forth.
Made by: Matt Gully
Seconded: David Powell
Result: Motion carries

b. **MLA Branded Scholarship Raffle Prizes** – Justin Easterday
Janessa will provide five graphic options for the MLA scholarships. The graphics do not reference any specific events or dates so that they can be easily used in the future. Quotes for select promotional items (tote bags, mugs, and stickers) were obtained, and Vistaprint and Imprint provided the best pricing.

Motion: To approve a purchase, in the amount of no more than $200, of MLA branded scholarship merchandise.
Made by: David Powell
Seconded: Matt Gully
Result: Motion carries

7. New Business

a. **Conference Planning Update** – Matt Gully
• The MLA Executive Board unanimously approved the conference site location of the Natchez Conference Center in Natchez, MS, by electronic vote on April 16th.
• The contract has been signed, and the final price is hoped to be around $10,000 once the conference has concluded.
• The conference will be held over two days – October 10th-11th (Thursday – Friday).
• October 9th will be for vendor setup and any potential pre-conference sessions or workshops.
• The conference theme is “Embracing the Future.”
• Janessa is working on sample conference logos.
• The Sched event scheduling software is in the process of being configured for the conference.
• Matt reports that all the conference planning committees are progressing in accomplishing their work.
• Calls for presentations will be made within the last week and likely end on June 30th.
• Hotel blocks at discounted rates are being obtained soon.

8: Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.
Made by: Matt Gully
Seconded: Miriam Garner
Result: Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Mississippi Library Association Executive Board meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2024, at 11 a.m. via Zoom and onsite at the Natchez Conference site.

Minutes submitted by David Powell, Secretary

Minutes approved on 7/12/2024