

# MIDWEST CHAPTER



ILLINOIS • INDIANA • IOWA • KENTUCKY • MICHIGAN  
MINNESOTA • NORTH DAKOTA • OHIO • WISCONSIN

Midwest Chapter Medical Library Association  
Wednesday, June 21, 2023  
12:00 – 1:30 pm CT / 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET  
via Zoom

## 1. Call to Order and Welcome

Sarah Jane Brown

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm CT.

Attending: Sarah Jane Brown, JJ Pionke, Carol Shannon, Caroline Allen, Amber Burtis, Karen Hanus, Heather Healy, Stephanie Henderson, Damien Ihrig, Chase Masters, Merle Rosenzweig, Eileen Severson, Elizabeth Suelzer, Julia Stumpff

Absent: Margaret Hoogland, Jason Lilly, Jolene Miller

## 2. Review and Approve Board Meeting Minutes from April 2023

Damien Ihrig

The minutes were approved by consensus vote.

## 3. New business

### a. Midcontinental invite to so-sponsor a DEI speaker

Sarah Jane Brown

Invite from Brenda Linares of the Midcontinental chapter to participate in a DEI event. Dr. Linda Solis is the speaker. They are asking for \$150 from each chapter that participates. I am in favor of this, but would the IDEA budget support this? Members would get a link to view the session for free.

Discussion:

- The IDEA committee will review it, but seems like a great idea and something the committee would support.

- I'm in favor. How would we share the link?
- Midcontinental would be in charge of distributing, but anyone who registered would most likely get emailed a webinar link.
- Once we are on board as a co-sponsor, Midcontinental will provide a Zoom webinar link to share with all Midwest members.
- It is a small amount of money and a desirable event - the IDEA speaker budget could easily handle the cost.
- Will there be a recording provided afterward?
- Sarah B.: I will ask Brenda L. about a recording.

**Motion: JJ P. motions to approve we give the Midcontinental chapter \$150 to support the scheduled DEI speaker and provide free access to Midwest chapter members. Carol S. seconds. Motion passes unanimously.**

b. Clarification on leadership roles within Midwest and employment status. JJ Pionke

My last day in my current position is August 15. Whether or not someone unemployed or working outside of the region can hold leadership roles.

Discussion:

- Must just be a member of Midwest and the MLA. Those are the only requirements.
- Don't have to be employed.
- Board needs to vote to allow someone outside the region to continue in a leadership role - but the person would need to be in the region when elected or appointed.
- JJ: I am a member of MLA.
- Should employment as a med lib and living in the Midwest states be a requirement?
- It is really up to you, JJ, whether or not you want to stay on.
- JJ: I am committed to staying on, but there may be some logistical problems (e.g., loss of institutional Zoom).
- This is not a new precedent - has happened with other leaders in the association.
- You have to decide what you'd like to do. If a vote is necessary, the Board will schedule that.
- Nominations and Elections Comm planning to speak with Presidential candidates about possible accelerated role.
- Presidents will offer plenty of support if that happens.
- If JJ resigns now, we will appoint a Vice President to serve out the remaining President-Elect term. The VP would not serve as President, though. The newly elected President-Elect (fall 2023) would assume the President role immediately

in October. So they would have two years as president. Another Vice President would need to be appointed for the coming year. Just to be clear, the VP is appointed while the president must be elected.

#### **4. Brief Committee Reports / Highlights**

*a. President*

*Sarah Jane Brown*

Bylaws updates? Some presented to membership and passed? Language needs to be updated around the Annual Business Meeting and the Annual Conference. ACC needs to discuss these changes and others. We should also wait before updating anything until the MLA bylaws changes shake out. Not a hurry, but let's not forget about it.

*b. Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee*

*Carol Shannon*

- With the help of current committee members, I'm completing the revision of the final committee procedures in the wiki
- The Nominations & Elections Committee has met and sent out the first request for nominations
  - You'll see more of these (we plan to send a personalized message to people who have attended recent conferences, as well as sending reminders to the member list
  - Please consider nominating yourself or someone else, or just encourage others to get involved

Discussion:

- How are we with nominations?.
- 5 nominations - 1 for each position except nominee to the MLA nominating committee, which has 2 nominations

*c. President-Elect*

*JJ Pionke*

No report.

*d. Treasurer/Finance Committee*

*Karen Hanus*

*Current financial statement*

- As of June 1, 2023, we had assets of \$61,752.67 according to our ledger.

*Activities*

- Updated the payment request form and expense report form. The payment request form is now a fillable PDF and the expense report form is an Excel file. This should make it easier to complete these forms as no signature is required now. The new forms are attached with this report and have been saved in the treasurer's Dropbox folder, on the Wiki, and in the 2023 conference Google docs folder. Please note that it is important to scrutinize the email address from which a payment request form or any communication requesting money or information about the chapter's finances is received. The treasurer and other officers occasionally receive phishing emails attempting to get us to make payouts via gift cards, etc.  
[see fillable form below]

- Discussed a change in procedure with the membership secretary to confirm receipt of checks mailed through postal mail.
- Completed other routine tasks.

*e. Membership Secretary/Membership Committee*

*Eileen Severson*

- As of June 19, we have 162 active members.
- Continuing to process memberships
- Added folks to the listserve

*f. MLA Chapter Council Representative & Alternate*

*Heather Healy  
& Julia Stumpf*

- **MLA 2023 Business Meeting**  
At the MLA 2023 Business Meeting, two motions were presented by the Bylaws Committee for members' approval (or not) to proceed with presenting the changes the membership at large for a vote. See the proposed amendments to the bylaws here:  
[https://www.mlanet.org/blog/revisions-to-the-mla-bylaws-proposed?utm\\_source=socious&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=mlaconnect](https://www.mlanet.org/blog/revisions-to-the-mla-bylaws-proposed?utm_source=socious&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=mlaconnect)  
Much discussion was had over both motions and here is a summary:
  - **Motion 1**  
Includes a variety of items (see the linked text)  
Specific to chapters, includes the action to "Reduce the number of chapter officers and committee chairs that must be members of the Association" so fewer members of chapter leadership would be required to also be MLA members.

- Motion 1 was approved and WILL be presented to the membership for a vote.
- Motion 2  
In part, would separate the role of Director of the Board from the positions of Chapter Council Chair and the Community Council Chair.  
Motion 2 was not approved & will NOT be presented to the membership for a vote.
  - MLA Chapter Council Business Meeting  
The Chapter Council held its annual business meeting on May 1, 2023. The new Chapter Council Chair, Keith Pickett, led the meeting. Given that Keith is the new chair after a period of time with no chair, the meeting was mostly devoted to getting reorganized and touching base, including verifying the current list of chapter officers from 12 chapters.
    - A work group has been formed to update/revise/develop the Chapter Council Procedure Manual.
    - From the MLA 2023 business meeting, I learned that MLA provides insurance for chapter officers (related to their work as a chapter officer). I will seek more information about that so that we can have some clearer information about that at the chapter level (in the rare case that anyone should need it).
    - The following provides a summary of information shared during the chapter reports:
      - Conferences & CEs: Several chapters are decoupling their CE offerings from the in-person conference. The virtual sessions seemed to be having more success than in-person sessions. They can then offer those throughout the year rather than solely at conference time.
      - Conference Format: In the coming year, some chapters are opting for in-person and others will be virtual. A couple of joint meetings are coming up for some chapters as well.
      - Conference Theme: Mid-Atlantic chapter is considering the idea of skipping a theme altogether for their next conference.
      - Chapter Chats: Several chapters have started “Chapter Chats” sessions throughout the year. These seem to be online gatherings organized for social time and networking rather than highly structured offerings. Two of the chapters that will have a joint conference are doing joint chapter chats to help members connect with members of the other chapter.

Discussion:

- I'm all in favor of no conference theme!
- Yeah it's an idea to consider but I am loving the flyer for the upcoming Midwest conference this October--Explorer Owl. So great!

- I hate to be a killjoy but do we have to do a conference? I mean, if the numbers are way down...should we be doing something else entirely?
- In-person was down, the virtual meetings have had good attendance
- Then maybe we should stick with virtual?
- The committee is discussing & will consult with the membership about it
- One year attendance post-pandemic I think it maybe is not a good gauge yet-- need more data. I love the in-person conference. Yes, I think asking the membership its preference is the best course of action.
- It might be useful to send conference announcements to HSLI as well as library schools
- Yes, we do have those as an option as well.

*g. Representative at Large/State Liaisons*

*Stephanie Henderson*

- There were a few questions that arose from that meeting that we would like the board to answer. They are below:
  - What is the plan for in-person meetings? States usually begin planning three years out. 2023 and 2024 are virtual, so if a state is to host in 2025, they need to start planning now.
  - State Representative presence on the new website. Can we get website links to state organizations and contact information on this site?  
<https://mcmla45.wildapricot.org/state-liaisons-committee>
  - Where do we send information to publicize our state conferences? Should we just send to directly listserv or midline editors?

Discussion:

- ACC is aware of the state's planning schedule. Working through our own schedule right now. This committee fell apart a few years ago and we are now climbing out of that hole.
- Some states may work three years in advance, which is good, but I have chaired several and this worked against me. Don't necessarily need three years. Should be fine. More about getting folks to work on it.
- Talking about possibly putting two states together. But that's down the line. Not ready to talk about it now.

*h. Annual Conference Committee (ACC)*

*Carol Shannon*

- The organizing committee is meeting regularly
- Call for papers/posters/lightning rounds went out June 1 - please submit your research & program reports

- Working through the early issues (costs for events/speakers, registration cost)
- Moving ahead with getting exhibitors lined up. Have about sixty to contact. Still determining what to charge since this year will be virtual.

*i. Awards & Scholarships Committee*

*Amber Burtis*

- The Committee sent out emails announcing that the application period had opened for the 2023 awards and scholarships
- CV is now optional for submissions
- Emails were sent to the Midwest Chapter list-serv and all the Midwest LIS schools.
- We need to start brainstorming ideas for nominees for the Jean Sayre and Distinguished Librarian Awards. Please forward Amber Burtis any ideas for nominees for these awards.

Discussion:

- Have we received any nominations yet?
- Not yet.
- Application deadline?
- Application deadline is August 18
- Amber: Can we get a list of the chapter membership to target certain folks?
- Membership can take a look at the reports that can be run about the membership and will be in touch.

**Action Item: Eileen will produce membership reports for Amber**

*j. Communications Committee*

*Jason Lilly*

- Please get items you want to be highlighted (conference, awards/scholarships, fundraising, nominations, etc.) for Summer MIDLINE to Elizabeth Huggins ehuggins@luc.edu as soon as you can. Deadline is Aug. 1.
- Updates to pages as requested.
- Report provided to Membership Chair on members 2022-2023 not subscribed to listserv
- IDEA Committee Chair granted editing rights to their page to provide more information on their important work. Communications Committee would be open to moving this up in the hierarchy of the website to spotlight their activity for our membership.
- MIDLINE Newsletter released 5/31 thanks to Elizabeth Huggins!

*k. Professional Practice Committee*

*Liz Suelzer*

- The committee met on June 5, 2023. Attendees: Liz Suelzer, Emily Johnson-Barlow, Brenda Fay, Mary Taylor, Bette Sydelko.
- Grant for Lib Carpenter will be offered again - went over well. Will consider partnering with MC chapter (also more Region 4 states in MC)
- Annual conference planning updates:
  - Kerry is getting in touch with potential CE instructors.
  - Emily has put out a call for posters, papers, and lightning talks and we are currently accepting submissions. The call is being sent to the Midwest Chapter listserv and the publicity committee is sending it out beyond the listserv.
  - Emily has scheduled a Structured Abstract webinar that will be an information session for people who have questions on how to write the abstract for their scholarly submissions. The webinar will be held on June 26 at noon, Central.
  - It looks like the technology committee will be recommending the use of OSF to house the papers, posters and lightning talks, and presenter videos will be posted to a private YouTube channel. Brenda and Liz will prepare instructions on how to prepare and submit conference materials.

*l. Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Action Committee*

*Caroline Allen*

No report.

*m. Fundraising Committee*

*Margaret Hoogland*

No report.

*n. Archives*

*Chase Masters*

No report.

*o. Governmental Relations*

*Merle Rosenzweig*

There is nothing to report, but the Committee would like to point out that the listing on the webpage for the Committee is outdated as Merle Rosenzweig's tenure expired at and of 2022.

This has been updated: Merle will now go through 2023.



#### **4. Review of Action Items**

#### **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm CT.

#### **Action Items**

Eileen:

- Produce membership reports for Amber.