



MISSISSIPPI LIBRARY COMMISSION  
LEADERSHIP ADVOCACY SERVICE

## MINUTES

### Mississippi Library Commission Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting

**Date:** March 28, 2023

**Location:** 3881 Eastwood Drive  
Jackson, Mississippi, 39211

**Board of Commissioners (BOC) Present:** Stephen Cunetto, Ann Marsh, Lori Barnes, Jolee Hussey

**Board of Commissioners (BOC) Present via Zoom:** Becky Wright

**Mississippi Library Commission (MLC) Staff Present:** Hulen Bivins, Kristina Kelly, Tracy Carr

**Guests:** Jay Woods, Special Assistant Attorney General, Jennifer Nichols, Special Assistant Attorney General, Education

## CALL TO ORDER

At 11:00 am Chairperson Barnes called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

## AGENDA

**Recommendation:** *Adopt agenda as presented.*

**Motion:** Ann Marsh; *Second:* Stephen Cunetto

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call

## MINUTES

**Recommendation:** *Approve minutes of the regular meeting on January 24, 2023*

**Motion:** Stephen Cunetto; *Second:* Becky Wright

**Action:** Approved by unanimous roll call

## COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Chairperson Barnes offered a word of gratitude for MLC's response to the recent weather events in Mississippi. A general discussion was held on the assessment of the libraries that were in the affected areas.

Commissioner Cunetto thanked the commissioners for the work done during this legislative session.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Bivins thanked staff for the work done this legislative session as well as the Friends of Library groups. Further, he thanked the commissioners for their help in contacting legislators and leading during this session.

### **Budget**

MLC presented to both the House and Senate seeking funds for maintaining the increased funding provided last year for MAGNOLIA as well as more money to cover health insurance premiums for full time public library employees.

### **MLC Financials:**

\$559,124.36 in grant program payments were made during the reporting period. State funds in the amount of \$364,009.95 were used for the PIGP program out of this total. There were \$195,114.41 in LSTA payouts.

### **ALA Fly-In**

Jackson-Hinds Library System Director Floyd Council and Executive Director Bivins participated in the Fly-In of the American Library Association in Washington, D.C March 8 and 9.

They met with both Mississippi senators and Representative Bennie Thompson. They also spoke with the other representative staff.

### **COSLA Spring Meeting**

Executive Director Bivins attended the COSLA officers meeting in DC. Focus was on IMLS personnel changes, five-year plans, and a review of changes with NLS.

### **Business Services Reporting**

Reports completed during the reporting period of January and February including LSTA grant reports, MS MAGIC security reports and a semiannual report on Performance Measures. Also submitted were LSTA21 FSR and SPR reports.

### **Employee Update:**

Staff changes during the reporting period are:

#### **New Hires:**

Jeremy Hammack ---- Administrative Services

Amanda Minor ----- Library Services

## Separations:

Victor Williams ----- Administrative Services

Erin Morin ----- Administrative Services

Fazenda Young ----- Library Services

## PR Activities and MLC Publications:

Newsletter and annual report were shared and sent out. Copies were also shared on the Executive Directors visit to DC. Senator Hyde-Smith was complimentary on the publications.

Public Relations Coordinator Kristina Kelly was asked to comment. She discussed the usage of the new email marketing software being beneficial to tracking viewership of publications as well as creating videos based on LSTA Grants for libraries. She also discussed working with Grants Coordinator Natalie Dunaway to create videos showcasing how grant monies are being spent by libraries.

## MLC Library Use Statistics:

The following statistics were shared with the Commissioners:

13 CE training with 93 attendees in these trainings

338 webinar views

2,301 Beehive Resource Sharing requests

MAGNOLIA searches: 7,395,529

Social media numbers: 4,572 Facebook; 1,884 Instagram; 2,500 Twitter; and 3,142 YouTube views.

Patent & Trademark visits: 104 training sessions

MLC podcast: 4 new episodes

## Talking Book:

During this reporting period, Books on Demand was introduced and going forward, should triple or more the numbers. The new format will be able to have patrons get multiple books on one cartridge. Over 19,000 items were in circulation and BARD had over 7,000 downloads.

## Tech:

The MLC helpdesk answered 93 tickets for MLC staff and 84 for public libraries.

## Other News:

The Executive Director led a robust discussion with the commissioners on the censorship activities currently happening in Mississippi. Chairperson Barnes expressed concern over the



potential removal of MAGNOLIA, as libraries have come to rely on these digital resources over hard copies in the library.

Commissioner Cunetto discussed the work done by the MAGNOLIA Steering Committee to support the continued funding efforts.

Commissioner Hussey stated the devastating effects for rural schools to not have access to the research databases found in MAGNOLIA including the LearningExpress and other training databases.

The growing concern is how it will affect other digital sources such as Hoopla.

#### **Future MLC Commissioners meetings:**

The next meeting of the MLC Board shall take place on Tuesday, May 23.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Since Business Director Burris could not be available, the commissioners were asked to email any questions to [lbarris@mlc.lib.ms.us](mailto:lbarris@mlc.lib.ms.us).

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU REPORT**

Deputy Director Carr and Public Relations Coordinator Kelly both presented on behalf of the Administration Bureau.

Administrative Services welcomed Brian McGee as the new operations manager. He has been with MLC for three years.

#### **LIBRARY SERVICES BUREAU REPORT**

Deputy Director Tracy Carr delivered the Library Services Report. Library Services welcomed a new library consultant, Amanda Minor, which brings our total back up to four. Tracy gave appreciation to Betty Moore for her work providing support to libraries on Beehive Resources. The Clarion-Ledger Mississippi Books page that is managed by the Mississippi Press has requested that MLC submit book reviews for publication on Fridays.

In addition, MPB as requested that MLC submit weekly content to go along with their Mississippi Arts Hour. This will air on Saturdays at 11:01am to 11:06 am. The first episode was about Mississippi's Poet Laureate.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Recommendation:** Personnel Incentive Grant Program Waiver Request for Educational Requirements, Fiscal Year 2023 -Kemper-Newton Regional Library System.

Motion: Jolee Hussey; *Second:* Ann Marsh

Action: Approved by unanimous roll call

***Recommendation:*** Personnel Incentive Grant Program Waiver Request for Educational Requirements, Fiscal Year 2023 - Humphreys County Library System

Motion: Ann March; *Second:* Stephen Cunnetto

Action: Approved by unanimous roll call

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

Deputy Director Carr discussed the remaining legislative bills from the recent legislative session with the Commissioners.

### **ADJOURN**

***Recommendation:*** *Adjourn meeting at 12:22 pm*

Motion: Ann Marsh; *Second:* Jolee Hussey

Action: Approved by unanimous roll call

  
Stephen Cunnetto, Board Secretary

5/23/23  
Date