

NLA Board Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2020

2:30 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: Michael Straatman, Lisa Mount, Joanne Neemann, Anneka Ramirez, Denise Harders, Sarah Haack, Scott Childers, Laura England-Biggs, Todd Schlechte, Meg Mering, Rebecca McCorkindale, Evonne Edgington, Micki Dietrich, Jayne Germer, Ginger Jelinek (guest), Devra Dragos, Bailey Halbur, Tim Lentz, Vicki Wood, Becky Baker, Donna Kruse

A. Call to Order - Michael Straatmann at 2:32 pm

B. New Business

1. 2020 Conference Decision. We have the options to continue as planned, hybrid, virtual only, or cancel entirely.
 - a. Laura England-Biggs noted that most chapters are either canceling or going entirely virtual, there hasn't been many hybrid options. Virtual is definitely an option we can revert to, but it will be interesting making the transition.
 - b. Meg Mering asked what percentage of the NLA membership responded to the poll regarding the 2020 conference. Ginger Jelinek noted that it was about 33%.
 - c. [Survey Results Summary](#)
 - i. Full results of the survey will be shared at the next full board meeting, Michael Straatman reported. Adaptations for the future will be based upon these responses. No matter what is decided, it will have an impact on NLA financially.
 - ii. It was noted that there was a good response from all corners of the membership.
 - d. Michael Straatman reminded board members that NLA profits are tied directly to conference, so that should be kept in mind when making a decision as well.
 - e. Devra Dragos requested more information on charging conference attendees if it went completely virtual.
 - i. Check or credit would likely be payment options, with an online access code sent after payment was received.
 - ii. Straatman & England-Biggs described how a virtual conference could have several different payment models, but it would likely be cheaper for attendees.
 - iii. Mering asked if the 2020 conference was canceled, would that stop sections from having fall meetings? It was clarified that fall business meetings would occur even if conference was canceled to conduct annual business.
 - iv. Several board members discussed virtual platforms that would be available, including NLC & CAM's GoToWebinar accounts.
 - v. Anneka Ramirez asked for a clear understanding of how canceling the 2020 conference would affect NLA's revenue in the long run.
 1. Straatman described for the board that from the ILA Joint conference that there was actually a profit comparable to a year that NLA hosts the conference in Kearney, which was a positive but unexpected outcome.

Because of that profit from 2019, NLA would still be able to operate if we were to miss out on profit this year. However, with budgets impacted radically across the state, budget issues for members will likely extrapolate to the association and possibly for many years to come. We will likely have to revise the budget for this year and coming years due to changes in revenue.

- vi. Mering commented that if we were to cancel the conference, it would be imperative to keep NLA on people's minds in other ways and maintain importance to our members.
 - vii. Becky Baker commented that her library would not pay for a virtual conference. She's in favor of the conference not occurring this year and focusing instead on next year.
 1. Vicki Wood seconded this statement, and noted several difficulties that could occur for NLA regarding virtual equipment. She also brought up that virtual fatigue is already an issue for library staff.
 2. Scott Childers agreed with the virtual fatigue occurring in most libraries. He suggested a shorter conference that focused on business meetings with a few interest group discussions.
 - viii. Dragos & Ramirez commented that a full day virtual conference would be too long and were not in favor of such an option. Dragos suggested that one keynote presenter would be worth watching.
 - ix. Baker commented that the state could be hit with another wave of COVID-19 infections this fall, which could cause more closures
 - x. Rebecca McCorkindale suggested that trying to make such large changes by creating a virtual conference right now while everyone's lives have been upended would be too difficult to enact.
- f. Straatman drew the discussion to a close, and called for a virtual vote to decide on what to do with the 2020 conference with four options for board members to choose from. Vote: Cancel (12), Hybrid (0), Virtual (9), Traditional (0). Motion carries, the 2020 conference is canceled.
2. The Executive Board members requested suggestions from the board members on how to engage with the membership that will be due to Ginger & Michael the following Monday. Board members were encouraged to reach out to their sections and roundtables for feedback.
 3. Ginger Jelinek described a draft of the membership survey results briefly to the board. She noted that a published version of this survey would be made available to the membership via the website.
 4. [Virtual Platform Research](#)
 5. [Younes Verbal Statement](#) (written by Ginger)
 - a. Statement against racism from NLA Diversity Committee
 - i. [Examples](#)
 - ii. Tim Lentz has begun crafting a message for NLA to release regarding racism.
 - iii. Straatman opened up the discussion to all for suggestions and additions to the statement.
 1. Ramirez suggested adding ways for people to engage more deeply with specific steps that they can take, similar to how the UNL message instructed. Anneka offered to assist in crafting the message with Lentz.
 2. Wood recommended adding a film to watch called Cracking the Code, which is discussion based and a good start to rooting out systemic racism in ourselves &

the library. Lincoln used this with their staff, and it's also an ALA recommended film. She also suggested adding a link to a reading list regarding racism.

3. Childers noted that we need to keep our message against racism precise and to the main point so as not to dilute our initial statement.
4. Anneka reiterated how important this statement is due to the timeliness of its release, as it may be the one chance we have to get our full message to all of our membership.

iv. Motion to approve this statement coming from NLA as a whole with the suggestions from board members: Straatman. Vote: motion carried.

2. Additional New Business

- a. Micki Dietrich stated that she will put together a Tribute Resolution at ALA virtual for the NLA 125th anniversary. She requested NLA history, ideas, and other information necessary to craft this statement from board members.
- b. Ginger Jelinek will reach out to Younes Conference Center for a proposal for the 2025 conference for the next board meeting.

C. Adjournment by Michael Straatman at 3:56 pm