TMLA business meeting minutes for the joint conference of the Atlantic/New England/Texas Chapters, held virtually on October 8, 2021

Chapter chair Rahni Kennedy called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM central daylight time.

The meeting agenda was approved.

The minutes from the fall 2020 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Rahni Kennedy

Rahni reported that the Executive Committee met 3 times during the past year. He attended the MLA Chapter Chairs meeting in the spring.

TMLA held 3 virtual salons in the spring.

Rahni surveyed TMLA members in the spring about how to do this fall meeting. He put out a call to other chapter chairs to ask if any other chapters would be interested in having a virtual joint meeting. NEMLA and Atlantic expressed interest. This meant that we could arrange a meeting of geographically non-contiguous chapters that would not be possible in person. This innovative idea was something our chapter had never contemplated before.

Our chapter submitted 2 nominations for Best of Chapters awards:

"Amplifying Underrepresented Voices in Collections, Research and Curriculum."
Presenter: Madelyn Washington (University of Houston)

"It Slices, It Dices, It Juliennes: The Versatile Toolkit of Combined Musicological and Librarian Skills."
Presenters: Donna Arnold (University of North Texas), Maristella Feustle (University of North Texas), Stacey Jocoy (Texas Tech University), Virginia Whealton (Texas Tech University)

Rahni said he thought they were strong nominations, but neither was selected.

Rahni turned in his annual report to MLA in August.

MLA's next meeting (March 2-6, 2022) will be in person, but committee and chapter meetings will be virtual. Rahni turned in a request for a meeting time for TMLA.

PAST CHAIR'S REPORT: Bruce Evans:

Bruce turned in his annual report in November, 2020.

He has spearheaded the preparation of a TMLA officer handbook, and prepared a detailed document for Vice Chair/Chair Elect. He volunteered to collect the other officers' documents and combine them for us. He thanked Pam Pagels for suggesting the handbook.

He chaired the nominating committee for the recent election of a new Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

He rotated off the Executive Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Donna Arnold

MLA's Administrative Officer recently sent the treasurer a check for $308 for the annual membership dues paid online via the MLA website. Donna then deposited it to our Wells Fargo bank account.

Since we have recently had TMLA meetings virtually, there have been no meeting expenses. Our financial situation is sound.

WEB EDITOR'S REPORT: Kristin Wolski

Kristen will prepare a document for the officers' handbook that describes the technology she is using for our TMLA website.

She and Bruce Evans are exploring the possibility of using Survey Monkey for our voting. Rahni thanked her for her efforts.

COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL REPORTS:

Bruce's document for the officers' handbook is completed.

Based on our spring survey about how to do this fall's meeting, we decided to have a virtual meeting.

Then plans for having it be a joint meeting with New England and Atlantic were finalized.

Rahni Kennedy and Kendra Preston-Leonard were on the joint program committee.

We chose dates of October 8-9, 2021 for the meeting, but after program proposals were received, it turned out that we only needed one day: Friday, October 8.

Rahni said he thought that all of the presentations were good and that quality over quantity is desirable. Bruce said he thought that the program was good and that our chapter was well-represented.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

We need to address the situation concerning the nominating committee.

Based on the tradition that the past chair must chair the nominating committee, Bruce proceeded to do so for the recent election. Cari Alexander and Mary Brower served with him to nominate a Vice Chair/Chair Elect. (There was no need to elect a Secretary/Treasurer this year.)

They reached out to several promising potential candidates, but only one agreed to run: Blaine Brubaker. The Executive Committee conferred about this, and decided it was acceptable to hold the election with one candidate and provide the option of voting for write-in candidates.

Kristin Wolski was praised for distributing our election ballots. Using Qualtrics, she was forced to send them out individually. Such a problem is the reason other software is under consideration.

OLD BUSINESS:

We thought we would be at Baylor this year for an in-person meeting. However, due to the continuing Covid crisis, we decided against it and planned and held a virtual meeting instead. We will tentatively consider Baylor for next year.

TEXAS COMPOSERS DATABASE:

Maristella Feustle remembered that the database had been in development as early as 2008. She mentioned that creating NACO records for the composers and using the Archival Context Database and OMEKA for the project would be helpful. She said she might take this on.

Pam Pagels said there was talk about having the database on the MLA website.

Tentatively, we can reach out to MLA about this.

NEW BUSINESS:

CHAPTER GRANTS:

Pam Pagels proposed applying for a grant for the Texas Composers Database. She thinks April or May would be the deadline for applying.

Kristin Wolski proposed applying for a grant for our mentorship program.

The Executive Committee will deliberate about these suggestions.

Jean Harden pointed out that work on the Texas Composers Database can be done remotely, which is an advantage during the pandemic.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

We addressed these questions:
Do we need a constitutional amendment about the program committee? Who is supposed to chair it? Does the committee itself decide?

Keith Chapman expressed the opinion that it is an ad hoc committee, and that no constitutional amendment is needed.

We did not make any decisions, but plan to consider this further.

MLSTEP:

We have an opening for our chapter liaison to MLStEP. Geo Flores had been our representative, but had to step down because he now chairs the whole group.

OFFICER CHANGES:

Bruce Evans is rotating off the Executive Committee. The chapter thanked him for his excellent service.

Rahni Kennedy has completed his term as chair, and is now passing the gavel to Madelyn Washington. Blaine Brubaker is our new Vice Chair/Chair Elect.

Rahni Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 3:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Arnold
Secretary/Treasurer