



Minutes: March 18, 2025

Welcome and Introductions

C. Hess (President) welcomed those present and asked all to introduce themselves.

Debi Babb (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; VP-PE), Blake Beals, Kay Cunningham, Carl Hess, Jessica Holland, Leslie Holland, Felicia Knox, Jessica McClure, Sarah Newell (Treasurer, UTHSC), Casey Parkman (UofM, Web person for MALC) B. Robinson, Wendy Trenthem (taking over as chair of Communications and Programming Committee; MUS), Angela White

Approval of Minutes

- 2024-11-19 F. Knox moved to accept as approved; D. Babb seconded

Reports

- President (Carl Hess) The Executive Committee has met twice since the 19 November 2024 membership meeting to planning the MALC end-of-the-year celebration on 22 May 2025:
 - 5:30p, Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library.
 - Confirmed speaker: Daphene R. McFerren, Executive Director of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change (University of Memphis).
 - Elections will be held at this meeting for Vice President-President Elect (one year as Vice President [back-up to the President, Chair of Membership]; second year as President); Treasurer, and Secretary. All two-year terms. If you'd like to nominate someone (or yourself), contacting Carl at Carl.Hess@memphis.edu by Friday 18 April 2025.
 - More details will be out by the end of April; please RSVP as this will be a catered event.
- Treasurer (Sarah Newell)
 - Currently have \$3,819.68.
 - Collected \$100 so far this year (one institutional, two personal memberships).
- Awards Committee (C. Hess for Sylverna Ford)
 - Watch for calls for nominations.
 - S. Ford wants additional Awards Committee members—ideally from a variety of institutions. Those interested in joining may email her (sford@memphis.edu) or F. Knox (on the Committee). Robert Britton (Director of Library Services, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital) is also willing to serve on the Awards Committee.
- Communications & Programming Committee (Carl Hess/Wendy Trenthem)
 - W. Trenthem is taking over as Chair.

- C. Hess: Our next event is our first-ever Learn at Lunch (in what we envision as a recurring series). The topic is Generative AI in our Libraries. Watch for a Teams link for this virtual meeting, scheduled for noon on Wednesday 9 April (same time as the Tennessee Library Association's Annual Conference), and some questions that will prompt a reflective, interactive discussion.
- W. Trentham: This Committee helps produce the organization's Newsletter; those present agreed that the issue that C. Hess sent recently looked great.
- C. Hess: We're working on ideas for a high school transition event. The MALC Executive Committee approved a second Ad Hoc Committee to plan. Interim Chair C. Hess has put out a call for members and is reaching out to partner organizations. J. McClure noted that Ruth Slagle (Jackson State Community College; WeTALC) wants to volunteer; will give C. Hess her info. So far, C. Hess has 2 public library representatives, 2 from schools, and 2 from academic libraries; would welcome additional folks, but wants to keep a balance of these categories. This Committee will likely start to work in the next month. The charge is for a year; if more time is needed, they will return to the Executive Committee.

New Business

- Resolution 2024-25_01 MALC Dues (Carl Hess)
 - Those present discussed this proposal to change the current dues structure to "allow new MALC personal and institutional members who join the second half of a MALC year [January – July] to automatically be granted membership for the following year"—as an incentive for new members to not have to pay full dues for a partial year, toward the goals of attracting new members and increasing membership.
 - Our constitution requires that any dues change be presented in writing at a meeting, shared in the minutes, then voted on at a future meeting (as we have no protocol for voting via email). We have two options for doing this:
 - at the May celebration (our only remaining scheduled meeting), where we could vote in person, or at
 - an additional member meeting. We called an extra meeting in April 2024 to vote on the changes to the Constitution so as not to intrude on the May celebration, where we focus on interacting with each other, the MALC Award, and the speaker.
 - Those present expressed a preference for an additional meeting in May. While voting to approve this resolution would be the reason for the meeting, C. Hess will do a full call for agenda items (reports, etc.) and additional business. He will work with the Executive Committee to schedule an extra meeting in April.
- Resolution 2024-25_02 Awards Committee Charge (Carl Hess)
 - The Amending Awards Committee Charge amends the charge of the Awards Committee in the Constitution, since we have introduced a new award (the MALC Professional Development Award). The resolution removes reference to just the MALC Award of Excellence to include any new award(s).
 - MALC members must vote to change the Constitution. C. Hess opened the floor for discussion; those present expressed agreement. C. Hess did a poll, noting that only current members who have active personal memberships or are official institutional representatives may vote, 10 of those present voted; the resolution passed unanimously.
- Resolution 2024-25_03 Professional Development Award (Carl Hess)
 - This proposal is for the creation of a new MALC award: the MALC Professional Development Award, which the Awards Committee would implement. C. Hess noted that in the 19 November 2024 meeting, we discussed ways to make use of some of our extra monies (in the past, we once

helped fund local non-profit organizations). The Executive Committee discussed the idea and decided on providing additional professional development support to members, as these funds are drying up—if they exist at all. The Awards Committee would determine the details; C. Hess expected that they wouldn't need an extensive rubric, but could select recipients randomly. The funds would likely be small, and based on what money we have available. C. Hess invited discussion; those present indicated approval. S. Newell noted that so far in the 2024 – 2025 year, MALC has collected \$1,030. Last year, we spent \$919.08—but that included two costs that aren't annually recurring (refreshments for meetings). The annual meeting cost \$650. So our recurring amount is maybe \$200 (outside the \$650—which could vary, depending on the vendor). C. Hess did another poll; 11 voted yay (none nay or abstain); the resolution passed. C. Hess will send to S. Ford to start approving criteria. It's likely that we won't get this Award going 'til next year, as the Committee is currently focusing on the MALC Award of Excellence.

Announcements

- MALC elections for Vice President / President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer will be held at the 22 May meeting. Please nominate yourself or others to President Carl Hess by April 18.
- Call for members for the Awards Committee and for the new High School Transition Event Ad Hoc Committee. Email Dr. Sylverna Ford for interest in the Awards Committee and Carl Hess for interest in the High School Transition Event Ad Hoc Committee.
- No general announcements

Vendor Discussion

- EBSCO (Wendy Trenthem)
 - o Using the same structure as last month's product discussion on Gale (based on Summer Durrant's article "Using and Evaluation Grid to Holistically Assess Library Databases"), we'll start with an overview of EBSCO, then discuss what's useful—or not so much—about it.
 - o Evaluation Categories
 - Content and Curriculum Alignment: Is it a core resource? Those present agreed that it is—in various degrees—for their respective libraries. Several use various features; some of the information EBSCO provides is only available through EBSCO.
 - Cost Effectiveness: The more you buy, the more cost-effective EBSCO is. Figuring out cost-per-use, annual increases, and discounts is challenging. D. Babb, who works with these issues, is available to talk about them. Related data can help with justifying and allocating spending. W. Trenthem noted that the upcoming High School Transition project could help inform what high schools do to model college for their students. D. Babb sent a link to an article in *Katina Magazine* (from nonprofit publisher Annual Reviews) article on how databases charge whatever customers are willing to pay: <https://katinamagazine.org/content/article/open-knowledge/2025/academic-databases-and-the-art-of-the-overcharge>.
 - User Experience: How would you rate the product(s) on functionality? Does the product(s) have robust features and functionality for the following (where applicable)? Database itself, Data and statistics collection, Digital images collection, E-book package, Journal package, Streaming video package. C. Hess noted that the new interface looks better, is much better at meeting accessibility standards (important, as those who work at governmental libraries are going to have to start complying with the new ADA regulations for digital accessibility).

- Product Administration: EBSCO has too many portals (to pay, create a ticket, administer the EDS, etc.), which is frustrating. They do provide usage statistics and off-campus access through a proxy server or other authentication service. The catalog at MUS is fed into EBSCO's EDS, and W. Trenthem doesn't recommend that students look for books this way. Item-level records are discoverable in the discovery layer. How responsive is the vendor when contacted w/questions, tech problem? MUS has had the same rep forever. She really recommends talking with your rep: You can learn a lot and get more cooperation. Those at EBSCO who REALLY understand libraries are few and far between. K. Cunningham indicated that meeting and talking with reps is one of the most helpful things you can do for yourself. If you're having money problems they can figure out ways to help. "If you ever go to ALA Annual and you want to learn databases, spend your time in the vendor hall." W. Trenthem suggested that, rather than fearing or seeing these companies as an annoyance, communicating with them can help. D. Babb mentioned The Oneal Project: Open Negotiation Education for Academic Libraries for those who do license negotiation. It's open source and still being built, and a good foundation modules about contracts, licenses, introduction to negotiations, negotiation planning, etc.
- W. Trenthem reiterated that it's easy to simply renew and manage budgets the best we can, but these discussions can dispel some of the mysteries of these products and offer the opportunity to explore questions about them. They can be overwhelming.
- C. Hess thanked W. Trenthem; she offered to do the next program (JSTOR? ProQuest?), but suggested that someone with more experience was welcome to, too.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- MALC Learn@Lunch: Generative AI in Our Libraries: Wednesday, April 9, from 12-1 PM on Teams
- MALC/WeTALC Coffee and Conversations: Tuesday, April 15, from 8:30-10:30 AM at The Hub Coffeehouse
- MALC End of Year Celebration: Thursday, May 22, from 6-7:30 PM at the MPL Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library (RSVP required)

C. Hess will find a time in April to meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Robinson, MALC Secretary

Appendices: Resolutions 2024-25_01, 2024-25_02, and 2024-25_03

Resolution 2024-25_01

Amending MALC Dues

Summary

This resolution will allow new MALC personal and institutional members who join during the second half of a MALC year to automatically be granted membership for the following year.

Rationale

This resolution is to help grow the organization's membership by not requiring new members who have paid for half a year or less of membership to pay for the following year, granting an incentive for new membership.

Resolution

Be it resolved that, subject to the passage of this resolution, the following line shall be added to the "Join MALC" page of the MALC website at the end of the "Annual Dues" heading:

New personal and institutional members who join MALC during January through June and who have not held MALC membership in the previous two years shall automatically be granted membership for the following MALC year (July to June).

Resolution 2024-25_02

Amending Awards Committee Charge

Summary

This resolution amends the charge of the Awards Committee in the MALC Constitution & Bylaws to remove specific reference to the MALC Award of Excellence and broaden the committee's charge to administering any award approved by the MALC membership.

Rationale

This resolution will allow for the Awards Committee to administer any new award created by the MALC membership. This will give the organization more flexibility in creating new awards that the membership sees fit to approve.

Resolution

Be it resolved that, subject to the passage of this resolution, that the charge for the Awards Committee in Article IV, Section 1, Subsection A of the MALC Constitution & Bylaws be amended in the following ways:

~~The MALC Awards Committee administers the annual awards processes which results in presenting the~~ **for all award(s) approved by the MALC membership** ~~known as the MALC Award of Excellence. The Awards Committee oversees the award criteria, timeline, procedures, and related forms. Nominations for award(s) are accepted on an annual basis in accordance with the schedule established by the Committee with approval of the MALC Executive Committee. While nominations are solicited on an annual basis,~~ **the** ~~The~~ Committee reserves the right to not make an award in any year when no nomination is received that seems worthy of such recognition. ~~In recognition that support to the library community can be provided in different ways, the Committee has established three award categories: Classic, Legacy, and Friend. In any given year, an award may be given in one, two, or all three categories, depending on the strength of the pool of nominations.~~

As a result of these amendments, the charge shall now read:

The Awards Committee administers the processes for all awards approved by the MALC membership. The Awards Committee oversees award criteria, timeline, procedures, and related forms. The Committee reserves the right to not make an award in any year when no nomination is received that seems worthy of such recognition.

Resolution 2024-25_03

Creation of the MALC Professional Development Award

Summary

This resolution creates a new award, the MALC Professional Development Award, and charges the Awards Committee with its implementation.

Rationale

The Memphis Area Library Council (MALC) Professional Development Award will seek to support the growth and knowledge of the Memphis area library community through the funding of professional development opportunities for its members.

Resolution

Be it resolved that, subject to the passage of this resolution, the MALC Professional Development Award will be created. The Executive Committee shall be charged with identifying available funding each year for the award, and the Awards Committee shall be charged with developing eligibility criteria, submissions criteria, procedures, and anything else necessary to facilitate the award. A new page of the MALC website shall be created to share the award's purpose, criteria, and procedures.