SLA Canada board meeting  
22 February 2021  
Via Zoom  

Present: Patricia Cia, Jim Miller, Juanita Richardson, Merritt Kalagian, Jane Dysart, Bronwyn Smyth, Steven Abrams, Craig Wingrove, Therese Mainville, Caleb Nault, Thomas Blennerhassett  

Regrets: Karen Bleakley, Katherine Scott  

SLA Liaison: Valerie Perry (Regrets)  

Guests: none  

Agenda: 

● Welcome  

● Review minutes from previous meeting  
  ○ Actions arising from previous meeting still pending  
    ■ Patricia to work with Jim & Juanita on member benefits & address concerns with SLA HQ.  
    ■ Ongoing issues with the Connect page. SLA Tech Advisory Council pushing LMS piece and Q2 - rebrand pending, will defer investing alternatives until rollout  
    ■ Sponsorship opportunity for the Gray Price initiative - hard to get vendor sponsor prospects. Fields are limited. Suggestion to ask members if they have started working with new suppliers/vendors.  
      Action: Jane, Juanita, Tom to brainstorm/craft. Idea - Dip toe in water  

● Financial report  
  ○ Financial report for the month ending January 2021 was circulated prior to the meeting. Bank balance just over $30,000. Some minor expenses including speaker fees for January. Move: adopted as as read - confirmed  
    ■ Signatories - forms have been updated.  
      Action: PC to advise Merritt when she has received debit card  
    ■ Paypal update: Paypal is still retaining about $4,000 from the 2019 joint SLA social. The issue has been escalated to HQ. Paypal is claiming that SLA Canada is not recognized as a legitimate business.  
      Jim followed up with SLA HQ to see if they can collect the funds and reimburse us. A meeting with Mike Rosenberg, at the end Jan 2021 but haven’t heard a response.  
      Action: Jim to follow up to see where things stand.  

● Governance  
  ○ Advocacy role - SLA re: Quebec Government Library  
  ○ Hard to advocate after the decisions done. Better to have an understanding of what needs to be done beforehand. Jim pushing at board level. Maybe not necessarily “advocacy” (internally within organization and external).
- Program Idea (May/June) - information and knowledge sharing in government - conversation - what they need. What do you do, what are the skills you need?
  - Not just typical “box” libraries i.e. Service Canada
  - Programming to support members to gain influence in their organizations before decisions are made. Enable members to speak for themselves. Broader than government but start with that.
  - Safe place to articulate what we bring to the organization - not just dollars. Opportunity cost - if you didn’t have these people here with the information. Panel of people - representing multiple industries how do you demonstrate what you bring. Tactics continuum - strategies around asking questions - have you evaluated the impact this will have on your researchers, did you want me to give you some data. Give members the tools they are willing to use. Give them a suite of questions. No decisions are done if consequences are negative. Can do research ahead of time. Kit bag of testimonials.
  - Action: Jane to pursue ideas for May/June event, connecting with others as needed

- Awards - review and confirmation
  - Students - Standard for each region - per MOU - 3 student memberships for each region (first year $90)
  - Eastern Canada keeping their student award - Anne Galler - cash award about $30. Other regions did not have any vested interest in named or special awards
  - Member of the Year - board decides - Virtual conference - $200 feeding ourselves and that venue for members of the year
  - Promote what we do - recommend role models - students and members of the year. Maybe do panel discussion - role model aspect
  - Motion passed

- Communications - still open
- Web Manager
  - student chapter page coming along - shared draft - to fleshed out with student chapters across Canada; table of educational programs in Canada; Benefits of student membership.
  - Action: Caleb will round back to Stephen and Craig before going live.

- Programming
  - February meeting date moved to this with Gary Price
  - Action: Juanita to introduce; formal launch for Gary at Large newsletter
  - March - remote job finding
  - April - Virtual tour
  - Action: Bronwyn to write up blurb for Caleb can post. Create registration
  - May - Gov’t CIOs etc. to see how they see information/knowledge sharing
  - June - possible workshop - 2 hour session - impact statement - Articulate your value and impact or be articulate with your questions and follow throughs to challenges. Jim willing to participate
  - Speaker honoraria/card standards -most of the time a card will do and thank for recognizing. People who require payment will say so and Board will decide
    - Sending electronic card - who should and would like to
  - 2021 Annual Conference - (Aug 4-13) (Therese Mainville)
- Community Bingo & Mingle with the Canadian Community
- Earlier in the week (Wed 4/Thur)- Afternoons at 4 pm works for most time zones.
- Remo or Zoom (open)
  - Action: Therese will advise SLA Planners

- Regional Directors (nothing more)
- Partner Relations (no additional)
- Student Chapters
  - Action: Stephen to send something to Caleb for posting to web in next couple of days
  - Awards - have details on website before deadline of March 31st
  - McGill student group chapter met on Jan 28. 15+ people. Stephen and Craig attended. Engaging conversation, ended up being an event
  - Continent-wide session coming up - sending to student chapter list, free event to communicate out.
  - Action: Stephen to send something to Caleb for posting to web in next couple of days

- Any other business:
  - Membership lists are still a major issue.
    - We don’t know who are members are; we can't reach out for volunteers or to show vendor/partners their audience.
    - Impedes our ability to be successful. Embarrassing we can’t determine. Canada laws state that if you join an association, the implication is that they agree we can use their contact information for our Association business
  - Next meeting - March 29, 2021 at 12:30pm PT, Zoom link pending
  - Adjourn

Chat Stream notes on our members proactively articulating their worth and importance of their services (aka follow up from Quebec Government Library message)

  - It seemed pretty quick and nimble for us to respond but we’re at least on the record.
  - Use 'influencing strategies' instead of advocacy.
  - It doesn't have to rise to an 'expensive' 'campaign. Sometimes a simple call or letter is just enough.
  - Avoiding conflict is endemic in librarianship and this needs to be in our comfort zone toolkit.
  - LMD had a session with Donna "Practicing Positive Politics" decades ago when I was Chair. As soon as you get into an org, you need to start building key relationships.
  - Articulate your value and impact or be articulate with your questions and follow through to challenges.