**2020 Midlands Regional Conference Business Meeting**

**Location:** Virtual

**Date:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 3:15 PM (EST)

**Officers Present:** Kevin Treese (Chair – OK), Sarah Willeford (Vice Chair/Chair Elect – IA), Scott Norris (Treasurer – MI), Michelle Roossien (Secretary – MI)

**Members Present:**

**Illinois:** Sharon Ruda

**Indiana:** Laura Williams

**Iowa:** Jodi Aldini-Zepeda, Roxanne Book, Jerry Cole, Marcella Edmonds, Leslie Heinzler, Tyler Swett

**Kansas:** Dylan Calhoon, Amanda Diggs, Michael Lang, Maggie Witte

**Michigan:** Tonia Bickford, Alice Cruz, Hanna DeMarcus, Jacob Gorski, Sue Greene, Stephanie Herm, Mary Howard, Marisa Huston, Sarah Mahoney, Katie Monkiewicz, Kathleen Nuss, Polly O’Shea, Sarah Roe, Barbara Shipman, Brigid Turner, Stephanie Wambaugh, Andrew Wilson

**Minnesota:** David Andrews, Catherine Durivage, Lisa Larges, Dan Malosh, Annette Toews

**Missouri:** Leslie Bowman, Lisa Hellman, Amy Poos, Verhonda Winters

**Ohio:** Tracy Grimm, Will Reed

**Oklahoma:** Heather Bateman, Brian King, Marka Simms

**Wisconsin:** Zarina Mohd Shah

**Guests Present:** Paula Bahmani (NLS), Pamela Davenport (NLS)Shape

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Treese called the meeting to order at 3:19pm

1. **Approval of Minutes from the 2019 Business Meeting**

Motion: Scott Norris moved to approve minutes as submitted.

Support: Seconded by Sarah Willeford

RESULT: Motion carried.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Norris supplied treasury report as of October 31, 2020.

* + We currently have a surplus in both checking and savings accounts (see attached)
  + Midlands owes Northern Conference $1200 for 2019 Conference, but Northern does not have its own bank account
  + Scott will talk with Jill R. (NY) about getting that money to them through another financial institution
  + Sharon Ruda explained that the surplus of money was received through a LSTA grant several years ago to help cover the costs of hosting the regional conference. The money is a cushion against future conference expenses.

Motion: Michelle Roossien moved to receive and file the treasury report as presented.

Support: Seconded by Michael Lang

RESULT: Motion carried

1. **Committee Reports**
   1. **Collection Development Advisory Group (CDAG)**
      * Josh from NC has been in contact with NLS with the requests CDAG made and haven’t heard much response, most likely due to the NLS reorganization and changes in leadership
      * Push for more uncontracted Braille at the adult level or Hi/Lo books
      * Request for more representation for youth services, like a youth patron or a TVI
   2. **Public Education Advisory Group (PEAG)**
      * No group activity to report
   3. **Reading Technology Advisory Group (RTAG)**
      * Midlands representatives: Dave Andrews
      * Held a meeting last month and divided into 3 subcommittees to address upcoming NLS initiatives
2. **New Business**
   1. **2021 Midlands Regional Conference**
      * Virtual, May 11-13, 2021 1-4 PM
      * Joint Conference with Western Region
      * Iowa will host, Western Region to plan with Midlands input
      * Day 1: ILS 1hr, NLS 2hrs, Business Meeting 1hr
      * Day 2: ABC Marrakesh 1hr, Virtual Outreach 1hr, Digital Transition for Patrons, “Pivot”.
      * Ideas for Day 3? Submit any ideas to Kevin Treese, Sarah Willeford, or Michelle Roossien
      * Costs will be minimal because of the virtual environment
   2. **Conferences Resolutions**

* 2019 Resolutions to NLS review
* 2020 Resolutions draft will be sent to the Midland listserv for final review before submission to NLS
  1. **Other**
     + COVID Service & Circulation
       - KS has RAs working from home and circulation staff on-site
       - Most libraries reporting same level of staffing
       - MI went live with WebREADS beginning of March right before shut down, utilized DoD service right away.
     + DoD Progress
       - Missouri and KS both received their equipment
       - Oklahoma will be getting theirs soon
     + Outreach
       - Utilize virtual promotion with public libraries
     + Open Topics
       - Tonia B (MI1D) asked about the availability of DBM for DoD; Pamela will ask NLS staff
         * Paula Bahmani said that the NLS Music section will send DBMs on cartridge directly to patrons upon request
       - Happy retirement to Sharon Ruda and
       - Next business meeting will be elections for new officers.
         * Call for nominations will be sent out in February/March

1. **Adjournment**

Chair Treese called for adjournment at 4:12pm

Motion: Leslie Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting.

Support: Seconded by Sarah Roe

RESULT: Motion carried

**2020 Midlands Regional Conference Resolutions**

1. The Midlands Conference members resolve to thank NLS staff for their efforts as the virtual host for the 2020 Biennial Conference.
2. The Midlands Conference members resolve to thank Karen Keninger for her years of service as the director of NLS and wish her well on her upcoming retirement.
3. Midlands Conference members thank NLS their work on accepting accessible digital signatures of certifying authority.
4. Midlands Conference members commend NLS for the forth-coming Braille eReaders and the exploration of multiple device options for the future, including the work on voice activation technology.
5. Midlands Conference members commend NLS for the continued success and roll-out of the national advertising campaign and encourage the continuation of such outreach efforts.
6. Midlands Conference Members commend NLS for the formation of the Modernization Office and the restructuring of the NLS divisions.
7. Midlands Conference members thank NLS for providing the necessary equipment and supplies (i.e. cartridges, containers, labels, computer, scanner, printer, etc.) at no cost to network libraries, allowing for easier transition to the Duplication on Demand model of service.
8. Midlands Conference members encourage NLS to expand eligibility further to include persons with intellectual disabilities.
9. Midlands Conference members request that NLS investigates a cost-benefit analysis for the provision of a national ILS for network libraries.
10. Midlands Conference members request that NLS provide guidance to the network on how to effectively promote and market the BARD First initiative.
11. Midlands Conference members resolve to thank Sarah Willeford and the staff at the Iowa Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped for virtually hosting the 2021 Midlands Regional Conference.