

**Mississippi Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
March 4, 2016
Mississippi Library Commission, Jackson, MS**

Executive Board in Attendance:

Molly McManus, President
Jenniffer Stephenson, Vice-President
Jamie Wilson, Secretary
Marsha Case, Parliamentarian
Venetia Oglesby, School Library Section Chair
Rickey Jones, Trustees Section Chair
Ellen Ruffin, ALA Councilor
Michele Frasier-Robinson, ACRL Section Chair
Jennifer Wann, Public Library Section Chair

Also in attendance: Jennifer A. Smith, Mara Polk, Antoinette Giamalva, Tina Harry, Barbara Evans, Susan Cassagne, Barbara Price, Jennifer Todd, Ashley Biggs, Phillip Carter, Stacy Creel (via phone)

President Molly McManus called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. and announced that the sign-in sheet was going around.

The agenda was approved, and a vote was not necessary.

Rickey Jones made a motion to approve the 11:00 meeting minutes from December 11, 2015. Ellen Ruffin seconded. The minutes were approved.

Venetia Oglesby made a motion to approve the 12:55 meeting minutes from December 11, 2015. Jennifer Wann seconded. The minutes were approved.

Molly McManus introduced Rickey Jones as the Trustees Section Chair.

MLA Officers and Staff Reports:

Secretary Jamie Wilson:

- Minutes for the two December board meetings were distributed.

Treasurer Blair Booker:

- Jennifer Smith filled in for Blair Booker, as she was not able to attend the meeting.
- The Treasurer's Report of Revenue & Expenses was distributed.
- The accounting firm is doing a good job with bookkeeping
- The debit/credit card issue is resolved, and a new credit card was not needed. MLC paid for expenses for its board members directly rather than MLA paying and being reimbursed. MLA paid for hotel reservations for the executive board members attending National Legislative Day, and that fell below the debit card limit.
- There is more income at this time, and that is good for this time of the year.

President Molly McManus:

- The Executive Board list and committee chairs list was distributed, and it was reported that all the chairs are now filled.
- Stacy Creel was introduced as the National Library Week chair.
- Molly McManus received the high resolution MLA logo image from Tina Harry. It is now posted the MLA website.
- The Mid-Year Evaluation Report for the conference grant was sent to MLC.
- Molly McManus presented a draft of an image for a new MLA banner and stand. Tina Harry designed the sign. The MLA motto was on the sign along with images from Mississippi libraries.
 - Jennifer Wann suggested that too much text could be overwhelming to read.
 - Philip Carter suggested using phrases from the mission, rather than the entire mission.
 - Jennifer Smith suggested making the logo and the letters more colorful.
 - Jennifer Stephenson suggested putting the MLA e-mail at the stop of the banner
 - Susan Cassagne noted that MLC PR could take a look and help.
 - Molly McManus noted that the cost would fall in the \$300 to \$400 range. Everyone agreed that this is reasonable.
 - Approval will be sought over e-mail.
- Children's Book Festival volunteers for the MLA booth were sought. Several members volunteered to help. Molly McManus will ask YPSRT chair Ally Watkins to help coordinate volunteers.

Vice-President Jennifer Stephenson

- The lists of conference committee's chairs and members was distributed. Any additional volunteers for committees was welcomed.
- Jennifer Stephenson suggested the conference theme to be "Mississippi Libraries: The Heart of the Community."
 - This theme concept was built around Zach Benedict's idea of building communities around libraries, and he was a speaker at the recent ARSL conference. The theme could apply to libraries outside of public libraries, too. Libraries are information centers and gathering centers.
 - Discussion ensued about slightly modifying the language of the theme, and many suggestions were made.
 - Jennifer Stephenson moved for the conference theme to be, "Mississippi Libraries: The Heart of Our Communities." Jennifer Wann seconded. The motion was approved.
- Conference discussion:
 - Jennifer Stephenson is in preliminary talks with Zach Benedict to be a speaker at the conference.
 - Molly McManus noted that conference budget does require board approval, but the board can give advice.
 - Jennifer Stephenson asked for suggestions on additional conference speakers.
 - Molly McManus stated she will send W9's over \$600 and the contract.
 - Jennifer Wann asked if there were specific budgets for sections. Molly McManus noted there is a range in fees paid to speakers. Any sections needing speaker money should work with Jennifer Stephenson. Susan Cassagne noted that speaker contracts are usually paid in a lump sum.

- Molly McManus carried over a discussion about non-profit exhibitors and the possibility of waiving or reducing exhibit fees.
 - Jenniffer Stephenson suggested a smaller fee for non-profits and schools. She also pointed out that other groups offer discounts. She said there is usually a flat fee for convention exhibit set up, but we always fall under the minimum fee level.
 - Molly McManus asked if we need to create a policy to determine which vendors or groups would qualify for non-profit status.
 - There was consensus that MLC and other groups should not pay to be an exhibitor.
 - Jenniffer Stephenson noted that there needs to be a cut-off date for vendor payment, and vendors will want to know ahead of time.
 - Mara Polk agreed with Jenniffer Stephenson that some groups should be free. Groups that were not charged in the past include the silent auction, MLA, and hospitality.
 - Mara Polk suggested there should be a clear distinction between free versus lowered cost.
 - Jennifer Wann pointed out that a case could also be made for the library school not to be charged. Jenniffer Stephenson said they are there to recruit.
- Jenniffer Stephenson made a motion for MLA to provide one free booth for MLC at the conference. Rickey Jones seconded. The motion was approved.
- Jenniffer Stephenson made a motion for MLA to include ARSL as a Roundtable. Jennifer Wann seconded. The motion was approved.
 - A signed petition was presented by Jenniffer Stephenson. At least ten of the signatures must be in good standing in order for the petition to be valid. There was a consensus that the petition did have at least ten members in good standing represented.
 - Jenniffer Stephenson asked about changes to the memberships form to accommodate ARSL. Also, it was noted that by-laws for the roundtable will need to be added.
 - Molly McManus suggested that the board needs to decide when to charge a roundtable fee for ARSL. It was decided that the January would be the best time to add a fee for the ARSL Roundtable.
 - Phillip Carter volunteered to help write the bylaws for the ARSL Roundtable. He will also be helping with ARSL Roundtable setup.

Past-President Patsy Brewer

- Patsy Brewer was unable to attend, and she submitted her report via e-mail: I am looking at having the Past President's meeting at a later time in the day as well as having it off site at another location in Vicksburg. I will working with Deb Mitchell on the local arrangements.

MLA Administrator Barbara Price:

- Stephen Haller is working with Teresa Welsh to set up an internship with USM students. Ellen Ruffin noted that the collection may be too in depth to work in this situation.
- National Legislative Day:
 - Reservations and registrations are completed for the two MLA attendees.
 - Everyone will be at the same hotel, and it is a non-conference hotel. It is less than the conference hotel.
 - MLC is paying for their own reservations, and that eliminated an extra step so that MLA does not need to be reimbursed.

- State Legislative Day
 - A list of donations from Friends groups was distributed, and a total of \$2925.00 was collected at that point. Donations were still being accepted. When a donation was made, a thank you card was sent. Staff donations were collected.

ALA Councilor Ellen Ruffin:

- Ellen Ruffin distributed the ALA resolution honoring Billy Beal from the 2016 ALA Midwinter Meeting. The resolution, “A Memorial Resolution Honoring Billy Charles Beal,” was signed by Keith Michael Fiels, Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council, and it was adopted on January 12, 2016. She noted that ALA wrote and approved the resolution, and she was impressed with the dedication of his friends and colleagues to get this done.
- In the opening session in San Francisco, the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore was presented with an award honoring their service and by staying open during the Baltimore riots.
- The library director, Dr. Carla Hayden, is currently nominated as the Librarian of Congress. Molly McManus noted that she will draft a letter in support of the nominee, and she will look at the timeline in order to decide when to proceed. Susan Cassagne stated that chief state librarians have written letters of support. Jennifer Wann said it would be appropriate for the board to approve.
- Ellen Ruffin said that she was proud to be a part of ALA and to represent Mississippi.

SELA Councilor Melissa Dennis:

- Melissa Dennis was unable to attend, but she submitted a report via e-mail: SELA/COMO conference is set for Oct. 5-7th in Athens. The theme is “reinvent, reimagine, rediscover libraries” Keynote Eric Fayden at Bucknell to discuss copyright. (He made a popular video years ago called A Fair(y)Use Tale). Lunch speaker is Jonathan Alter: senior editor for Newsweek for over 20 years currently he's doing research on Jimmy Carter for a new book. Booth fees are set by GA and are equal to all vendors, schools, etc. \$350 for booths. Call for poster and presentation proposals should go out first week of April. No state has confirmed hosting SELA for 2017. SELA wants to continue discussing 2017 or 2018 options for MS hosting. At the very least, it was suggested that next year MS invite SELA to attend and possibly set price for SELA attendees to be the same as MS members to encourage participation (this is the model TN uses instead of inviting to a formal joint conference). As for conference locations for MLA for 2017 and onward, I have contacted Olive Branch and Jeff has reached out to Hattiesburg. Still a slow process but hope to have more information soon.
- Molly McManus requested that Melissa Dennis present a formal report at the May meeting to consider 2017 or 2018 as a joint MLA/SELA conference.

MLC Executive Director Susan Cassagne:

- MLC continues to work on plans for State Legislative Day. Staff will be appearing on WLBT. In case of inclement weather, the plan is to move the MLC event indoors. MLC staff will be meeting Monday morning to coordinate.
 - Thank you to MLA and Friends groups for helping with funding.
 - This year is particularly important to join together because of the broadband issue. Joining MLA and MLC this year is great, but this is not something that we need to do every year. The first year of a new administration may be a good time to revisit.

- There will be tables set up for MLC services, Magnolia, Public Libraries, etc. Public library directors will be meeting on Wednesday, so many directors will be in town for State Legislative Day.
- Barbara Price noted that MLA has a table and volunteers are needed.
- Jenniffer Stephenson voiced concerns about school consolidations and the impact on libraries. Susan Cassagne stated that public libraries can step up in that situation to help. Barbara Evans agreed and supported that idea.

Section Chair Reports:

ACRL Section: Michele Frasier-Robinson announced the Spring ACRL Workshop is planned for May at MLC. Registration information will be sent out in March.

Public Library Section: Jennifer Wann had no report but is working to get the section back on track.

School Library Section: Venetia Oglesby is working to build membership in the section. She is investigating the obstacles that stop school librarians from joining MLA. More growth is seen in conference attendance. Barbara Price noted that a school district recently paid for a lifetime membership for a member. Jenniffer Stephenson noted concern that school librarians are not able to attend the entire conference, and she suggested scheduling school library sessions on one day. It is a good place to get CEUs in one day. Venetia Oglesby suggested that it would be helpful if more library-related CEUs were available for school librarians. It is important for MLA to make efforts to show MLA represents all types of libraries. The perception is that MLC is mainly targeted to public libraries.

Special Library Section: Joyce Shaw was unable to attend, but Molly McManus noted that Joyce Shaw is thinking about the conference.

Trustees Section: Rickey Jones did not have a report, but he is working on getting started with the section. He asked for those with experience to help build the section. Trustees need to understand they are important in the decisions we make.

Roundtables and Committees Reports:

Awards Committee: Molly McManus noted that Erin Busbea was not able to attend, but that she is working on a new day and time for the awards ceremony. The request for nominations was sent out earlier than usual to help get more responses. Jennifer Wann noted that many people are leaving the conference on Thursday afternoon and not attending Fridays, when the awards ceremony has traditionally been placed. Marsha Case said for many years there were meetings on Friday morning along with the awards ceremony. Jenniffer Stephenson noted that this changed when the conference was last held on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. She suggested holding section and roundtable meetings on Friday as a way to bolster attendance. Antoinette Giamalva suggested Tuesdays as a possible slot. Mara Polk hoped it would be scheduled when there is enough time to congratulate award recipients. Jennifer Wann suggested that it be tied to a general session rather than a luncheon or breakfast that has a fee. Ellen Ruffin thought the general session is a great idea since it is an important session. Mara Polk suggested staggering the awards throughout a day or during the conference. Phillip Carter suggested awards immediately follow the keynote speaker. He also suggested having a poster on display during the conference that honors the awards winners. Jenniffer Stephenson will work with Erin Busbea, Phillip Carter, and Ashley Biggs to further work on these ideas.

Black Caucus Roundtable: No report

Election Committee: Jennifer Smith is working to move all elections to an online/electronic format. She contacted all of the heads of sections and chairs, and they are following the by-laws. Most are selecting nominees before the conference and elections are then held at the conference.

- Step 1: It would be better to have elections before the conference.
- Step 2: Need to work with the web committee to conduct online elections. Jennifer Todd noted that the Google Doc survey worked well for TSRT elections. Jennifer Smith thinks this will be helpful.

Fiscal Management Committee: Patsy Brewer submitted her report via e-mail: After looking over the Coker and Palmer information sent to me by Barbara, I would like to look at other options before the May meeting. The year-end report showed that the profit on the investment account was \$197.35 and the loss was \$249.73. Although the stock market fluctuates from time to time, we need investigate if we are receiving a loss every year on the account. Barbara had suggested that we may want to look into what Regions Bank has to offer. I will do some more research before the May meeting and also look at the cd information.

Legislative Committee: Updates on the March 8th 2016 Library Legislative Day and Legislative Lawn Party were discussed. Susan Cassagne noted that attendees should arrive between 10:30 and 10:45 a.m. Mara Polk suggested a group photo. Susan Cassagne encouraged MLA members to make connections with legislators prior to and at the event. She also encouraged librarians to bring brochures and information from their own communities so that legislators can see what they do affects things at home.

Long Range Planning Committee: Barbara Evans noted that the co-chair will attend the May meeting. The committee is considering moving the time of the meeting at the conference.

Membership Committee: Ashley Biggs presented proposals on how to boost membership. MLA needs to explain why it is important to pay dues.

- MLA does not have any solicitation documents that we could take to school librarians, state legislators, etc. The focus of a document of this nature should be to explain membership purpose, and we could use Vista Print to create such a document for approximately \$350.
- Propose allowing new members to join one roundtable at no cost. Roundtables seems to be where people find motivation to be involved, and too many librarians see MLA as only about the conference.
- They are exploring a membership drive, but this is a long-term project.
- Conduct a poll of existing and lapsed members on what they would like to get back from MLA.
- Molly McManus explored the one free roundtable option and made a motion to provide one free roundtable to members. Stacy Creel said we should find out the cost of one free roundtable for members before approving. Jenniffer Stephenson asked to table the motion. Molly McManus thanked the committee for their hard work, and said that the budget would be considered before making a decision.
- Ashley Biggs said we need to express the value of the organization, matching expectations, and figure out how to deliver. Before adding new members, find out how to meet expectation and what people actually need out of MLA. Molly McManus noted that MLA could work with library directors to encourage staff members to join MLA.

Mississippi Author Awards Committee: No report. Molly McManus noted that the committee assignments have been made, and Melody Dale is currently taking nominations via email.

National Library Week Committee: Stacy Creel is working with a committee of students and librarians to promote National Library Week. She solicited help from librarians in many different types of libraries. A website was created: <http://aquila.usm.edu/msnlw>. The theme is "Libraries Transform." Fonts and images will be available soon. Working on PSAs to use on social media. Letter to Governor Bryant to ask for a proclamation was discussed. Barbara Price will look to see if there are any samples from the past. Molly McManus noted that the proclamation may have fallen by the wayside in the past. Jennifer Wann noted a sample proclamation is available on the ALA website.

New Member Roundtable: No report

Nominating Committee: The slate of nominees will be finished soon, but it is not ready at this time. See Addendum.

Publicity Committee: Antoinette Giamalva circulated MLA publicity and social media statistics for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram. Facebook likes are rising and Pinterest is growing. Instagram is slowly rising, and she is gearing up for summer reading and creating more hashtags. Facebook likes are up to 469. Total tweets are 1,363 and there are 458 total followers. On Pinterest there are 262 average daily impressions and 149 average daily viewers. Instagram has 80 posts with 67 followers.

Scholarship Committee: No report

Technical Services Roundtable: No report

YPSRT Roundtable: Elections were recently held.

Web Services Committee:

- Jennifer Todd started a discussion of conference registration cancellation policies. The issue is whether to reimburse individuals who cannot attend the conference due to illness, cancellation, or no show. A policy and deadlines are needed.
 - Jennifer Wann asked if substitutes were allowed, as there are policies like this in other groups like ARSL. Molly McManus said this needs to be in the policy, too.
 - Phillip Carter noted that reimbursements may need to be coordinated with caterer deadlines.
 - Molly McManus suggested allowing cancellations up to a certain date, but a processing fee may apply.
 - Barbara Price noted that some societies charge a flat fee for conferences, but they often charge much more than MLA rates.
 - Jennifer Todd noted that there could be levels of registration.
 - Jennifer Stephenson said the conference Registration committee could look into these ideas.
 - Jennifer Todd will send language to Jennifer Stephenson for the conference committees' input.

- Molly McManus said the no show rate is rising as online registration becomes a more popular choice. Some are not paying after registering online.
- Jennifer Wann and Molly McManus noted that many public and school librarians need to pay after October 1 due to the new fiscal year.
- Jennifer Wann asked if there is a way to sort out those who have not paid in the software.
- Ashely Biggs asked if a list of no shows could be generated.
- Molly McManus reminded the board that with volunteer help, the process needs to remain simple.
- Jennifer Todd stated there were around 20 no show/no payment for the 2015 conference. She will draft a proposal and email it to the board.
- Jennifer Todd said she could add the names of the Friends groups donating to State Legislative Day as an additional way to thank them for their support. Antoinette Giamalva said she could also do the same on the social media accounts.

Old Business:

1. ALA Forms Completed
2. Conference Registration cancellation policy was discussed during the Web Services Committee report.

New Business:

1. Investigate a way recognize the passing of MLA members at our annual conference. Molly McManus will ask Awards Committee Chair Erin Busbea about memorializing the passing of members during the conference. Jennifer Stephenson recommended including this information in the conference program, too.
2. In memory of donations – Molly McManus thanked Marsha Case and the Web Committee for their work.
3. Tina Harry, *Mississippi Libraries* editor, is working on the newest issue. She is also working on a draft for the new peer-review policy. She requested that articles are submitted for State Legislative Day.
4. Future conference sites
 - a. Molly McManus distributed a proposal from Jeff Slagell for the 2017 conference to be held in Hattiesburg at the Lake Terrace Convention Center, October 17-20, 2017. This will be the first time the convention will be held in Hattiesburg since 2002.
 - b. Jennifer Wann asked about the possibility of using an RFP process to select future conference sites. Molly McManus will ask Melissa Dennis and Jeff Slagell. Jennifer Wann offered to help start drafting an RFP for 2018.
 - c. Phillip Carter noted that Hattiesburg may not be the best venue for a joint MLA/SELA conference site. He proposed Starkville for 2018 as The Mill can accommodate 3000 people. Jennifer Wann asked how many people normally attend SELA.
 - d. Marsha Case noted that the conference site must be voted on before money can be expended. The groups agreed and discussions continued about the viability of Hattiesburg as a conference site. Molly McManus decided that the issue needed to come to a vote.

- e. Jennifer Wann moved to approve Hattiesburg as the conference site for 2017 and give Molly McManus and Jennifer Stephenson the authority to enter into a contract. Jamie Wilson seconded. The motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on May 6, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Mississippi Library Commission.

Rickey Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Venetia Oglesby. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Wilson
Secretary

Approved with amendments 5/6/2016

ADDENDUM

Subject	MLA EXECUTIVE BOARD: Please vote via email on the slate of nominees for the MLA election
From	molly mcmanus
To	Blair Booker; Wilson, Jamie; Jenniffer Stephenson; Melissa Dennis; Mcmanus, Molly CONTRACTOR @ ERD; Michele Frasier-Robinson; wlib@wwcls.lib.ms.us ; Ellen Ruffin; Jennifer Wann; R JONES; Stacy Creel; Venetia Oglesby; Joyce Shaw
Cc	scunetto@library.msstate.edu ; Marsha Case; Jennifer Smith
Sent	Friday, April 08, 2016 9:14 AM
Attachments	 MLA Nominati...

Executive Board: Via email the Nominating Committee Chairperson Stephen Cunetto and the MLA nominating committee, nominate Durless (Dee) Lumpkin and Sarah Mangrum for MLA Vice President/President Elect, Jennifer Wann and Holly Gray for MLA Secretary and Ellen Ruffin and Dee Ware for ALA Councilor. Biographies of the nominees are attached. The majority of the executive board needs to approve the slate of nominees prior to us holding the election.

Please vote by Tuesday April 12th by clicking the link below. If you have any problems voting with the link you can email me indicating if you 1-approve the nominees, 2-do not approve the nominees, 3-obstain from voting.

<http://goo.gl/forms/2hhynP81DL>

Jamie, as secretary please add this complete email, including who it was sent to, as an addendum to our meeting minutes so that we have a record of the nominations.

Molly McManus
MLA President

Attachment:

VP/Pres Elect

Sarah Mangrum is the Access Services Librarian and Clinical Assistant Professor with the University of Southern Mississippi Libraries. She received her MLIS from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2011 and BA in Communications from Southeastern Louisiana University in 2005. Her areas of service include chairing the University Libraries Assessment Team and Copyright Taskforce, serving as News Reporter for *Mississippi Libraries*, and chairing the Distinguished Achievement in Access Services Awards committee sponsored by Generation Fifth. She was a 2015 graduate of the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute and CopyrightX presented by Harvard Law School and the Berkman Center for Internet and Society. Ms. Mangrum was also the recipient of the 2015 Peggy May Award and a Big Read Grant from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Durless (Dee) Lumpkin has been an academic library professional for over four years, since earning her Master of Library and Information Science degree from The University of Southern Mississippi in 2012. Previously, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Mississippi State University in 2009. Dee began her work in libraries as a Cataloger and later as an Interlibrary Loan Specialist at The University of Southern Mississippi. During her time there, she served on several committees including the University Libraries' Activities Committee, the University Libraries' Schedule Committee, as well as the University Libraries' Internal Staff Committee where she was elected by her peers to serve as committee secretary. Dee currently serves as Systems Librarian at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, MS where she adheres to the expectations of members of the faculty, performs the daily operations of maintaining the library's catalog, serves as website administrator, works closely with vendors and other campus departments, as well as stations the library's reference desk one night each week. Dee strives to serve both the William Carey University campus community and the greater Hattiesburg area. She has worked with student organizations on campus, regularly attends campus events, and has served on a fundraising committee for Homes of Hope for Children, a local children's home. Dee is a member of the American Library Association where she is a member of the Association of College and Research Libraries Division, as well as the Technical Services Interest Group. She is a new member of the Mississippi Library Association where she has joined the Association of College and Research Libraries Section and the Technical Services Roundtable. She has also contributed to *Mississippi Libraries*, the quarterly publication of the Mississippi Library Association. She appreciates the consideration and opportunity to better serve the Mississippi Library Association. Dee has former managerial experience in the service industry with a passion for customer service, ongoing professional growth and development, and commitment to research. Dee's current interests include website trends and design, usability, and user experience studies.

Secretary

Jennifer Wann currently serves as the Director of the Bolivar County Library System in the Mississippi Delta. She has been a member of the Mississippi Library Association since 2004 and has served on the Awards, Election, and Legislative Committees at various times. She currently represents the Public Library Section on the MLA Executive Board. In her previous role as Director of Development Services for the Mississippi Library Commission, Jennifer served on the Librarianship 101 Institute team dedicated to training front-line public library staff, and she developed and directed the Mississippi Library Leadership Institute.

A *Library Journal* 2010 Mover & Shaker, Jennifer strongly believes that even the smallest, most rural communities can have outstanding library service when service oriented staff members and 21st Century technology intersect. Her personal mission as the Director of the Bolivar County Library System is to develop and implement library policies and initiatives that foster a love of reading, greater community engagement, and optimism about our shared future. She received her MLIS from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2006. She has two cats and a dog: Sassy, Spooky, and Scruffy.

Holly Gray

Emily Holland "Holly" Gray has served as the Media Specialist at Tupelo High School for the past 8 years. Prior to working at the high school level, she was a Media Specialist at Rankin Elementary (K3) for 6 years and K3 teacher for 4 years. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Education and Library/Media Certification from The University of Mississippi and a Master of Science in Instructional Technology from Mississippi State University. She is a National Board

Certified Teacher in Library Media, with a 2015 renewal, and has served as a NBCT Library/Media Mentor with The University of Mississippi's World Class Teaching Program. In 2010 she served on the Tupelo Public School District's "iCreate the Future" development and implementation committee, the first public high school 1to1 laptop initiative in the state of Mississippi. Her professional organizations, service, and activities include: Mississippi Library Association member, MLA School Chair, 20132015, MLA Legislative Committee member, MLA Legislative Committee, as well as previously serving on the MLA Mississippi Author Awards and Web Page committee, Delta Kappa Gamma, Eta Chapter member, and International Society for Technology in Education member. She serves as a member of the MAGNOLIA Steering committee. She is the Library/Media district PLC chair in the Tupelo Public School District and has developed and led professional development throughout the district for the past 14 years.

ALA Councilor:

Ellen Ruffin

Ellen is our current ALA Councilor, Biography to come

Dee Ware

Dee Hare has worked in Mississippi libraries for almost 18 years. Currently, she is the Assistant Director in charge of Technology and Branch Operations for the 13-branch Northeast Regional Library System, headquartered in Corinth. She began her library career at the George E. Allen Library in Booneville, first beginning as a part-time circulation clerk before being promoted to Assistant Librarian and then Head Librarian, a position she held for over 12 years.

Over her career, Dee has worked with numerous local, state and federal entities to provide services, resources and assistance to the library. She has been an active member of MLA and attended all yearly conferences for over 15 years.

Dee has a B.A. in English from Delta State University and is currently finishing classwork to receive a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Southern Mississippi.