

Because MLA has ambitions to capitalize on its recent growth and financial stability in the next several years, it is desirable that individual Board members be well-rounded, possessing some of the following leadership traits or skills: big picture focus/global outlook; change agent; ability to present, persuade and influence; ability to implement a strategic plan; development/fundraising.

Expertise/Interests/Skills Nominee Can Bring to the Board as Described Above:

As a member of the MLA Board I will bring an interest in public libraries, particularly rural public libraries. I enjoy collaboration and like to be a part of a team. I am a believer in the public library as a community hub, not a quiet, secretive study space, and I think my experience forming partnerships in my community, including with the local DDA and community college, will serve me well on the MLA Board.

Brief Summary of Professional Experience:

I have been working as a professional at the Dickinson County Library for 11 years, beginning in February 2008. During this time, I completed my MLIS degree online through Wayne State University, which allowed me to apply for the Director position when it opened in 2014.

Prior to working at the library, I completed my BS in Biology with a concentration in Education from Michigan Technological University and taught middle and high school science and math.

Professional Library Experience:

Cataloger at the Dickinson County Library, 2008-2015

Co-Director and Cataloger at the Dickinson County Library, 2015

Director of the Dickinson County Library, 2016-present

Completed MLIS through Wayne State University, January 2009-December 2010

Service to the Michigan Library Association:

This is my first time seeking to service as a direct part of MLA. I volunteered at the registration table and as a room monitor a number of times at previous conferences, but I have not held a position within the organization.

Service to the Profession Outside of MLA:

Aside from the positions currently held, I have served in positions of leadership in library related services as Chair of the UPRLC Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2018), as member of the UPRLC Annual Meeting Planning Committee (2016-2017), as a member of the negotiating committee for the shared contract with our ILS provider (2009-2010), and a member of the Superiorland Library Cooperative Products and Services Committee (2009-2013).

I co-presented a breakout session at the Loletta Fyan RLC in 2018 with a colleague, Lisa Waskin.

I also served as a volunteer at the registration table at the ALA Annual Conference in Chicago in June, 2017.

Service to Non-Profit Organizations/Community Outside of the Library World:

I am currently serving my community through participation in the following non-profit organizations/committees:

Children's Museum Action Team, 4 years of service, 1 as Co-Chair
Great Start Collaborative, 4 years of service
Dickinson County Communities That Care, 3 years of service
Iron-Mountain Kingsford Kiwanis, 1 year of service
City of Kingsford Planning Commission, 7 years of service, 4 as Vice Chair
Iron Mountain DDA Events Committee, 1 year of service

I am a firm believer in supporting my community and in my current role see opportunities for the library through many of these partnerships. Even so, I participate in most of these organizations on my own time.

Other Board(s) and/or Committee(s) on which you are currently serving:

Superiorland Library Cooperative Advisory Board of Librarians - Chair (1 year term as Chair)
Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation (UPRLC) - Vice Chair (3 year term as trustee, 2021, annual term as Vice Chair)
City of Kingsford Planning Commission - Vice Chair (3 year term, 2020)