

MORE Executive Committee meeting information

November 5, 2021

6. Approve slate of MORE officer nominees for 2022

The November 12 MORE Directors Council meeting will be the last of the calendar year. Per the [MORE bylaws](#), officers for Directors Council and Executive Committee for 2022 should be elected at this meeting. It's helpful for Executive Committee to recommend a slate of nominees at the November meeting, and nominations are also taken from the floor.

MORE Officers are:

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Secretary
- Director-at-Large (MORE Executive Committee officer)

At the October meeting, three current members agreed to be on the slate of nominees for another term:

- Chair: Shelly Rae
- Vice Chair: Katherine Elchert
- Secretary: Samma Johnson

Pamela Westby, the Director-at-Large for 2021, has retired from L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library. The group will need to agree on a nominee for this position.

Here are the specific sections of the MORE bylaws about officers. All current Executive Committee officers are eligible for another term in 2022:

Article VIII, Section 1:

The officers of the Directors Council shall be the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Secretary, to be elected annually at the final meeting of the calendar year. There is a limit of three consecutive terms as an officer. After one year, any member may again be elected as an officer. Acting and interim directors are not eligible to be elected as officers. Officers will assume their duties at the end of the meeting at which the election was held. Should an office be vacated during the calendar year, a special election shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Directors Council to fill such vacancy.

Article IX, Section 2:

Executive Committee. The purpose of this committee is to conduct the regular business of MORE between meetings of the full Directors Council, to investigate and make recommendations regarding matters requiring the action of the full Directors Council, and to draft a preliminary budget. The Executive Committee members shall include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Director of IFLS and one Directors Council Director-at-Large elected by the

Directors Council. The Director-at-Large position shall follow the same guidelines as officers regarding terms of office. The MORE Administrator shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the committee. This committee shall meet bi-monthly or as necessary.

7. System-wide standards for billing

Agenda request from Joleen Sterk, Menomonie Public Library:

“Adopt system-wide standards for billing

Since more libraries have gone fine free, we have seen an uptick in the volume of item replacement fees that are being charged to replace damaged materials. I do not know if there is any correlation, but I would like to ask if other libraries have noticed this as well.

This hyper-sensitivity in identifying damaged items is causing our circulation staff to spend a significant amount of time contacting other libraries or returning items to owning locations to assess for damage, and results in longer wait times for people who are requesting items.

When the damage is negligible, or can't be definitively attributed to someone, it seems unfair to punish the last patron. At MPL, we often pay for damaged items, rather than alienate our community members. I would respectfully ask other MORE libraries who place a high value on item condition, to do so in the context of what this does to relationships with other libraries, and with the community members who may be faced with an unexpected bill.

Is there a way for IFLS to address this? Can we all agree to assume a certain amount of collection value loss due to use and normal wear and tear?. Is there an opportunity for training on condition evaluation, so that we are all applying the same standards of practice? Until we are in general agreement, it will continue to hurt service to all.”

Another MORE-member library director raised a similar concern this week:

“I don't like to be a complainer, but I am going to complain about damaged items overzealousness.

[Redacted library] (three different staff) sent 3 items back with damaged item slips and messages on the item record. One of the items wasn't even damaged, it was actual artwork in the book that looked kind of like spilled on it, a waste of everyone's time. The others: one was a binding that will get repaired and one just needed a stain noted -- but staff has to go into the record and delete the message and I am taking time to write this email. One of them needed binding repair and still had the hold on it - they could have repaired the binding and had it to their patron later that day or the next day. Sometimes I think staff forgets about customer service - the people want the book!

Thanks for listening. I know a committee spent a lot of time on the damaged item form and process, but smaller libraries with smaller staff don't want to spend a ton of time on these things. Time is money and sometimes a book with a small stain isn't worth the staff time - they are library books, they are going to get dirty edges and sometimes a little coffee spilt.”

A primary tenet of [MORE's Damaged Item Policy](#) is the owning library determines whether and how much to bill for damage to their materials, as well as who to bill. While this gives libraries control of their locally-purchased materials, it can be time-consuming and create an inconsistent patron experience.