



2019-2020 Board of Directors Election
Member-at-Large
Kelly Richards
Director
Muskegon Area District Library

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:

Library Management, Human Resources, Millage Campaigns, Community Outreach, Youth Services, programming, Organizational Change, Leadership Development, and Employment Diversity.

Brief Summary of Professional Experience:

Mr. Kelly Richards is an individual who has dedicated his life to helping people reach their potential. He earned a Bachelor of Science - Criminal Justice Degree from Ferris State University and previously served as a police officer for the Flint area.

He started his library career working for the Las Vegas Clark County Library District as a Manager in the Young Peoples Department. His marketing/outreach work was noticed by E.J. Josey, a Past President of ALA and Professor Emeritus of the SLIS at Pittsburgh. Dr. Josey recruited Mr. Richards to the SLIS with a full Graduate Student Assistantship position. While at the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Richards completed an Internship at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, shadowing the Director of Outreach and Branch Services. After earning his degree he accepted the position of Manager of Periodicals at the main branch for the Las Vegas Clark Library District.

Mr. Richards was promoted to Branch Administrator and helped lead several major building projects. He was nominated by the State Librarian and the Library Director to attend the prestigious Snow Bird Library Institute in Utah. During his tenure as Branch Administrator he received a certificate for completing the UCLA Executive Education Leadership Program.

Mr. Richards was recruited by the Genesee District Library where he held positions Assistant Executive Director and Branch Operations Manager. He supervised more than 80% of the employees for the Genesee District Library.

Mr. Richards has been the Director for the Muskegon Area District Library since 2014. Within that time he worked to pass a successful ten year millage with a great team of employees. His focus at MADL has been on community engagement and management best practices.

Service to the Michigan Library Association:

Michigan Library Association Board Member 2017 - Present

Michigan Library Association Legislative Committee - 2016

MLA Professional Development Committee - Helped on committee for a workshop at the University of Michigan 2011

Service to the Profession Outside of MLA:

Black Caucus of The American Library Association Board member 1999

BCLA local Arrangements Chair for Las Vegas Conference

American Library Association Member

In our own voices: the changing face of librarianship - Contributed a chapter, Scarecrow Press, 1996
African American librarians in the Far West : pioneers and trailblazers - Contributed a chapter,
Scarecrow Press, 2006

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

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance - 2016
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Muskegon Rotary - 2015-16
Literacy Committee Muskegon Rotary - 2015-16
Trial Board Member for City of Flint Police Department - 2008-2016
Muskegon Rotary Member 2015-2016

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

Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance 2016- Present
Diversity and Inclusion Committee Muskegon Rotary - ongoing
Literacy Committee Muskegon Rotary - ongoing
Michigan Notable Book Committee 2015 - Present
Michigan Library Association Legislative Committee 2016-Present
Trial Board Member for City of Flint Police Department 2008 - Present
Lake land Library Cooperative Board 2014 - Present