

**MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**  
**MANAGEMENT LETTER**  
December 31, 2015

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## MANAGEMENT LETTER

To the Board of Directors  
Minnesota Library Association  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of Minnesota Library Association as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered Minnesota Library Association's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and, therefore, there can be no assurance that all such deficiencies have been identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we considered to be material weaknesses.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency presented in the attachment to this letter to be a significant deficiency in internal control.

This letter does not affect our report dated April 1, 2016 on the financial statements of Minnesota Library Association.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide services to the Organization and hope you find the information included in this correspondence useful and informative. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the items further, please let us know.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Governing Board, and others within the Organization, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Harrington Lange & Associates*

April 1, 2016

## **I. Internal Control Deficiencies**

**Segregation of Duties:** Our consideration of internal control disclosed that the Organization has an inherent deficiency associated with the size of its accounting function that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

The size of the Organization is such that optimum internal control achieved through adequate segregation of incompatible duties among accounting personnel is not feasible. Although the Organization has implemented policies and procedures to mitigate for the lack of segregation of duties, the Organization does not meet the criteria (as pronounced by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) for segregation of duties in its accounting function. As such, management should maintain sufficient oversight to avoid errors and irregularities. This situation is common to organizations of this size and any changes should be reviewed from a cost-benefit perspective.

**Financial Reporting Process:** Our consideration of internal control disclosed that the Organization has a significant deficiency associated with the financial reporting process.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls and for the fair presentation of the financial statements and disclosures, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Like many similarly sized organizations, management has requested assistance from us, the auditors, with drafting financial statements and related notes. The outsourcing of these services is not unusual in organizations of this size and is a result of management's cost-benefit decision to rely on our accounting expertise rather than incurring this internal resource cost. This increases the possibility that errors and irregularities may not be detected on a timely basis.

### *Management Response:*

Management is aware of these situations, but a cost-benefit analysis of the issues does not currently support the allocation of additional employees or resources at this time. Certain other safeguards are currently maintained (management oversight and review of draft financial statements) which provide satisfactory mitigation of the issues. The Organization will consider drafting the financial statements and footnotes in the future.

The Organization's response to the significant deficiencies identified in our audit has not been subjected to the audit procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

## **II. Required Communications**

We have audited the financial statements of Minnesota Library Association for the year ended December 31, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated April 1, 2016. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated February 2, 2016. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

## Significant Audit Findings

### *Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Principles*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Minnesota Library Association are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended December 31, 2015. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

### *Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit*

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing the audit.

### *Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements*

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

### *Disagreements with Management*

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the Organization's financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

### *Management Representations*

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated April 1, 2016.

### *Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants*

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### *Other Audit Issues or Findings*

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Organization’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.