



MLA Administrative Meeting

Minuteman Library Network Headquarters, Natick MA

September 9, 2011

Draft Minutes

Meeting Attendees: Elizabeth Hacala, (Executive Manager) Ruth Urell (President), Jackie Rafferty (Past President), Dinah O'Brian (Vice-President) Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer), Susan McAlister (Chair, Legislative Committee) Nancy Siegel (Secretary)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nancy will post **draft** minutes to the Wild Apricot server. Elizabeth will put a 72-hour flag on them to close the comment period. The minutes will be amended at the next meeting. A motion was made by Dinah and seconded by Jackie to approve the minutes of the Administrative Meeting for July 2011. The motion was approved unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT Ruth raised the possibility that MLA offer an official response to the MBLC Legislative Agenda for 2012. Susan attended the public hearing in Worcester and reported that the attendance was light and comments were few. Ruth will write a letter to the commissioners to express MLA's views on the proposal and offer examples of how the lack of funding has impacted libraries in Massachusetts.

Ruth raised this issue of collaboration with other library entities and organizations. Board members raised the issue of reaching out to the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association. Elizabeth suggested sending a letter to all library boards of trustees to alert them to the possibility of becoming MLA members at a \$35.00 Trustee level.

Ruth will contact the head of MLTA to see if she can speak at their annual event on November 6th in Worcester.

Ruth and Krista will deliver READ posters to legislators in Boston next month.

TREASURER'S REPORT Bernadette reported that membership income has nearly doubled in the month of August and she hoped that the Executive Board members push to contact lapsed members has had a positive effect on the bottom line.

EXECUTIVE MANAGER'S REPORT Elizabeth reported Digital Commonwealth has extended its contract with Lyris for six months, which will enable the DC to explore other partnering alternatives.

The Executive Board meeting will be held on October 14th at the Wellesley Public Library.

PROPOSAL FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Susan presented a proposal to hire an individual to handle the clerical tasks of the Legislative Committee. As envisioned by the committee, this individual will enable MLA to provide a coherent and coordinated approach to legislative activities; allows the Legislative Committee to consolidate legislative activities with one person; and enables the coordination of multiple tasks originating from the committee. The proposal allows the committee to better serve as advocates, and to work with members on continuing education and the value of advocacy. A lively discussion regarding the merits of and funding for this proposed position ensued. Ruth called an Executive Session at 11:10 to discuss the possibility of taking the core of this proposal and determining whether or not these functions could be coordinated into the Executive Manager's position.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

MASS CENTER FOR THE BOOK: Sunny Vandermark and Sharon Shaloo joined the meeting at 12:15 p.m. to discuss collaboration with MLA. Sunny is chairing the Massachusetts Book Awards Task Force; and group members for all genres and categories have been appointed. There will be a series of workshops offered through MLS to provide continuing education and from Readers Advisory and Programming to Book Judging, will be the focus of the series. Sharon is working with the Massachusetts Poetry Association to foster a greater understanding of programming with poetry, with the longer-term goal of developing judges who can contribute towards the poetry category of the awards program.

Sharon emphasized the need for the Massachusetts Center for the Book to establish an independent source of funding. She will be meeting with her executive board soon to work towards reimagining the Center as an entity that will be comprised of organizations such as MLA.

Sharon raised the possibility of having the Mass Center for the Book offer an "Innovation Award" as a future endeavor.

State-wide books clubs for children across the state.

Elizabeth will ask Conference committee to hold a slot on the conference agenda to host a program during the 2012 conference.

Mass Center for the Book will have a booth at the Boston Book Festival on October 15th. MLA will have the opportunity to distribute literature for the organization through this booth.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nancy D. Siegel, MLA Secretary