

**MLA Legislative Committee  
Meeting Minutes, September 27, 2013  
Minuteman Library Network**

Present: Susan McAlister, Co-chair; Beverly Shank, Co-chair; Deb Hoadley, Joseph Fisher, Kathy Lowe, Dinah O'Brien, Jackie Rafferty, Sharon Shaloo;  
By phone: Katie Baxter, Julie Farrell, Mille Gonzalez, Krista McLeod, John Ramsey, Nancy Rea, Cindy Roach

MBLC Legislative Agenda-Susan reported on the September hearing. The agenda priorities were set by the MBLC survey results. "End the Digital Lockout" is the theme with its energy and strong visuals; this may be tweaked some. Kim Charlson commented that her constituency is not represented well. A sheet of talking points that is under development will address specific line items. The change in the number of ebook publishers providing access also has impact. Legislative Committee felt that these other factors also influence the theme: any increase of funds to libraries, books added in other languages, how the agenda relates to "common core", the Center for the Book funding issues and the school library study bill. MBLC votes on the agenda at its Oct. 3 meeting.

Oct. 1 Breakfast on Breakfasts-Rep. Hogan is unable to attend but practical suggestions, various funding models and sharing from past experiences around the state will provide the main focus. Our winter breakfast schedule is late as the state budget progresses, but it is difficult in election years to hold fall breakfasts.

Legislative Day-On Oct. 1 Kathy will request a date for the Great Hall and Grand Staircase. Julie will follow up through Rep. Garballey's office. Sen. Eldridge and Sen. Rosenberg were discussed for the 2014 Advocacy Award. We will request MLA Ex. Board discuss this at the Oct. 11 meeting. John requested a list of past Award winners.

Lunch with Rep. Capuano-MLA members discussed privacy issues and LSTA funding. Making the contact was important. MLA will write him a thank you note.

Annual Conference program-Katie requested a booth with internet access for our Capwiz demo. Snapshot Day has not been yet determined; Nancy is working on this.

Small Western MA Library Tour-John reported that about 20 people visited 5 libraries that were chosen for their physical and historical significance. MBLC line item 9506 is vital to them. Issues include: continued use of the old WRMLS satellite internet connection; not in CWMARS; desperate need of library construction funds.

MSLA-The two identical school library bills are S1475 sponsored by Sen. Donnelly and H2993 sponsored by Rep. Garballey. This is the farthest legislative progress to date.

Center for the Book-Sharon gave a brief history of the 13 year old Center and compared its status and funding to other states. Rep. Hogan has filed H3292 to stabilize the status of the Center. Under the current funding model, the Center cannot survive. Several

committee members spoke to the value of the Center and supported including it in the MBLC legislative agenda. The committee voted to request that this item be on the Oct. 11 MLA Ex. Board agenda.

MLS-Deb reported on the ebook initiative of a state wide platform, the LSTA grant application for the pilot project, the Nov. 4 MLS annual meeting plans, and new staff members.

H59-There will be a hearing on Oct. 31 in Gardner Auditorium on this bill to change retiree benefits. The committee voted to request that this bill be on the Oct. 11 MLA Ex. Board agenda.

Submitted by Beverly

**Notes from Oct. 1 Breakfast on Breakfasts at CWMARS.** About 15 attendees.

Schedule for breakfasts-Fall elections mean that in alternate years we don't know who will be in office in January. Inviting all the candidates to a fall breakfast is unwieldy.

Greg suggested fall library coffees with legislative leaders, plus winter breakfasts.

The legislative/budget schedule is:

July-Oct: MBLC develops its budget with an early fall hearing in recent years

Early Jan: Governor's budget presented

Mid Jan: Good time for constituents to remind legislators of library priorities

Late Jan: Legislators meet with Speaker

Feb: Legislators meet with Senate President

April 15: House budget presented

May 15: Senate budget presented

June: Conference committee finishes budget

Programs for breakfasts are ideal place for "telling our stories". Legislators like them and they should be at the beginning. Legislators should be invited to speak at the program end. Programs should be kept to an hour. Other speakers represent the host library and town, networks, MBLC, MLA, and MSLA. The breakfast is part of the MLA/MSLA legislative year that culminates in our annual Legislative Day at the State House.

Breakfast planners are asked to contribute toward Legislative Day costs.

Menus vary from full hot breakfasts as OCLN and the northeast libraries plan to simpler continental breakfasts. Funding can be through one library as Nevins/Methuen provides for the northeast or through a network as with MLN. Central and western MA have breakfasts by legislative districts with a few libraries planning together. PR before and after the breakfast has not proven too effective. Invitations are typically sent to library Friends, Trustees, town officials, school personnel, in addition to legislators (who should be contacted in the fall as part of early planning).

Examples of planning documents, funding letters, invitations, programs and thank yous were posted to the MLA website under Legislative Committee Breakfast Toolkit section.

