

MLA Legislative Committee
7/25/14 at Minuteman

Attendees: Jackie Rafferty, Anna Kung, Mary Rose Quinn, Deb Hoadley, Julie Farrell, Beverly Shank, Mary Ann Cluggish, Dianne Carty, Cindy Roach, Sharon Shaloo, Dinah O'Brien, Joan Kuklinski, Greg Pronevitz, recorder.

MBLC update (Dianne Carty)

- Met with Rep. Hogan to meet new Commissioners and leadership and discuss meeting with Caucus. She reinforced the idea of a three-year plan. Jan-Feb might be best time to meet Caucus.
- Commissioners are beginning to discuss Leg. Agenda in August and review survey results.
- Dianne has surveyed library community and stakeholders on budget priorities.
- Decided not to hold budget hearings in Sept. The hearings have become less useful.
- Met with State LGBT office. Filtering is one issue. Perhaps a program at MLA might be a good way to get info out.
- MBLC in touch with Governor's office re: unaccompanied children from Central America and offer to host them in Mass. Access to children will be limited.
 - Possible phase one--add delivery to the location to ship books to the children
 - REFORMA putting backpacks together
 - MBLC will issue a message to inform the library community

Beverly suggested that we consider a thank you effort.

- CapWiz (more canned)
- Phone calls
- Both
- MLA note from President. (Speaker, Ways & Means x2, Rep. Hogan, Governor, Rep. Atkins)
- Ask members to sign up for district news on Capwiz

Reports/updates from:

- Mass. Library System (Greg Pronevitz)
 - Legislative Agenda MLS and BPL each boosted by about \$150k

eBook project in contribution phase, working with pilots and groups to obtain commitments for purchasing content. MLS/MBLC will cover platform costs. We hope boost to state aid will free up PL funding for contributions.

Whately facility -- new direction with towns

ILL Center going strong with full staffing. Simpler transition thanks to Minuteman and OCLN.

- MSLA (Julie Farrell)
March (10, 11 preferred), 12 possible legislative day dates
Commission signed into law order H4292 allows Joint Cte on Ed to study the bill.

- Mass. Center for the Book (Sharon Shaloo)
Board working on first class of council members to act as an advisory committee for three year terms.
Developing list to expand the Board, inviting two legislators, two designees, and fund raisers.
Some salary will come from budget for director. Grad students will be used for some work. Still at Simmons. No funding for book awards. But need to complete the current year with honorees. Will speak to Governor's office and hopes to arrange a reception. Not enough people come to the book awards event in the Fall.

National Library Legislative Day follow up:

- Libraries acting as career centers (Workforce Investment Act)
- eRate still in progress
- Net neutrality still accepting comments

Legislative year:

Restrictions on Great Hall and Staircase use are problematic. Is our cut rate part of the problem with booking. Would it be best to work through a legislator?

Should we try another year with the same format? Or, try build up to legislative day? Start in January and have a big event in March.

Should we consider a two-year arc?

We need a theme and to support the legislative agenda. And we need stories around the theme at breakfasts. We could give legislators talking points or background information. How can we emphasize the “legislative agenda?”

Link between adult competencies and eBooks.

Beverly suggested that we take our plan to the MLA Executive Board, e.g., two-year arc, workforce development, and focused speaker on the agenda to ascertain Board’s perspective.

How would a three-year plan work? Point out line items to support the theme. With different line items for each year on a continuum.

We look forward to hear the ideas to be presented after the MBLC August meeting.

MBI libraries (115) will be wired this summer. Training is needed.

Should we be encouraging a Senator to share leadership on the Library Caucus? We should wait till after the election.

- Breakfast on breakfasts? Not needed this year. We could do a webinar. MLS could provide technology support.
- How can we invigorate the caucus? Possible reception?
- Let’s encourage our legislators to join the caucus.
- Maker spaces are part of economic development
- Should we look at a state law/funding for eBook platform like CT? it depends on the economy. In a good economy we should ask for more funding. The CT law has no real teeth in the marketplace.
- Chambers of commerce contacts and participation is useful for fundraising and developing contacts. Should we be communicating or training librarians about this type of advocacy? At MLA Conference.

Committee to Plan regional event, Greg, Sharon, Dinah, John, Cathy Mahoney.

- Mock statehouse visit

- “Legislative know-how”, Community partnerships
 - Let’s get legislative!
 - Public speaking/role playing
 - Political advocacy vs. Providing Information
 - Friends and Trustees?
 - Transportation
- Should we drop the idea of pre-Legislative Day activities and visits?
 - Might we focus on a local area, if there is interest in working on it?
 - Do we need to study why folks don’t come to legislative day?
 - Let’s discuss at the next meeting.
 - Fall breakfast –Northeast is planning for fall this year.

Posters – pictures are back. Late August hopefully. Every election year.

Snapshot day—let’s take a break.

- Next year's meeting dates and locations
 - MLA now has conference calling ability.
 - Forth Friday
 - Location—some prefer MLN. Go southeast and west once a year.
 - MLA conf. cte may also meet 4th Fridays.
 - Sept. 12 – MLN 10am
 - Oct 31 - 10:30am Whatley?
 - Dec. 5 - MLN 10am
 - Jan. 23 (Snow day 1/30) MLS 1pm
 - Feb 6 (conf. call in PM)
 - Mar. Skip
 - May 29 MLN 10am
 - July 24 Plymouth 10am