



Membership Committee 2018 Annual Report

The Massachusetts Library Association gained 140 new members during FY18. The organization still has 200 lapsed members. Chairs from some committees have been regularly contacting new members who show interest in their committees.

The Membership Committee hosted two Trivia Night meet & greets. One in July in West Bridgewater, with 16 attendees and another in January in Foxborough, with 11 attendees.

In March, we offered members a discount to the Northeastern Storytelling Conference. We also sent a follow-up email to Legislative Day attendees, reminding them of MLA's advocacy efforts and the costs of events such as the Legislative Day and how this is paid for from membership dues. We also gave them information on how to become more involved in the organization.

Membership worked with Ellen Keane from the Conference Committee and incoming president Will Adamczyk on a new pricing structure dues. We are hoping the request for new pricing is accepted by the membership and will encourage more friends and trustees to join.

In April we added a field to the membership form for people to enter committees they are interested in joining.

In May at the annual conference, there will be a Committee Faire hosted by the Membership Committee with the goal to get people involved and feel a part of the organization. Committee members are also members of the organization, so the increase in funds can be used for further advocacy and education.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Laurie Lessner, Chair

Matt Amory

Melissa Campbell

Kathy Lussier

Patrick Marshall

The Public Relations Committee welcomed Bernadette Rivard as a co-chair to the committee for 2017-2018. We thank Nancy Sheehan for her service in the role of co-chair, and we are pleased that she has continued on the committee. We are also pleased to formally welcome new members Melody Friedenthal and Holly Mercer to the PR committee.

One of the goals for 2017-2018 was to increase communication from the Association to the membership. One way to do this was by reinstating the newsletter, which Bernadette Rivard designed, collected content and distributed amongst membership. Committee members discussed the different features that could be included in a valuable communications from the Administrative Board, including: a Message from the President; good news from our membership; news from our sections and committees; and a member spotlight. Thank you to all those who have made our first two issues a success. We hope to achieve better integration with social media and interactivity in the future.

Even-numbered years at conference are years in which the PR Committee awards the MLA Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is a group of distinguished librarians who have made at least a ten-year sustained and substantial contribution to advancing the cause of Massachusetts librarians or librarianship. Our Hall of Fame inductees for 2018 are Nanci Milone-Hill and Carolyn Noah. We are humbled to honor their achievements in librarianship. This year, we are changing the format of presenting these awards by sharing them with the keynote dinner.

We've continued to work closely with the Conference Committee to make sure messaging about conference has been delivered to librarians across Massachusetts.

We thank all of our peers on the Executive Board for their help in our successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernadette Rivard & Jocelyn Tavares, Co-Chairs



**MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PARALIBRARIAN SECTION**

**ANNUAL REPORT
May 22, 2018**

The Paralibrarian Section of the Massachusetts Library Association held seven meetings of the Executive Board from June 2017 to May 2018. Meetings were held at the Reading Public Library, the Medfield Public Library, Middleboro Public Library, and the Annual Meeting at Conference in Framingham. An 8th meeting will be at the Tewksbury Public Library in June. The different locations accommodate members traveling from around the state. Three meetings were held online, via Skype, to reduce travel time for Board members.

The members of the Section Executive Board are:

Allison Sloan	Chairperson
Anna McGrath, Hermayne Gordon	Co-Vice Chairs; <i>Fast! Forward!</i> Newsletter
Gerry Deyermond	Past-Chairperson; Nominations; Media/Technology
Lori Salotto	Secretary; PARA Review Board
Joyce Senior	Treasurer; PARA Review Board
Matthew Costanza	Member At-Large/Conference Committee
Karen Horn	Member At-Large/Career Development; Chair PARA Review Board

In addition, the Section has a valuable support team and appointed sub-committee chair:

Heather Maganzini	Awards; media/publicity
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The Section Board prepared a list of suggested roles to support the work of the Paralibrarian Section and the board. Used to recruit participation in the Section, it includes shadowing a board member to learn the duties prior to joining the board. These opportunities are from short term single projects to ongoing participation. For example: PARA Review Board, Awards, Publicity, Symposium planning, MLA Section and Committee liaisons (e.g. Youth Services, Legislative, NELA, Intellectual Freedom).

The Paralibrarian Section Mission Statement continues to be relevant and to represent the purpose of the Section:

Through support and increased awareness of paralibrarians, the Section advocates for recognition and participation in the library community. The Section promotes and provides a forum for networking and career development opportunities.

The Paralibrarian Section is proud to have DEMCO as a sponsor. Special thanks to DEMCO for their generous support of the Book Cart Drill Team competition and MLA. DEMCO gave financial support and prizes to the BCDT competitors in the form of DEMCO gift cards totaling \$1000. Thanks also to Sunset Engravers of Methuen for their work on the trophies and plaques.

The Paralibrarian Section held elections at the 2017 Annual Meeting at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA. The proposed slate of candidates for the 2018-2019 year will be presented and voted upon at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

The Section has developed a productive relationship with Jennifer Zolkos, Manager of MLA and Conference Manager Kristen Collins. As a result we had a good presence at the conference and expanded visibility on the MLA web site. The Section calendar of meetings and trainings is posted on the MLA Event Keeper calendar. <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=MLA#5157216> The Section posts articles, news and information on Wordpress blog <http://mlaparalibrarian.wordpress.com/> ; Pinterest <http://www.pinterest.com/mlaparas/>; FaceBook <http://www.facebook.com/groups/133509333094/>; Twitter *Twitter-@MLAParas*; and Instagram. As well the Section contributed articles to *ALA Associates: The Online Journal for Library Support Staff*, and *LibraryDirectors.org* international digital newsletter for library directors edited by Alex Lent; and the MLA online newsletter edited by Bernadette Rivard.

Treasurer, Joyce Senior, updated the Section budget, and prepared a comprehensive format to allow comparison and tracking between the proposed and actual expenditures. She will present a full report at the annual meeting on May 22nd.

Chairperson Allison Sloan participates on the MLA Executive Board. Past Chairperson, Gerry Deyermond, manages the Section's online presence (see above) and updates the MLA Section web page regularly. The Paralibrarian Section would like to express thanks to the members of the MLA Board for their steady support of the Section and particularly for their continuing support of the PARalibrarian Recognition of Achievement (PARA) Certification, which has grown substantially, now in its thirteenth year, and offers 4 levels of achievement.

In 2017-2018 the PARA Certification program (PARalibrarian Recognition of Achievement Certification) certified 9 applicants:

Level 1:

Kelsey Matthews, Athol Public Library
Emily Boughton, Athol Public Library
Melissa Jackson, Mystic Valley Regional Charter School, Malden
Amy Spence, Parker Memorial Library, Dracut
Christine McKernan, Gale Free Library, Holden

Level 2:

Robin Brzozowski, Athol Public Library
Cheryl Salem, Parker Memorial Library, Dracut
Andrea Grant, Chelmsford Public Library

Level 3:

Kathleen Hayes, Jonathan Bourne Public Library, Bourne

The MLA Paralibrarian Section extends appreciation to James Lonergan, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), for his ongoing support of the PARA Certification, and to the MLA Executive Board for working in conjunction with the Section's PARA Review Board.

The Career Development committee has a roundtable training session scheduled at the Westborough Public Library to develop understanding and interest in the PARA Certification. The mentorship program is ongoing to help applicants develop a comprehensive portfolio to submit. The Guidelines were extensively reviewed this year for clarity and user-friendly application, and to adjust the point system for parity. <http://masslib.org/PARAProgram> An ongoing goal is to move the PARA Certification application process to digital format.

Section board members Allison Sloan, Gerry Deyermond, and Lori Salotto attended a meeting with NH Paralibrarian Section Chairperson Sarah Frost and NH Paralibrarian Section board members at the Hookset Library. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss options to develop a New England Regional PARA Certification program, and the potential for an interstate reciprocal certification program. The dialogue will continue in 2019 to consider implementation of a multi-state certification with NELA members.

This year, Co-Vice Chairs, Anna McGrath and Hermayne Gordon edited and distributed two editions of the Section newsletter: *Fast! Forward!* Archived issues are available on the MLA web site.

The Awards Committee received thirteen nominations for the Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year Award and Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year award. Awards coordinator Heather Maganzini updated the online "Survey Monkey" nomination questionnaire to assure comprehensive and consistent responses for comparison and selection. The nominees and award recipients were announced and applauded at the MLA Conference PARA-Ganza program on May 22, 2018. A list of Awards nominees and recipients, and PARA Certificate recipients will be recorded in the minutes of the MLA Annual Meeting and available online at <http://masslib.org/paralibrarian>.

The Section looks forward to a productive and exciting 2018-2019 year. Our goal continues to be to develop opportunities for growth and recognition of paralibrarians through the PARA Certification and the Library Support Staff Awards, and to fulfill our mission to support and recognize the paralibrarians of Massachusetts libraries.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison Sloan, Chairperson
MLA Paralibrarian Section

2017

PARA RECIPIENTS:

Irene Cunningham Concord Free Library Level 1
James Graham Dedham House of Corrections Level 1
Heather Maganzini Tewksbury Level 1
Rachel Minns Gale Free Library Level 1

Judith Fallon Gordon Library/WPI Level 2
Kevin MacKenzie West Springfield PL Level 2

Stacey Charbonneau Concord Free Library Level 3

LIBRARYSUPPORT STAFF ADVOCATE

Nanci Malone-Hill, Director, Parker Library, Dracut

OUTSTANDING LIBRARYSUPPORT STAFF

Meghan Forsell Somerville Public Library East Branch
Danielle Mattei Worcester Public Library
Kim Noel Springfield Technical Community College
Roxanne Boyd Jones Library, Amherst
Catherine Novick Worcester State University
Joseph Ferreira Watertown Free Public Library
Circ Staff (all) Robbins Library, Arlington

ANNUAL REPORT—CONFERENCE COMMITTEE 2017

Conference Recap:

Conference was held May 22-24 and was in Hyannis for the second time. There were 501 attendees, 48 exhibitors and 13 sponsors. The theme was “Charting Our Course.” Due to the success of 2016’s general session speakers, we brought them back again with outgoing ALA Executive Director Keith Michael Fiels and ALA President-Elect Jim Neal as conference openers. Amanda Brennon, librarian for Tumblr gave a Brief History of Memes, and Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Matthew Bollerman from the New York Library Association gave a talk on Activating Sustainable Thinking. Jabari Asim was the One Conference, One Book speaker and featured the title *Only the Strong*. Featured programs included the ever-popular Basket Raffle, as well as the Library Telescope Project, an Adult Coloring Table, and Velocity Charging Station.

Planning for next year:

For 2018, Conference will move back to the Boston Metrowest area and be held at the Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center, from May 21-23. General session speakers include Debby Irving, Steve Albrecht, Chris King, Steve Woolfolk, and Timothy Snyder. The One Book, One Conference Speaker will be Stephen Puleo, discussing his book *American Treasures*.

Submitted by,
Esmé Green, Conference Co-chair

Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) Reference User Services Section (RUSS)
Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report

- We had a successful year!
- The section's officers were: Co-Chairs, Laura Bernheim and Kristy Lockhart of the Waltham Public and Weymouth (Tufts) Public Library; Secretary, Paula Korstvedt of the Worcester Public Library.
- Our membership exceeded over 90 as of last count!
- We held three meetings at the Massachusetts Library System Offices in Marlborough.
- John McCarthy, from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, spoke at the April meeting.
- RUSS is sponsoring several programs at the MLA Annual Conference, including *The IDEAL Program: Developing and Empowering Statewide Leaders in Online Resources; Project Outcome; Using Fanfiction at the Library; Healthy Aging @ The Library: Keeping Older Adults Connected; Programming for New Adults; Access to Justice and Massachusetts Public Libraries; Readers Advisory in an Age of Uncertainty; and Oysterman, Veterans and Job Seekers at the Library*

FY18 ANNUAL REPORT

MLA Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibilities Committee

The MLA Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibilities Committee (MLA-IF/SRC) had a busy year monitoring emerging and evolving issues related to intellectual freedom and civil liberties. The escalating erosion of privacy rights and equitable access to information continue to be troubling. A key concern is the FCC's initiative to terminate Net Neutrality. In response, the MLA-IF/SRC wrote the following statement about Net Neutrality which was reviewed by the MLA Legislative Committee and unanimously adopted by all MLA committees.

NET NEUTRALITY STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Library Association opposes the FCC's plan to repeal all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order. Net Neutrality* is essential to intellectual freedom, guaranteeing the right to communicate, seek information, and engage in commerce via the internet without limitations or discrimination. A healthy democracy requires that all citizens have access to information from many sources representative of diverse viewpoints. American democracy will be seriously compromised if the FCC repeals all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order with no plans to replace it with any enforceable rules.

*ALA Statement on Net Neutrality

Network neutrality is the concept of online non-discrimination. It is the principle that consumers and citizens should be free to get access to—or to provide—the Internet content and services they wish, and that consumer access should not be regulated based on the nature or source of that content or service. Information providers—which may be websites, online services, etc., and who may be affiliated with traditional commercial enterprises but who also may be individual citizens, libraries, schools, or nonprofit entities—should have essentially the same quality of access to distribute their offerings. "Pipe" owners (carriers) should not be allowed to charge some information providers more money for the same pipes, or establish exclusive deals that relegate everyone else (including small noncommercial or startup entities) to an Internet "slow lane." This principle should hold true even when a broadband provider is providing Internet carriage to a competitor.

Outreach & Training

With the ongoing goal of educating the library community, updates were made to the IF/SRC page on the MLA website, and printed materials were revised and developed for distribution to new members. We continue to offer workshops and trainings to libraries. During FY18, Krista

McLeod gave three workshops: *Defending Access with Confidence* at Bedford Free Public Library; and, *Customer Service: Rights & Responsibilities* at Ipswich Public Library and Beverly Public Library. Total income for MLA was \$900.00.

In addition, the Cape Cod Reference Librarians reached out to the IF/SRC to request an informational workshop on privacy and intellectual freedom. Jackie Rafferty met with a group of 25 - 30 librarians at the CLAMS network and presented the program, *Protecting Patron Privacy & Promoting Information Literacy in the Digital Age*.

Standalone Conference

On October 13, 2017, the IF/SRC held its first stand-alone conference. *Libraries in a Post-Truth World: The Conversation Continues*, took place at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in Boylston, and was a huge success. Fifty-one attendees heard attorney Abigail Slater of The Internet Society, speak about “The Right to Be Forgotten”, the new European Union Laws which are driving massive legal, business and social change within the United States, and the dangers of “changing history”. Dr. Shawn McIntosh of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, English and Communications Department, followed-up with the Journalistic perspective, and a conversation about the ever-salient role of educators and librarians in relation to these rapidly evolving issues. Librarians Jenny Arch, Bernadette Rivard, and Andrea Fiorillo rounded out the afternoon leading a panel discussing *Combating Disinformation in Your Library*. The IF/SRC returned a profit of \$1,150 to MLA from this event.

FY2018 MLA Annual Conference

In addition to creating a “Wonder Woman” basket for the annual raffle, the IF/SRC planned numerous programs for conference. IF/SRC member Andrea Fioriello represented us on the MLA Conference Committee. Our FY18 programs:

Racial Justice Opening Keynote with Debby Irving, racial justice educator and author, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*

Racism taps into our deepest fears and longings. Understanding how it works is the key to breaking down barriers that interfere with best intentions. If you’re white, chances are you’ve been taught not to talk about race. If you're a person of color, you may wonder what it is that white colleagues aren't (yet!) understanding.

Interactive Workshop: *Leveling the Playing Field: Interrupting Patterns of Power and Privilege*
Speaker: Debby Irving, racial justice educator and author, *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*

This interactive workshop explores dominant cultural attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate patterns of white power and privilege, even when best intentions are in play. Learn how we can begin to level the playing field by interrupting these patterns. Participants will leave with two powerful tools to analyze power dynamics and cultivate transformative cultures in their circles of influence.

SENSational Storytime with a Yoga Twist

Speakers: Janine Birmingham, Program Coordinator of the Autism Resource Center of the Autism Center of the Arc of the South Shore (ARC); Christine Walker , owner, Little Bee Yoga Company; Gayle Walsh, Reference and Adult Services Librarian, Paul Pratt Memorial Library, Cohasset

The Paul Pratt Memorial Library has partnered with ARC of the South Shore and Little Bee Yoga Company to offer a monthly interactive series that includes storytime, sensory/adaptive book kit making, and a theme-based yoga class. The program's goal is to help children with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) love and embrace books and become more engaged in reading by making the stories interactive and alive.

Dreamers Welcome: Serving Immigrants at Your Library

Speakers: Katelyn Duncan, REFORMA member and multilingual Reference Librarian, Worcester Public Library; May Mayyasi, Thomas Crane Public Library Trustee and Literacy Tutor; Shelley Quezada, consultant for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Fawzi Youssef, new American citizen and small business owner currently studying English in the Thomas Crane Public Library Literacy Program.

Discover an exciting range of services and resources for newcomers and refugees from front line professionals.

Co-Creating Library/Social Services Partnerships: A Statewide Collaboration

Speakers: Michelle Eberle, Consultant, Massachusetts Library System; Shelley Quezada , Consultant to the Unserved, Mass. Board of Library Commissioners; Joe Vallely, Housing & Homeless Specialist, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

In August of 2017, the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) surveyed library directors about their interest to work collaboratively to facilitate library/social work partnerships for social service referral, support for immigrants, and staff training on topics like poverty, diversity, and social justice. Over half of the library director respondents expressed interest to explore this

topic and share their experience. The survey results led the MLS to expand the scope of the project from social work partnerships to the broader social services community. Following the survey, MLS held forums throughout the Commonwealth to engage members in co-creating ideas, approaches, and programs to support the social service needs of our communities.

Community Support

Over the past year the IF/SRC leadership continued to serve as an on-call confidential resource for any and all Massachusetts library directors and staff finding themselves in emergent or seemingly untenable situations concerning privacy, intellectual freedom and social justice issues.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the MLA-IF/SRC by Jackie Rafferty, Co-chair
May 3, 2018*

REPORT OF THE MLA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2017-2018

Your Legislative Committee had a very productive year on behalf of the Association. The committee has a very strong membership that is committed to advocating for libraries in the Commonwealth. They commit countless volunteer hours to the work of the committee.

Our biggest event of the year is Library Legislative Day held this year on March 6, 2018. Over 200 people attended Legislative Day this year. We continued highlighting the ways that libraries connect with their users through the Library Showcase. This Showcase gives attendees a chance to experience the variety of offerings that libraries now have as well as the latest technology that we provide to the public. This year 15 libraries and several state agencies participated.

In addition to the Showcase, 50 attendees took advantage of our First Time Attendee program where they learned about the state budget process and tips for speaking with legislators. Additionally 120 attendees participated in a legislative briefing to learn about the MA Board of Library Commissioners legislative agenda. Armed with this information attendees made appointments with the legislators and spoke about the need for library funding.

The program ended with a Luncheon in the Great Hall. Alex Lent, President of the MLA recognized the Library Caucus for their dedication to supporting libraries. The new chairs of the Library Caucus were introduced, Representative Natalie Higgins, Senator Eric P. Lesser and Representative Brian Murray each spoke passionately about the importance and value of libraries.

After the festivities ended, members of the Legislative Committee and staff from MA Board of Library Commissioners met with the Caucus Chairs, Higgins, Murray and Lesser, to do a debrief on how the day went. The Chairs were very impressed with the planning and execution of the day's events. They again pledged their support to assist the Legislative Committee during the state budget process.

In addition to Legislative Day the committee

- Participated in the annual MLA Legislative Committee/MBLC PR Committee meeting.
- Attended the Boston Book Festival with other library agencies to promote libraries. Produced a Take Action postcard and distributed it at the booth. The postcard provided instructions on how to sign up to receive our advocacy alerts.
- Assisted advocates with planning library legislative breakfasts. Eleven breakfasts were held throughout the state.
- Sponsored a program at the Annual Conference, *Fearless Advocacy: Debunking the Myth*.
- Continued building our Advocate database through our Engage platform. Engage alerts are an important way the Committee reaches library advocates to contact their legislators on topics of importance to members.
- Sent a committee member to attend National Library Legislative Day in Washington DC with other librarians from Massachusetts.
- Worked with the MLA Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibilities Committee to develop a statement on the importance of Net Neutrality.

REPORT OF THE MLA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE 2017-2018

2017-2018 Members:

Committee Co-Chairs

Charlotte Canelli, Morrill Memorial Library, ccanelli@minlib.net

Susan McAlister, Minuteman Library Network, smcalister@minlib.net

Legislative Day Co-Chairs

Jennifer Harris, Plymouth Public Library, jharris@townhall.plymouth.ma.us

Tressa Santillo, Massachusetts Library System, tressa@masslibsystem.org

Members

Miriam Achenbach, Marlborough Public Library, miriamachenbach@hotmail.com

Kim Charlson, Perkins Library, kim.charlson@perkins.org

Anna Fahey-Flynn, Boston Public Library, afaheyflynn@bpl.org

Kathy Lowe, Massachusetts School Library Association, msslalowe@gmail.com

Krista McLeod, Nevins Library, kmcleod@nevinslibrary.org

Greg Pronevitz, Massachusetts Library System, greg@masslibsystem.org

Jackie Rafferty, Paul Pratt Memorial Library, jrafferty@ocln.org

Nancy Rea, nbrea01@gmail.com

Sharon Shaloo, Mass Center for the Book, shaloo@massbook.org

David Slater, Old Colony Library Network, dslater@ocln.org

Tim Spindler, CW MARS, tspindler@cwmars.org

Stephen Spohn, Massachusetts Library System, steve@masslibsystem.org

Jayme Viveiros, Lakeville Public Library, jviveiros@sailsinc.org

MBLC Liaisons

Celeste Bruno, Board of Library Commissioners, celeste.bruno@state.ma.us

Mary Rose Quinn, Board of Library Commissioners, maryrose.quinn@state.ma.us

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairs Susan McAlister and Charlotte Canelli

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee this year consisted of Past-President, Nanci Milone Hill, NELA Rep, Krista McLeod, and Bylaws Committee Chair, Ellen Rainville.

In December, we put out a call for nominations for the positions of Vice-President/President Elect and Secretary. We were very pleased to receive four nominations for the position of Vice-President/President Elect, and two nominations for the position of Secretary. We reached out to each of the nominees to see if they were interested in running, especially knowing that we actually had a selection of folks running this year. One person decided to back out of running for Vice-President/President Elect, with an eye to running next year. That left us with three candidates for that position, and two for Secretary. On March 1, 2018, the election ballot went out. Elections were closed on March 23, 2018. The candidates were given the results on March 24, 2018, and a general email went out to members announcing the results the next day. 192 members voted in the election. The results were as follows:

Vice-President/President Elect

Esmé Green	Yes – 61.33%	No – 38.67%
Bernadette Rivard	Yes - 54.69%	No – 45.31%
Nora Blake	Yes – 36.46%	No – 63.54%

Secretary

Noelle Boc	Yes – 68.13%	No – 31.87%
Tim Silva	Yes – 53.29%	No – 46/71%

The Nominating Committee would like to thank everyone that ran for office this year. Congratulations go out to Esmé and Noelle on their new positions.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Milone Hill, Nominating Chair

Krista McLeod

Ellen Rainville

Massachusetts Library Association
Youth Services Section
Annual Report
May 2018

This year YSS traveled to the Norfolk Public Library, the Massachusetts Library System offices in Northampton, and the Reading Public Library to hold bimonthly meetings.

YSS was very successful in encouraging librarians to attend meetings via video chat. Librarians on the South Shore and Cape Cod were able to virtually attend our meeting in Northampton. The YSS board also chose to hold one final meeting before Annual Conference using video chat to much success.

Discussion at all YSS meetings proved to be very fruitful, from event planning to crowdsourcing ideas for day-to-day work and life. Social media, the current political climate, and opportunities for professional development in New England were some of the most-discussed topics. The board also planned and encouraged participation in Take Your Child to the Library Day in February and Library Legislative Day in March.

YSS hosted its second “Unconference” at the Chicopee Public Library in October. The program was positioned as an opportunity for Children’s and Young Adult librarians to come together and lead their own sessions on topics of their choosing. Twelve Western Massachusetts librarians attended the all-day event and planned, facilitated, and participated in six discussion sections.

Topics included:

- Teen/Tween Issues
- Shareable Programming
- Library of Things for Circulation and Programming
- Work/Life Balance
- Coming Together

YSS compiled evaluations, all overwhelmingly positive, that rang true with the immediate, in-person feedback we received that day.

The other large project YSS worked on was the first update and edit of the YSS Bylaws since 2012. Many issues, like confusion between the YSS Executive Board and the MLA Executive Board were cleared up and resolved. The new Bylaws also rebranded some YSS Board positions to encourage participation from new Youth Services librarians all over the state.

The YSS board is looking forward to new projects for FY19. One of these projects will be to reschedule the Biannual Retreat that was cancelled in March due to the Nor’easters.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa Farrell
Chair