



**Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) Executive Board Meeting
August 9, 2013
Weston Public Library**

In attendance: Maureen Ambrosino (Vice President), Dinah O'Brien (Past President), Laura Bernheim (Secretary), Elizabeth Hacala (Executive Manager), Megan Carney (Paralibrarian Section), Meredith Crosby (Technical Services Section), Esmé Green (Conference Committee), Nancy Sheehan (Public Relations Committee), Jackie Rafferty (Intellectual Freedom Committee), Kirsten Underwood (Personnel/Education)

Consent Agenda and Introductions

Vice President, Maureen Ambrosino, called the meeting to order at 10:27 am.

The minutes from the June board meeting and the consent agenda were approved. ***Laura Bernheim made a motion to approve and Kirsten Underwood seconded the motion.***

Committee, Section, and Liaison Reports

Technical Services Section (TSS) (Meredith Crosby)

[available here](#)

- New TSS officers include Vice Chair Danielle Savin from Thayer Public Library and Secretary Jill Blair from Hingham Public Library. Nick Szydlowski from Boston College Law is a new member of the TSS board.
- The TSS board is now much more diverse in terms of representation from academic, public, and special libraries.
- There will be more of an effort to create public library friendly programming for conference since those type of programs were the best attended.

Paralibrarian Section (Megan Carney)

- The section is scheduling round tables throughout the state.
- The section is developing a Career Development Committee
- The section hopes to have three programs at the annual conference.
- The section will continue to host virtual meetings.
- There will continue to be an active presence on social media.

Membership Committee (Maureen Ambrosino)

[available here](#)

- Maureen passed around the lapsed member list.
- Someone needs to be chair of the committee, since Maureen is now Vice President.
- 2011 and 2012 lapsed members have been contacted in an e-mail blast.
- The committee is cleaning up the member database so that it is as accurate as possible.

- There have been 11 new members in the last 30 days.
- Membership income is down.

Public Relations Committee (PR) (Nancy Sheehan)

[available here](#)

- A full board meeting will be held on September 13.
- The PR Committee wants to plan more “Meet and Greets”. Members of the membership committee would like to help with that.
- There was some discussion about handling issues related to the controversy regarding the Dzhokhar Tzarnaev cover of the August 1 issue of *Rolling Stone*. Jackie Rafferty mentioned that the Intellectual Freedom has dealt with any of the issues related to this.

Conference Committee (Esmé Green)

- The Conference Committee still needs representation from all of MLA’s committees and sections. Youth Services Section, TSS, and Paralibrarians are all represented.
- The theme will be chosen at the next meeting.
- The meetings are held the fourth Friday of the month. There is no meeting in December or April.
- The conference will be held at the DCU Center on May 7 and 8. There may be a pre-conference on May 6.
- Andrew Haggerty is an MIT librarian who has joined Conference Committee.
- Someone needs to take over the task of garnering sponsorships. Elizabeth Hacala stressed that the main thing is to coordinate the asking.
- The deadline for submitting paperwork for program proposals is due by the October conference committee meeting, which will be held on site at the DCU Center.
- A discussion ensued on whether or not the conference committee should put out a general call for proposals, similar to other associations. Some mentioned that there were already too many programs and that there wasn’t always a benefit. However, others said that it would make more people have a vested interest in MLA, increase membership, plus it would also erase the image of MLA as an elite organization. Dinah mentioned that MLA should, at least, reach out to [Cape Cod and Islands Library Association](#) and the [Western Massachusetts Library Advocates](#) for conference proposals.

Old Business

Better World Books Proposal (Maureen Ambrosino)

[available here](#)

Maureen passed around a proposal from [Better World Books](#), which, in short, would allow those donating books (including libraries) to name the Massachusetts Library Association as a literacy partner who will then get some of the proceeds. ***After some minor modifications, Esmé Green made a motion to accept the proposal. Dinah O’Brien seconded. The motion passed.***

Contact Information

Please send your personal contact information to Laura Bernheim (lbernheim@minlib.net), including your home and cell phone numbers so that we can contact you in the event a meeting is canceled at the last minute.

October Meeting Minute Taker

Laura will not be able to attend the October 11 board meeting. She would be very appreciative if someone could take minutes at that meeting. Please contact her if you are willing to do so.

Executive Manager Hiring Process

Interviews for the executive manager position were held on July 17. As of this board meeting, a formal decision had not been made. Elizabeth will continue with her duties through August.

Appointments

- President, Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus, has appointed Krista McLeod to continue to be MLA’s liaison to the New England Library Association.
- The investment committee will consist of Bernadette Rivard, Deb Abraham, and Susan McAlister. Bernadette will chair the committee.

Western Massachusetts Library Advocates (WMLA) Library Tour

Dinah mentioned that WMLA is hosting a small libraries tour on September 20. She mentioned that it would be important for MLA to have a presence.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bernheim
MLA Secretary