



### **MLA Executive Board Meeting**

**Plymouth Public Library, Plymouth, MA**

**August 10, 2012**

**In attendance:** Dinah O'Brian (President); Ruth Urell (Past President); Elizabeth Marcus (Vice President); Elizabeth Hacala (Executive Manager); Bernadette Rivard (Treasurer); Laura Bernheim (Secretary); Nancy Rea (ALA Councilor); Carolyn Noah (Massachusetts Library System – MLS); Ellen Keane (Conference Committee); Laurie Lessner (PR Committee); Jocelyn Tavares (PR Committee); Erin Daly (Youth Services Section); Daniel Faulean (Technical Services Section); Karen Horn (Paralibrarians); Sunny Vandermark (Archivist); Jackie Rafferty (Intellectual Freedom Committee); Beverly Shank (Legislative Committee); Maureen Ambrosino (Membership); Rob Maier (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners – MBLC)

### **Minutes**

The minutes were accepted with the following changes, the location of the meeting was changed to the Reading Public Library and the date of the Boston Book Festival was corrected to read October 27, 2012. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Beverly Shank and seconded by Ruth Urell.

### **President's Report (Dinah O'Brian)**

Dinah O'Brian mentioned that her goal for MLA was to make the organization more relevant in the daily life of librarians in Massachusetts. She is going to try to go to library events across the state and encouraged others to do the same. Her goal is to provide meaning for all of the committees and sections that work so hard. The Intellectual Freedom Committee, for example, works hard to make sure that libraries have access to background information in dealing with Intellectual Freedom matters.

Members who join MLA will get a personal thank-you note from a member of the MLA Administrative Board (Admin. Board) The thank-you notes will also include contact information for those involved in the organization.

### **Past President's Report (Ruth Urell)**

[See attached](#)

### **Treasurer's Report (Bernadette Rivard)**

[See attached](#)

MLA is enjoying its highest account balance since 2009. Board members will re-contact those whose memberships have lapsed. Maureen Ambrosino passed around a list of these people. Board members were asked to check off names for them to contact.

### **Executive Manager's Report (Elizabeth Hacala)**

[See attached](#)

Elizabeth cleaned out the member database merging records in which members had multiple contacts, due to change of jobs.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Public Relations (PR) (Laurie Lessner and Jocelyn Tavares)**

[See attached](#)

MLA Committee and Section Chairs will be encouraged to contribute to the MLA members only site. The PR Committee is drafting a best practices document for the best way to do this. After the committee approves the “best practices”, it will go in the MLA welcome letter to new members. Maureen asked if there was a way to notify members when changes were made to the members only site.

### **Legislative Committee (Beverly Shank)**

[See attached](#)

Beverly noted one correction in the attached report, that the surveys to candidates would be going out before the September 6 primary. The legislative committee has been having long discussions about advocating for state aid to libraries. Dinah also emphasized that the amount of state aid that libraries receive can make a difference when directors go before their municipal financial committees.

The committee would also like to recruit either a library trustee or a library Friends board member as a member.

The legislative breakfast season will be starting up again and the committee would like to create a tool kit. If anyone has materials from 2012 breakfasts to contribute to the toolkit, please contact Beverly at [Beverly.shank@gmail.com](mailto:Beverly.shank@gmail.com)

### **Membership (Maureen Ambrosino)**

[See attached](#)

Maureen passed around lists of lapsed members for executive board (E-board) members to e-mail and/or call. Board members checked off names to contact. After the meeting, Maureen sent a template for board members to use in their contacts, as referenced below:

[Thank you for being a member of the Massachusetts Library Association! Our records indicate that your membership has expired and we have not received a renewal. We would love to have you back!](#)

Membership in MLA provides you with great benefits including:

- A network of colleagues from across the state
- Opportunities for involvement in sections and committees
- Tools and support if your library faces an intellectual freedom challenge
- Discounted rates for the annual conference
- A subscription to the Bay State Libraries Newsletter
- Advocacy at the state level for library funding
- Recognition of libraries and individuals for their work in the profession

It's an exciting time to be a member of MLA! You can renew online at <http://www.masslib.org> with a credit card, or you can print the online form and send it with your check.

If you have a question or concern about your membership, please contact Elizabeth Hacala at the MLA office at [mlooffice@masslib.org](mailto:mlooffice@masslib.org) or 781-275-7729.

Thank you for your past membership in the Massachusetts Library Association. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

### **Intellectual Freedom (Jackie Rafferty)**

[See attached](#)

The board approved \$60 to fund a toolkit from the American Library Association (ALA) regarding a training program regarding privacy and intellectual freedom. The Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) will expand upon the ALA program as issues evolve and become more complex.

### **Personnel (Ellen Keane)**

[See attached](#)

Ellen and Kirsten Underwood have lead the charge regarding merging the Personnel and Education Committees.

### **Paralibrarians (Karen Horn)**

[See attached](#)

### **Youth Services (Erin Daly)**

[See attached](#)

The section is committed to making youth librarianship more visible and emphasizing its relevancy as well as obtain new members for the section. They are also working on a Massachusetts Tattooed Youth Services Librarian 2013 Calendar, in the style of the [Texas Tattooed Librarians](#), and are still looking on a site to take photographs for the calendar. Once calendar is completed, it will need to go to Elizabeth Marcus for approval. Erin and Elizabeth Hacala will discuss logistics involving the financials.

### **Technical Services Section (Daniel Faulean)**

The section will be revising its bylaws.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) (Rob Maier)**

- Rob shared discussions from [Resource Sharing Unbound](#), an event co-sponsored by Massachusetts Library System (MLS).
- Some of the initiatives include statewide library cards, an updated Virtual Catalog, and an e-book platform along the same vein as the [Colorado Douglas County model](#).
- The MBLC will share database costs with MLS. Many of the Gale brand databases have been renewed and a statewide Britannica package has been procured.

- The Fitchburg Library has returned to the state aid program, and has received temporary certification. They will receive full certification in the fall.
- The Public Library Construction Program – The finance committee may not fund at a high level. Libraries at the top of the waiting list have been asked to exert pressure to make sure this program is funded.
- The MBLC met with representatives of the MLA Para librarian Committee about Para librarian certification.
- MBLC would like to focus on state aid but not the exclusion of other accounts. They will be asking for a return to the previous high level of funding.
- An [open forum](#) about the MBLC FY 2014 budget request and legislative agenda will be held on September 5 at the Worcester Public Library at 1:00 pm. Those who can't attend in person are encouraged to e-mail comments:  
<http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/staff/index.php>
- The MBLC will use resource sharing numbers in order to demonstrate its importance. They will also be used to justify the increase in state aid. Beverly Shank agreed.
- The MBLC will “publish” its legislative agenda in October, online. A print version will follow, later. The online version will give a new way to provide information.
- The MBLC has launched a [tumblr site](#) entitled, “Why I Need my Library”
- Need to get money to organizations such as MLS and Library for the Commonwealth, as the need increases to get staff up to speed on electronic developments but the LSTA money is decreasing.
- MBLC is not making any special requests for itself in its budget request or legislative agenda.
- LSTA grants will still be available next year.
- A discussion ensued about how do frame asking for an increase in state aid. Ruth mentioned emphasizing that state aid can fund anything at the library, including salaries.
- There is growing support for the School Library agenda. According to Nancy Rea, there is an ALA resolution stressing the importance of school libraries in a good education.

#### **ALA Councilor (Nancy Rea)**

- ALA has passed a [resolution against voter ID requirements](#). (ALA CD#40)
- A [resolution failed regarding Wiki Leaks](#). (ALA CD#43)
- A vote on a resolution regarding housing status was postponed.
- There have been discussions regarding changing the format of ALA's annual conference, including compressing the sites.
- There will be more opportunities for MLA members to gather at ALA conferences.
- Read ALA President, [Maureen Sullivan's column](#) in *American Libraries Direct* regarding keeping ALA relevant.

#### **New England Library Association (NELA) (Ruth Urell)**

- [NELA Conference](#) is on October 14-16 in Sturbridge, MA

- NELA has invited state association board members to brunch on Sunday morning (October 16)
- MLA will have a table in the exhibit hall. Ruth asked for volunteers to staff the table.

### **MLS (Carolyn Noah)**

- [The Strategic Plan](#) is available for public comment as of August 29. There will be five open sessions in which members can discuss the plan: [Monday, September 10, 10:30 - Flint Memorial Library, North Reading](#); [Tuesday, September 18, 1:00 – MLS-Whately](#); [Monday, October 1, 10:00 – MLS Marlborough](#); [Tuesday, October 2, 10:00 – Cambridge Public Library](#)
- MLS [Annual Meeting is on November 5](#) at Holy Cross in Worcester.
- Nancy Rea will be facilitator at three events regarding advocacy.
- The Massachusetts Library Trustees Association (MLTA) and Massachusetts Friends of Libraries (MFOL) will be holding their [joint annual conference](#) on October 27, 2012 at Worcester Technical High School.
- Ruth made a motion to get financial support for a joint event to get MLTA/MFOL/Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA)/MLA/MLS regarding statewide training. MLS is providing most of the funding for the program, though a small amount will be needed from organizations for refreshments and printing. The motion was passed.

### **Old Business**

#### **Book Expo Bus**

A motion to discontinue funding a bus to go to New York City for the annual Book Expo was proposed. The service has not been used by many people over the last few years. The motion was passed.

#### **Boston Book Festival**

The Boston Book Festival is on October 27. MLA will share a table with the Massachusetts Center for the Book and the MBLC. Those who will be involved with this met at the conclusion of this board meeting.

#### **Conference Committee Update (Ellen Keane)**

- Conference will be at the Hyatt in Cambridge in 2013
- The committee is looking for sites for 2014 conference. They are going to visit a site in Fitchburg and revisit a site in Marlboro.
- The first conference committee meeting is in August.
- Sarah Sogigian, Ellen Keane, and Michael Colford are returning as co-chairs and will train incoming co-chairs.
- There is a push to recruit academic librarians for conference committee.

- Information about the conference will go out to the [Cape Cod and Islands Library Association](#) (CCILA) and the [Western Massachusetts Library Advocates](#) (WMLA)
- The conference length is most likely returning to a 2.5 or 3 day length.
- Program planning has already started for 2013 conference.
- The MBLC Construction Grant program at the past conference was very popular and highly successful. Conference attendees enjoyed meeting with the commissioners and MBLC staff. Elizabeth Hacala is going to order badge ribbons for commissioners so that they can be easily identified at conference.
- Elizabeth Marcus suggested contacting conference attendees who are not members of MLA. Maureen will work with her and cross check the names with the lapsed member list.
- Each MLA Committee/Section should have a liaison to conference committee.

### **New Business**

#### **Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Breakfast Season**

MMA is about to begin its annual [legislative breakfast season](#). Elizabeth Hacala will include them in the MLA Newsletter.

#### **Executive Board Meeting Dates and Locations**

October 12; Newton Library; 1:00 pm  
 December 14; Weston Library; 10:00 am  
 February 8; Milton Library; 10:00 am  
 April 12; No location set  
 June 14; Plymouth Library; 10:00 am

#### **Board Packet/Manual Review**

Elizabeth Hacala and Sunny worked together to update the board packet and Elizabeth highlighted the changes. The name was also changed to Board Manual at the meeting so as to distinguish it from the board meeting packets. Elizabeth Hacala said that the original and revision dates of the documents will be maintained. In the future, the document will be on wiki and a revision history will be maintained. Dinah encouraged members to get any changes to Elizabeth Hacala by the end of September. She also suggested revisiting the document every two years. Some of the changes include [Treasurer Job Description](#); [Secretary Job Description](#); [Conference and Programs Section](#); [Financial Policies](#); as well as replacing the term “Executive Secretary” to “Executive Manager” and “Paraprofessional” to “Para librarian”. The executive board will vote on the changes in October. The board thanked Sunny and Elizabeth Hacala for all of their hard work!

#### **MLA Newsletter**

Members were encouraged to submit any newsletter articles to Elizabeth Hacala before Labor Day.

**Library Events**

Please keep Dinah abreast of any library events happening across the state.

Ruth moved to adjourn the meeting and Bernadette seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bernheim  
MLA Secretary