

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 02/21/20
Massachusetts Library System (MLS), Marlborough

Meeting Start: 11:05 a.m.

Present: Kimberly Lynn, Mary Rose Quinn, Greg Pronevitz, Amy Lewontin, Noreen O'Gara, Marie Letarte, Jennifer Harris, Tressa Santillo, Sarah Sogigian, Will Adamczyk, Jayme Viveiros, Marie Letarte, Eileen Dyer, Mike Moran

- 01/17/20 minutes were approved.

MBLC Update (Mary Rose via Jennifer)

- 3 legislative breakfasts happened on the day of this meeting!
- Budget
 - FY2021 Legislative Agenda:
<https://mblc.state.ma.us/about-us/legislative-agenda.php>
 - Interactive website: <http://mbclcgislativeagenda.com/>
 - State aid is the priority
 - MBLC is testifying in front of House Ways & Means next week on the budget
- Construction Bond
 - Discussions continue re: increasing funding and the cap
- Other - MBLC is in its strategic planning process - in-person workshops and ways to capture input online
- MBLC is moving - TBD where (waiting to sign the contract)

MLS Update (Sarah)

- MLS coverage of legislative breakfasts has expanded to additional staff
- Better alignment with legislative agenda and towns/cities that are represented
- MLS is going to start its next strategic planning process
- Meeting rooms in both locations (Marlborough & Northampton) are available for use

Library Legislative Day (Tressa, Catherine, Jayme)

- Date is Thursday, April 2, 2020
- Room 222 is reserved for briefings
- Call for the showcase went out on Jan. 11 (submissions due Feb. 12)
- Registration opened on Feb. 12: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/malibleg20>
- Schedule of events:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zQ_TKWvVAWFsDIV9vS9boT5uWvV9O5WAjAR3LCFY92l/edit?usp=sharing

- Next steps: finalizing the schedule, checking on the reserved spaces, assembling the speakers
- WMLA (\$400) & CMLA (\$200) contributions for Legislative Day - thank you!
- Contact people who attended last year (Wild Apricot)
- Inserts (WMLA, CMLA, MSLA, etc.) due to Mary Rose by March 19 - 450 copies

MSLA Update (Greg)

- MSLA Annual Conference, “We can do it! School libraries transform communities,” on March 29-30 will include an event on March 30: School Library Advocacy in 2020.
- Reviewing Engage with Advocacy Cochairs to consider use at Annual Conference on March 29-30, most likely to support bills in the Federal House and Senate on Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Act, see:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4668> and
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2240/text?r=8&s=1>
- We’re working with Tressa and the Legislative Day Planning Committee to arrange for school librarians to join the delegations and invite a few to attend remotely.
- Legislative Breakfasts. We’re encouraging MSLA leadership to attend breakfasts and seeking opportunities to present and distribute handouts. We’re planning two school library breakfasts in late March in Dorchester and S. Dennis.

WMLA Update (Mike)

- The first two legislative breakfasts sponsored by WMLA this year (January 31, Monterey; February 14, Holyoke) were well attended, even though the seat formerly held by Senator Donald Humason (including Holyoke) is still vacant, and popular Rep. Aaron Vega (Holyoke) has announced that he won’t run for a fifth term.
- A flyer for the bus which WMLA sponsors annually to Library Legislative Day has been developed and circulated. It includes links to register for the bus as well as for LLD via the MLA website.
- While WMLA will take the lead in organizing group meetings with WMLA-area legislators, the board hopes that MLA will step in to play this role in parts of the state where no local network or other group is in place to do so, for example, in any senatorial districts where no legislative breakfast is being held this year.
- With two MBLC commissioners from the WMLA area (Mary Kronholm, Jan Resnick) completing their terms in the next year or two, the board will urge WMLA membership to start thinking about potential commissioners who could effectively succeed these two strong advocates.

CMLA Update (Marie)

- No new updates

Engage Update (Will)

- MLA legislative alerts: <http://cgrcengage.com/alama/?0>
- Loose calendar for legislative actions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVijtVGUSENh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit
- See the MLA website for up to date info

Old Business

Recruiting New Members (Jennifer)

- Still need someone from NOBLE - Noreen working on this

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- Rep. Kearny said he's working with Natalie Higgins for MLA LegComm to meet with library caucus members - try to meet them when they have a tour of the BPL? Jennifer will suggest some dates to Rep. Kearny.

Macmillan/Amazon/OverDrive/eBooks Update (Jennifer)

- No new updates

MLA Conference Advocacy Program Update (Jennifer & Greg)

- Monday, May 18 from 4:25-5:25pm
- Looking for different reps

New Business

- **Legislative Breakfasts/Events**
 - "Statistics" re: legislative breakfasts & events - what should MLA/libraries be doing about this?
 - Add a survey to legislative breakfast toolkit for hosts to complete?
 - More discussion needed at a future meeting about this
- Academic libraries - will have a placeholder in the agenda going forward

FYI & Other

- Meeting Adjourned: 1:10p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 20, 11am-1pm at MLS - Marlborough