

MLA Legislative Committee

July 16, 2015

10:00 am

[Minuteman Library Network](#)

I. Introductions

Attendees: Beverly Shank, retired; Mary Rose Quinn, MBLC; Mary Ann Cluggish, MBLC; Dinah O'Brien, Plymouth; Jennifer Harris, Plymouth; Andrea Nicolay, Arlington; Jackie Rafferty, Cohasset; Joan Kublinski, retired; Kathy Lowe, MSLA

Participating by phone: Sharon Shaloo, MA Center for the Book; Kim Charlson; Talking Books; Matt Amory, Wayland

Susan welcomed new committee members and explained that this committee focuses on advocacy and supporting the MBLC budget. The committee also coordinates the Legislative Breakfasts. Jackie Rafferty has offered to oversee this. A theme this year is to continue to nurture people in the library community to take an active advocacy role and build relationships with legislators

II. Meeting schedule

Committee will meet every-other month, in the afternoon on the same day as the MLA Admin. Committee, so that Eric Poulin, MLA President can participate.

Upcoming meeting dates are Sept. 11, Nov. 13, Jan. 8, March 11, at 1pm and May 20 at 10am at the Minuteman Library Network in Natick

III. Reports:

- MBLC Update

Dianne Carty reported that the 9506 Library Technology and Resource Sharing line was hit hard - a 24% cut. This line funds the automated networks, small libraries, databases, ebooks. Earmarks for 7 individual libraries totaling \$124,000 also had a negative impact. Rep. Hogan will call a meeting of the Library Legislative Caucus in October. She has requested a presentation about library services.

- MSLA Update

Kathy Lowe mentioned encouraging signs that awareness of the importance of school libraries is growing statewide and nationally: MA School Library Legislative Commission in progress; Sen. Jack Reed's ESEA amendment for school library funding passed by the U.S. House, pending in the Senate; recent NEA vote to conduct a national study of school libraries.

IV. Legislative Committee Plans and Updates

- Joint Meeting of MLA LegCom, MBLC PR Committee on July 23rd at 1pm at the Bolton Public Library

All members of this committee are welcome to attend. The purpose of this meeting is for the various groups advocating for libraries statewide to brainstorm together a strategy for a continuous, year-long campaign for libraries and library issues. Legislative Day, Breakfasts, CapWiz migration will also be discussed.

The committee discussed ways of expanding the Library Caucus to include more senators and have and having a senator as co-chair. It seems that many legislators are unaware that the Caucus exists and that support from the Caucus is lacking. Is it time to look for a change of leadership?

V. Start planning this year's events

- Fall breakfasts in NE Region

Susan and Jackie have been in contact with Krista and Ellen Rainville. Dates have not been determined yet.

- Library Caucus meeting October 15, 2015

Susan will work on an email asking the library community to send a "save the date" message via CapWiz to their legislators urging them to join the Caucus and attend the Oct. 15th meeting. More detailed planning for a presentation to the Caucus will be done at the joint meeting on the 23rd.

- Legislative Day

Mary Rose suggested we use the format used at BLIND Legislation Day. It starts at 11:30 with lunch, then a program, followed by visits to legislators

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Lowe