

MLA Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes November 18, 2016

Present: Susan McAllister, Charlotte Canelli, Matt Perry, Celeste Bruno, Mary Rose Quinn, Greg Pronevitz, Kathy Lowe, Steve Spohn, Jennifer Harris and Tim Spindler. On conference call (phone): Nancy Rea, Matt Amory, Rachel Bouhanda, Sharon Shaloo.

The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am at MLN Central Site in Natick.

Agenda Items and Topics Discussed:

- A November 14, 2016 meeting with Representative Byron Rushing, Pamela Carver, Dianne Carty, David Leonard and Greg Pronevitz regarding advocacy by the library community was reported on. (See attached.) The Massachusetts Library Funding (map or chart) was discussed. (See attached.) Also discussed and attached are the BECAUSE posters that Celeste and Matt have created. Kathy Lowe (MSLA) discussed including school library advocacy, and the struggle to do so, in the campaign. The MLS Executive Board would like MLS to be more active in advocacy. A motion was made by Greg Pronevitz, seconded by Kathy Lowe, amended by Jennifer Harris and seconded by Steve Spohn to form a working group in MLA and include all library end-users (patrons, faculty, organizations, parents, trustees, and friends) to focus on library advocacy in Massachusetts. A unanimous vote was achieved to do so.
- Celeste Bruno attended an OCLN meeting. OCLN directors approved an initiative to include “this item traveled miles to reach you” bookmark in all materials January 15-February 15, 2017. (The bookmark is attached.)
- The Advocacy Checklist or Passport was discussed. (The latest iteration is attached.) This checklist is based on the BECAUSE statements. The Top 5 Reasons Why You Should Care about the Legislative Agenda was discussed (attached.) The hope is that participants will fill out the checklist, possibly getting something for points they earn at legislative breakfasts? Stickers or buttons “I Came to Library Legislative Day” were discussed.
- Library Legislative Breakfasts have been organized and a full list will be on the MLA website.
- Legislative Day:
 - Greg will contact and contract with the READS poster photographer FOR \$550.
 - The State House Great Hall and Grand Staircase is booked (Susan).
 - The Room for First Time Participants need to be confirmed – either 222 or the Senate Reading Room. Can 222 be used all morning? 9:30 – 10:00 briefing; 10:30-11:30 first time participants; 11:30-12:00 briefings were discussed. Lunch is at 12:30?
 - A save the date needs to be sent by December 15th.
 - A loose RSVP will be created using Wild Apricot registration software.
 - A bus has been arranged for the Western Region.
 - A buddy or mentor system was discussed for first-time participants.
 - Invitations will be sent to legislators.
 - Mary Rose will send a flyer in all mailboxes for legislators – an official invite going in a packet to new legislators on January 12th.
 - The library showcase proposals need to be requested ASAP through Survey Monkey. The same survey can be sent again. There is room for 15 displays. The deadline will be January 13. Kathy Lowe, Jackie Rafferty, and Jennifer Harris will meet prior to January 27 for a discussion re: set up of the showcases. The showcase proposals will be geared to the BECAUSE statements.
 - The luncheon program was discussed – the award for advocacy will go to Senator Kathleen O’Connor Ives of the 1st Essex District. Luncheon program: A Welcome, Award, and nod to legislators
 - After lunch visits and before lunch visits are expected.
 - Tim and Steve will organize tables and signs.
- The ALA Preconference on Advocacy at MLA is being organized by Nancy Rea. Jamie LaRue and Marci Merola will come from Chicago. They will expect travel (air, hotel, and car) reimbursement. The room is reserved for the Sunday program with 25-50 participants. PR is being sent by Jocelyn Tavares.

The meeting adjourned sometime around 1:00 pm!



Charlotte Canelli