

MLA Legislative Committee  
Meeting Minutes - 10/26/2018

Meeting Start: 10:00am

Present: Greg Pronevitz, Margaret Cardello, Steve Spohn, Tressa Santillo, Jennifer Harris, Charlotte Canelli, MaryRose Quinn, Mike Moran, Jayme Viveiros, Sharon Shaloo, Susan McAlister

**Legislative Agenda** (Mary Rose/all)

- We need to vote to approve/support the agenda if possible
- Review of Leg Agenda
  - “Green sheet” = FY2020 Legislative Agenda
    - 15.7% increase for Technology & Resource Sharing (9506)
      - “Wired to Reach You”
    - 12% increase for Regional Libraries (MLS & BPL) (9401)
      - “Miles to Reach You”
    - 3% increase for all other lines
    - Each of the line items will have a fact sheet
  - MBLC “white sheet” = historical funding data (showing highs) since FY2001
  - Related - MBLC will need a new bond authorization and increase in overall cap
    - MBLC has project sheets on affected libraries
  - Libraries need data and education to be able to speak to these big increases (look for FY2020 fact sheets being finalized now)
- LegComm’s take on the MBLC Legislative Agenda
  - LegComm does not support earmarks
    - Related - when LegComm sends Engage messaging, state that we don’t support earmarks and that increases to all library lines support all libraries; if you really want to support your local library, support statewide funding, not earmarks
      - Charlotte/Jennifer/Steve/whoever drafts the Engage messages can incorporate boilerplate messaging into Engage messaging and/or can send something standalone pending discussions with library legislative caucus co-chairs
  - Center for the Book
    - We don’t want to see the CFTB zeroed out again and have to fight for it to come back for another year (this seems to happen every year in recent years)
    - Constant fighting to save the CFTB in its current state is not sustainable; need more money for more staff, reasonable benefits, additional projects, etc.
    - LegComm acknowledges that CFTB needs more money but at the very least, don’t let it be zeroed out and fight to bring it back again

- Related - “Save Delivery” and “Borrow eBooks and Audiobooks from libraries across Massachusetts” sheets were given out to end users at Boston Book Festival (not final versions)
- Jennifer called a motion to approve the FY2020 Legislative Agenda and to include two additional items: 1) LegComm does not approve of earmarks and 2) LegComm disapproves of the constant zeroing out (and fighting back for) the Center for the Book in recent years - *motion was approved with 10 yes votes and 1 no vote (Sharon)*

#### **Candidate Survey Update** (Krista/Nanci via Jennifer)

- Postponing this until after the elections
- Post election “survey”
  - Will be framed as “Congratulations, now that you’ve been elected, let’s introduce you to library issues... and “please consider joining the library caucus”
- Greg will confirm new plan w/MSLA

#### **Library Legislative Day** (Tressa/Jayme/All)

- Date confirmed for Tuesday, March 5, 2019
- Grand Staircase limited to 4 tables now
  - Tables will be MBLC, MLS/BPL, MSLA/WMLA/CMLA, Registration
  - Has space for 100 chairs
  - Showcase - what to do?
    - Hold showcase on tables in Great Hall in the morning?
    - Subcommittee formed - Charlotte, Jennifer, Tressa, Jayme to address options for the showcase
- First Save-the-Date going out to library community week of 10/28; legislator save-the-dates and bookings of spaces within statehouse will have to wait until after election
- Can we get Lt. Governor to speak during lunch? Charlotte will ask Ellen Dolan at Shrewsbury PL to get the ball rolling

#### **MSLA Update** (Greg)

- MSLA EBoard is planning to consider accepting the Legislative Agenda in November
- Robin Cicchetti, Carol Gordon (the researchers on the Special Commission Report) and I presented and exhibited on the Commission Report at MassCUE on Oct. 19.
- Amy Short (Cambridge Rindge and Latin School), others, and I met with Loida Garcia-Febo (ALA President) on Oct. 18. Loida mentioned school libraries in her presentation at the Cambridge Public Library (as did Esme-thanks!). The ALA blog included a photo and some info, see: [LINK](#).
- We are setting up a meeting to present an AASL commendation to the Joint Committee on Education and following up with Rep. Garballey.

- We hope to set up another meeting with DESE soon to discuss priorities from the Special Commission Report.

#### **Wild Apricot (Steve)**

- Steve has access now
- Working on a new advocacy site (formerly Advocacy Toolkit site); will share with LegComm when draft is ready
- 2018 registration form for LegDay can be adapted and reused

#### **Old Business**

##### **MLA Conference Program**

- Proposal was accepted by MLA, waiting for date assignment (preference is Mon. then Tues. of conference)
- Town Hall style program - what it's like to be on the committee, how to do a legislative breakfast, members of leg. Library caucus will hopefully attend as well
- Subcommittee to develop program: Mike, Jennifer, Charlotte, MaryRose, Greg

##### **Using ALA's Engage for Local Initiative (Mike)**

- Can WMLA use Engage to support local initiatives?
- Currently able to use it now to do "anytime" customizable Engage initiatives for state level officials
- MLA doesn't have staff, just volunteers so it's difficult to deploy this for local initiatives
- Local officials are not up to date in Engage and updating them is very difficult

Other - National Library Leg Day - will be part of ALA annual in 2019

Other - Engage "return address" - who should get these? Jennifer Harris

#### **New Business**

##### **Adding Past Meeting Minutes to MLA Website**

- If you're in possession of any past meeting minutes from 2016-present, please send them all to Tressa so they can get added to the website

##### **FY2020 Budget Request Review**

- Reviewed Susan's projected budget and compared it against FY2020 request
- Jennifer called a motion for LegComm to approve a FY2020 budget request that does not exceed \$8,000 - *motion was unanimously approved*

##### **2019 Advocacy Award**

- To be presented at 2019 Library Leg Day (March 5)
- Sharon Shaloo nominated Rep. Alice Peisch (Jennifer/Krista will check to make sure she hasn't received the award in the past)

**FYI/Other**

- "Return email" in Engage - Jennifer will get these now
- January 25 meeting rescheduled to Jan. 18 at MLS/Marlborough
- April meeting date is April 26
- National Library Legislative Day will take place during ALA Annual in 2019 (end of June)

Meeting Adjourned: 12:05pm