

**MLA Legislative Committee Meeting
Minuteman Library Network, Natick MA
September 11, 2015**

365 Day Campaign:

- MBLC can't advocate, but can contribute in other ways.
- Important to connect everything into one cohesive campaign
- Tagline: "Funding Libraries is Overdue"
- MLA has drafted letters yet to be sent out with a focus on the caucus meeting. Their theme is "Let's Make Some Noise." Used as a message for patrons/library community.

Boston Book Festival:

- The BBF is a great opportunity to engage the public
- Postcards can be provided to be filled out to send to legislators.
- Postcards should have a canned message with an area for patron comments

Postcard Campaign:

- Postcards can continue to be used after the festival.
- Can be placed at checkout counters of libraries.
- Postcards can be placed into interlibrary loan books by MLS as an informational piece.

Inviting Legislators to Events:

- So far inviting legislators has been successful i.e. Summer Reading
- We need to continue to include them beyond just legislative breakfasts.
- Send them pictures of fun events, include them with monthly newsletter. "Feel Good Things".
- Pre-written press release templates for events we know they will be at.
- MLA can grade legislators based on library friendly votes.

Networks:

- Networks are private non-profits so they do not have the restrictions that MBLC and librarians have.
- Can take the lead in advocacy because of their regional identities.

Supplemental Budget:

- Opportunity to recoup loss of funding from the main budget.
- Rep. Hogan suggested sending out letters week of Sept. 14th when legislators return
- Be sure not to confuse the main FY17 budget request with the supplemental budget request.

Legislative Caucus Meeting:

- Presenters from BPL, MLS, MBLC
- Everything should be tied into networks/sharing resources.
- MLA making alerts to be sent to legislators by patrons and librarians

Other:

- Cultural Council doing a good job promoting the creative economy, libraries should do the same
- Tying library service in with solutions to opioid crisis especially in Western Mass
- Asking legislators to explain how we ended up in this position, how the cuts happened.
- Do legislators understand what libraries actually do now? All of them talk about going there to read with their moms.
- Focus on shared services and partnerships
- How much money is saved for every dollar spent?