

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 9/28/2018

Meeting Start: 10:06am

Present: Mike Moran, Greg Pronevitz, Jayme Viveiros, Sharon Shaloo, Krista McLeod, Margaret Cardello, Eileen Dyer, Steve Spohn, Will Adamczyk, Tressa Santillo, Jennifer Harris

Boston Book Festival (all)

- Date is 10/13/18
- MBLC didn't get a booth but BPL has a booth and will make room for Commissioners to attend (MaryRose will cover the table and will promote statewide services)
- Get more Engage QR code flyers (distributed last year), if possible
- Does anyone from MLA want to attend? If so, get in touch with Jennifer Harris and MaryRose.
- Center for the Book also has its own booth -will be promoting Mass book awards, Route 1 Reads, etc.

Candidate Survey

A. **Update** (Krista)

- Intend to mail everything out by Friday, Oct. 12
- Still waiting on a few of the updated questions
- Future - suggest revamping the questions so it's more of true questionnaire

B. **MSLA - Possible co-sponsor** (Greg)

- MSLA has offered to co-sponsor the survey and offer up to \$250 for mailing expenses
- School question is in survey but not tied to specific funding questions
- LegComm confirmed yes to MSLA's offer to co-sponsor survey

Legislative Day (Tressa/Jayme)

- Hopeful date is Tuesday, March 5, 2019 (to be confirmed on Oct. 1)
 - Reservation includes grand staircase area and great hall
 - Library caucus co-chairs are sponsoring the day(?)
- Room 222 will be booked separately (Jennifer & legislator sponsor)
- WMLA and CMLA want tables in the showcase area
- Greg will check on status of bookmark awards
- New ideas to try this year: Fill-in-the-blank scripts for attendees, orientation webinar, display of comments from end users
- Planning to begin in earnest after date is set

MSLA Update (Greg)

- Shared progress of school study commission
- MSLA endorses the recommendation to appoint a school library curriculum specialist from DESE

- Focus group meeting was held on Sept. 8 with stakeholders to determine next steps
- No specific \$\$ ask from MSLA yet
- Next step is to meet with legislators from the education committee
- Encourage school librarians to attend Library Legislative Day and submit for the showcase

Engage Training (Steve)

- Within Engage
 - Issue - “Support Libraries”
 - Campaign - That’s year’s legislative agenda
 - Engagement - the emails that are sent
 - Looking at other types of engagements (phone calls w/talking points, etc.)
- Candidates are listed in Engage (but need to think about timing of contacting them)
- Could CMLA and WMLA use this?
 - Possible solution - create a “blank” engagement so it’s completely customizable and groups can use it (Steve)

Gratitude Plan (Steve)

- Reviewed document:
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vZsyWFexpNWAuLFj_HwUxxCTJMooBgkqI6JTvKz1-3o/edit

Old Business

Thank you letters to library caucus for budget support (Jennifer/Charlotte)

- Library Legislative Caucus co-chairs
 - Eric Lesser (Longmeadow, etc.) - Senate
 - Natalie Higgins (Leominster) - Rep
 - Brian Murray (Milford, etc.) - Rep
- Perennial challenge - who’s a member of the Library Legislative Caucus?

GoToMeeting request for subscription to MLA EBoard (Jennifer) - done!

New Business

MLA Conference Program Suggestions (all)

- FYI from Greg/MSLA - Robin Cicchetti is submitting a panel proposal (Robin, Greg, James)
- Idea - Town Hall style meeting
 - Get ideas and feedback from everyone
 - Title ideas: “Get More from your Library” “Get to know your MLA Legislative Committee”
 - Bring in the legislative library caucus co-chairs as part of the discussion

- Jennifer will reach out to MLA Conference Committee to hold a spot

Miscellany

- Brief discussion about earmarks in the state budget -
 - MLA and MBLC are against these - destructive to library budget funding lines
 - Libraries need more education about why these are hurtful
- New bond bill needed for this year - MaryRose will be meeting with library caucus co-chairs and also discussing problems with earmarks
- Tentative MBLC Legislative Agenda priorities at this point: MLS/LFC and networks
- MLA LegComm and the Legislative Agenda - does LegComm have a vote or a “say” in the agenda? Agenda will be discussed at the next LegComm meeting in Oct. to approve and see if there’s anything else to add to it
- MLS Annual Meeting is Monday, Nov. 5 - Jennifer will ask Sarah S. for a 5-minute update on MLA LegComm
- “Create the Vote” Launch Party - Tressa added Worcester location event. Goal was to get people to vote and to keep the arts in mind while voting. It felt similar to a Legislative breakfast but without legislators.
- Steve via WMLA: We need to get re-engaged with Mass Municipal Association - attend breakfasts, staff the MBLC booth at their annual conference (January)

Adjourn: 12:06pm