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 Adamczyzk, 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 a 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_HwUxxCTJMooBqkql6JTvKz1-3o/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