



Massachusetts Library Association (MLA) Annual Meeting @ Annual Conference

May 6, 2015

DCU Center

Worcester, MA

President Maureen Ambrosino called the meeting to order at 2:16 p.m.

Announcements – Maureen Ambrosino

President Ambrosino thanked the entire Conference Committee for organizing the conference without having an association manager in place. She also thanked Bernadette Rivard as Treasurer in managing finances so effectively. And she expressed thanks to Debby Conrad for coordinating the grand opening of the vendor exhibits.

Minutes of 2014 Annual Meeting – Debby Conrad

Secretary Debby Conrad called for the membership to make a motion to accept the minutes from the [May 8, 2014 annual meeting](#).

Laura Bernheim made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2014 MLA Annual Meeting. Ellen Keane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Bernadette Rivard

Treasurer Rivard presented her report to the membership. She noticed that in order to cover expenses the Association had withdrawn funds from reserves but that those funds should be restored with income gained from the Conference. The Association investments have grown because of the improvement in the Stock Market. The number of paid members is increasing.

FY2016 Budget - Bernadette Rivard

Treasurer Rivard presented the draft FY2016 Budget. She noted that she has been consolidating line items to make it easier to track income and expenses.

Allison Sloan made a motion to accept the FY2016 Budget as presented by Treasurer Rivard. Laura Bernheim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Rivard noted that she is outgoing treasurer but that she will be working with the incoming treasurer to continue improving policies and procedures. She expressed her thanks to everyone who has assisted her this year, particularly Maureen Ambrosino and the Investment Advisory Committee.

Paralibrarian Report for the 2015 Annual Meeting – Gerry Deyermond

Chairwoman Gerry Deyermond summarized the FY15 activities of the Paralibrarian Section. She noted that the ALA/MLA partnership discontinued but a new MLA/NELA should be starting soon. The section has been working the newly formed New Hampshire Paralibrarian group. There were 3 guests at the conference: Michelle Matthews from New York, Lee Ann Chase, & Heather Rainer, both of whom are from New Hampshire.

There were 10 nominations for the 2015 Paralibrarian of the Year and Advocate of the year. The Outstanding Paralibrarian was awarded to Irene Gotovitch of the Morrill Library in Norwood. The Advocate of the Year was awarded to Michelle Filleul of the Reading Public Library.

The Career Development Committee awarded 5 Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement Certificates – AnnaMarie McGrath received Level 1, Joyce Senior and Melissa Guimont received Level 2, and Lori Salotto and Diane Oxtan received Level 3.

A special thank you was extended to Demco for once again sponsoring the Book Cart Drill Team competition.

State of the Commonwealth – Mary Ann Cluggish, Commissioner, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Commissioner Cluggish summarized the impressive list of statistics demonstrating the steady growth in the use of Massachusetts Libraries. She discussed the current state of funding with the FY16 draft budgets from the Governor and House budgets being adopted with decreased funding for library funding. At the time of this report the Senate Budget had not yet been released. The MBLC has formed a State Aid Study committee and their work is under way. Recommendations from that committee will be presented to library committee in fall 2015.

Commissioner Cluggish went on to discuss other programs being sponsored by the MBLC including partnerships with the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service and The Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth.

The Library Journal held their Design Institute held at the Boston Public Library in December 2014. The program was presented in partnership with the Boston Public Library and the MBLC. Three Massachusetts libraries were case studies: the Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library, Kingston Public Library, and the East Forest Park Branch in Springfield.

Massachusetts will be partnering with Maine State Library in a project entitled Empowering **Public Libraries to be Science Resource Centers for their Communities**. Three Massachusetts libraries will be

participating: the M. N. Spear Memorial Library in Shutesbury, the Bellingham Public Library, and the Nevins Memorial Library in Methuen.

The number of participants in the 2014 Summer reading program was 412,695 which set a record.

There are statewide working groups meeting to investigate a statewide discovery platform, investigate the feasibility of a statewide library card, and the Commonwealth EBook Collection.

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners will be celebrating its 125th anniversary

By-Laws Revisions – Ellen Rainville, Chair, Bylaws Committee

Chair Ellen Rainville presented recommended revisions to the By-Laws. They included cleaning up language about institutional membership, removing language about lifetime membership for members in 1971, clarifying the election process to accommodate electronic voting, and combining Personnel and Education Committee into one

President Ambrosino called for the membership to approve the recommended revisions. The revisions were accepted.

Establishment of a Reference and User Services Section

Laura Bernheim, Pingsheng Chen, Dmitri Kyriakis

The establishment of Reference and User Services Section will provide public service staff with chance to participate in MLA for professional development and network. It would encourage academic libraries to participate in MLA. A petition was sent out asking for approval to form the new section. A minimum of twenty-five members needed to agree and seventy-five members responded approving the formation.

Beth Galloway made a motion to approve the formation of a Reference and User Services Section. Virginia Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee – Dinah O'Brien

Dinah O'Brien announced the names of the new FY16 officers

Vice-President – Nancy Milhone-Hill (Dracut Public Library)

Treasurer – Jennifer Pike (Milford Public Library)

Presidential Transition

Maureen Ambrosino announced the turning over of powers to Vice President – President Elect, Erin Poulin. She also presented Eric with the official MLA gavel and block.

President-Elect Speech

Eric Poulin talked about how important it was for the library community to advocate for itself. He stressed that librarians must be willing to be vocal about their need for financial support. He will be emphasizing the important role that libraries play as President of the Association.

Esme Green moved to adjourn the annual meeting. Ellen Keane seconded. All moved to adjourn at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Debby Conrad, Secretary