



Massachusetts Library Association
Executive Board Meeting
Brockton Public Library
Brockton, MA
June 13, 2014

In attendance: Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus (President), Maureen Ambrosino (Vice-President/President Elect), Dinah O’Brien (Vice President), Ryan Livergood (Treasurer), Laura Bernheim (Secretary), Sarah Hagan (Association Manager), Debby Conrad (Incoming Secretary), Nancy Rea (ALA Councilor), Ruth Urell (Incoming ALA Councilor), Dianne L. Carty (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners), Greg Pronevitz (Massachusetts Library System), Jocelyn Tavares (Public Relations), Meredith Crosby (Technical Services Section), Noelle Boc (Youth Services Section), Sunny Vandermark (Archivist), Ellen Keane (Conference), Sharon Shaloo (Massachusetts Center for the Book), Diane Annunziato (Intellectual Freedom/Social Responsibility), Erin Daly (Youth Services Section), Susan McAlister (Legislative), Keith Choquette (Assistant Director, Brockton Public Library), Danielle Savin (Technical Services Section), Michelle Filleul (Conference)

President Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. She introduced her assistant director, Keith Choquette. Introductions were made of the rest of the executive board.

Consent Agenda

The [consent agenda](#) was approved.

President’s Report (Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus)

[Click here for report](#)

- Betsy acknowledged Dinah, Laura, and Nancy who are all stepping down from the board. Betsy thanked them all for their hard work and presented them all with beautiful flower arrangements.
- Welcome to incoming secretary, Debby Conrad! Welcome also to incoming Vice-President/President-Elect, Eric Poulin, who was unable to make it to the meeting.
- All sections and committees should submit written annual reports by July 1, in accordance to the [MLA Bylaws, Article IV, Section 6](#). Sarah will post the reports in the members only section of the [MLA web site](#). Executive summaries of the annual reports will be posted on the front page of the site.

Treasurer’s Report (Ryan Livergood)

[Click here for report](#)

- The Annual conference generated approximately \$34,000. Sarah just paid the last reimbursements from the conference so there should be little to no large expenses left.
- Revenue is approximately \$29,000 higher than last year, in part due to a successful conference and investment accounts doing well.
- The Fiscal Year 2015 budget is still in draft form.
- Sections and committees should write in line items for extra programs. Sections and committees needing more money should state why and how they expect to recoup the funds. All money earned by sections and committees goes back to the general fund.

Association Manager's Report (Sarah Hagan)

- Sarah is wrapping up conference.
- Sarah has a lot of projects planned for the summer, including updating the website, streamlining access to information, and wrapping up financial matters. With help from information and materials provided by Sunny, Sarah will be posting about the history of MLA on the website.
- Sarah is looking to hire a new freelance graphic designer.
- Sarah is planning on sending an e-mail to the MLA members to verify the sections and committees in which they are members. Sarah will work on getting updated information about what members have e-mail through Wild Apricot.
- Betsy asked Sarah for her assessment of the Wild Apricot system. Sarah mentioned that she can look into a new system but for now, it's not necessary to move, right away.

Committee/Section and Liaison Reports

Public Relations (PR) (Jocelyn Tavares)

- Jocelyn thanked everyone for their supporting efforts at the conference gala. Susan McAlister offered to store the centerpieces from the event at the Minuteman Library Network Central Site, where there is currently a storage closet being used for MLA. Sarah will work with the PR Committee on going through the inventory in the closet.
- Betsy thanked the PR Committee for beefing up MLA's presence on social media. Jocelyn said that Laurie Lessner was to thank for most of that.
- The PR Committee will be re-doing the MLA letterhead.

Membership (Maureen Ambrosino)

- There are 741 active members in MLA. There are currently 284 overdue memberships and 94 lapsed.
- Nora Blake will be chair of the membership committee.
- Maureen will work with incoming Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA) President Anita Cellucci about doing a joint social event with MLA and MSLA.
- Maureen will post information about the new Institutional Membership this summer.

Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC) (Diane Annunziato)

- The IFC has created [staff development day](#) programs modeled after ALA programs.

- Krista McLeod conducted a workshop at the Western Massachusetts Library Advocates. Kevin Gallagher of the [Freedom of the Press Foundation](#) spoke.
- There are about 12 people participating in the Social Responsibilities Round Table. They are assisting [Rosie's Place](#) in building a library collection for its day shelter.

Legislative Committee (Dinah O'Brien)

- Krista McLeod will be hosting a fall legislative breakfast type event.
- The committee is working on a schedule for Library Legislative Day. They will be working on rolling out visits from the various geographic regions to their respective legislators to lead up to Legislative Day.
- Betsy thanked the committee for all of their hard work planning the legislative breakfasts and Legislative Day.

Conference (Ellen Keane and Michelle Filleul)

- "We had a great conference!" Ellen and Michelle thanked Sarah for all of her hard work.
- There were two new major additions to the conference this year -- the Tuesday night Awards Gala and the Performers' Showcase. There was generally positive feedback from conference attendees about the Performers' Showcase, though it will probably be done a little differently in the future, as there were some issues. There were several suggestions about how to handle the Performer's Showcase such as scheduling the performers when attendees are not in session, scheduling them to perform in the hallway, or scheduling them during a half day when there are no sessions. The conference committee will discuss it more in detail at their meetings.
- Another addition to the conference were open sessions led by the Massachusetts Library System (MLS). Greg mentioned that he would like to talk with the conference committee about how to make the sessions even better.
- Next year, there may be more time between sessions, so as to allow more time to visit the exhibits. The conference committee is also considering repeating popular sessions over the course of the conference.
- The conference this year was 2.5 days, with the half day occurring on the first day, and starting in the afternoon. There was a lot of talk about the merits of the half day, with some directors at the meeting suggesting that they didn't send staff on the half day. There was also concern that the half day may have allowed for lower attendance at the awards gala which was held on the same day. Ellen had mentioned holding sessions more than once could fill out a third full day. Noelle was the one who suggested holding a performers' showcase during the other half of the half day if there are not enough programs.
- Sarah will pull numbers from the conference surveys as to which tracks were most popular. She will also put together a form for those who register on-site asking which programs they plan on attending.
- There was a discussion about the vendors, and how some were unhappy with the lack of traffic in the exhibit hall. This is a common complaint from the vendors, but there was also agreement that there are some changes that could be made. Michelle met with the vendors. There is also a new vendor liaison on the conference committee. Ryan

suggested holding mini sessions in the exhibit hall, in the style of the “Computers in Libraries” conference. Michelle also mentioned that lunch will be closer to the exhibit hall next year.

- Next year’s conference will be held at the DCU Center, again, and the date will be nailed down, soon. This year, it was the same week as several town meetings, but there are also potential conflicts with other weeks.
- There was a lot of praise for the conference. Maureen mentioned that she sent more people from her library this year than in past years.

American Library Association (ALA) (Nancy Rea)

- ALA is going through a period of evaluation and is defining its priorities. Some of the issues being discussed during this time are whether or not the ALA Council is too big, how to standardize communication, how to operate through electronic communication, and standardizing how committees and task forces report.
- There has been a resolution to add programs to the Midwinter Meeting, but there is a concern about the expense. The issue has been brought up to the financial committee.
- A variety of social issues have come up before council. There was a resolution to support Edward Snowden that was defeated. A compromise resolution encouraging less government surveillance was passed, instead.
- There is a program at annual conference about the controversial 1970’s film [*The Speaker*](#).
- Nancy met with incoming ALA Councilor, Ruth Urell, to discuss the transition. Nancy thanked everyone for the privilege of representing them.

Massachusetts Library System (MLS) (Greg Pronevitz)

- There was a meeting with the statewide resource sharing committee. A recommendation was made to move ahead with the [statewide e-book project](#).
- MLS joined with other states at the Book Expo America in New York to present about library access to e-books. It was learned that Connecticut is moving ahead with a [statewide e-book platform](#).

Massachusetts Center for the Book (Sharon Shaloo)

- The [Massachusetts Book Awards](#) have been announced.
- The Massachusetts entry for the Great Book from a Great Place segment of the [National Book Festival](#) will be *Letting Swift River Go* by Jane Yolen.
- Please support the Massachusetts Center for the Book so that it is recognized in the final state budget. Maureen encouraged everyone to send a summary of [Sharon’s e-mail sent to the Massachusetts all regions listserv](#) to their state legislators.

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) (Dianne Carty)

- Everyone congratulated Dianne on her new position as Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- The Massachusetts Senate passed amendments to the [Capital Bond Bill](#), earmarking 1.2 million dollars for a particular library budget.

- There was good representation at ALA Library Legislative Day in Washington DC. Both Cindy Roach and Dianne represented the MBLC.
- The MBLC is hiring a [Head of Library State Aid, Construction, Data and Technology / Government Liaison](#) (Dianne's former position). The closing date is July 15.

MLA Archives (Sunny Vandermark)

- Sunny has compiled a list of MLA Presidents dating back to 1890.
- She has given a PDF of an MLA history manual from 1974 to Sarah for the website.
- Sunny would like to do an update of the MLA history manual up through 2015. She'll share a draft when it's completed. Please contact her if you have anything of significance to share.

Old Business

- **MLA Bylaws**
 - Several revisions have been made to the [MLA Bylaws](#).
 - Ellen Rainville has agreed to chair a bylaws committee which will review the bylaws on an annual basis.
 - Every section of MLA has its own bylaws. Betsy asked that the chairs of each section print out their bylaws and discuss them at their first meetings of the year.
- **Executive Board Transition**
 - Welcome to new chairs, Danielle Davin (Technical Services Section), Erin Daly (Youth Services Section), and Diane Annunziato (Intellectual Freedom Committee). Dinah O'Brien will also serve as a third co-chair of the Legislative Committee.
 - The full executive board meets on the first Friday of the even numbered months. Maureen will look into scheduling the meetings at the Worcester Public Library, though there may be some issues with the library's meeting room policy.
 - The administrative board meets on the first Friday of the odd numbered months at the Minuteman Library Network Central Site in Natick. The administrative board consists of the president, vice-president, past president, treasurer, secretary, and association manager. The meetings are open for other MLA members.
 - Those who can't attend a executive board meeting are encouraged to find a proxy to attend in their places, if possible.
 - Debby Conrad, incoming secretary, can't attend the October 10 board meeting. Any kind executive board member willing to take minutes at the meeting should contact Debby.
 - Maureen will set up an electronic snack sign up sheet for the executive board meetings.
 - All section and committee representatives as well as liaisons should have reports ready for the meetings. Written reports should be submitted to Sarah the Friday before the meeting so that she can post them to the website.

- Please inform Sarah of any changes that should be made to specific section and committee web pages.
- As Past President, Betsy will chair the nominating committee. She will be searching for candidates for Vice President/President-Elect. Ryan has agreed to serve as treasurer for another term, unless there is someone out there who is very anxious to take it over!
- Betsy emphasized that next year will be a year of growth, as was last year. She thanked Sarah for getting a handle on the financial parts of the association.
- **Strategic Plan**
 - The [MLA Strategic Plan](#) will expire in June 2015.
 - Maureen will put together a task force for the strategic plan. Please talk to her if you're interested.

New Business

- **Boston Book Festival**
 - Ruth mentioned the [Boston Book Festival](#), held on October 25 in Copley Square. MLA has shared a table with the MBLC and Massachusetts Center for the Book the last two years, with Ruth leading MLA's efforts. Ruth asked for someone from MLA to be the leader for MLA's efforts this year, mentioning that it is a huge opportunity for outreach.
 - Sharon mentioned that she had been in talks with Dianne Carty and had forwarded the application to Maureen, also stating that the Center for the Book's role will be unknown until its role is settled in the state budget. Betsy also mentioned that all applications should be forwarded to Sarah so that she can be aware of any bills.
 - \$300 is in the MLA Budget for MLA's contribution to the MLA table.
 - Maureen, Dianne, and Sharon made plans to meet at the close of the meeting to discuss this issue.
- **President's Farewell Remarks**
 - Betsy remarked that it was a pleasure serving as president.
 - Everyone thanked Betsy for a job well done!

Susan McAlister made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Rea seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bernheim
 MLA Secretary, 2012 - 2014

