

MLA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
February 1, 2013 @ Minuteman Library Network

Attending in person: Susan McAlister, Beverly Shank, Anna Kung, Mary Rose Quinn, Deb Hoadley, Katie Baxter

Attending by phone: John Ramsey, Chris Lindquist, Kathy Lowe, Nancy Rea, Krista McLeod, Rob Maier, Greg Pronevitz

MBLC Legislative Agenda—Rob reported no cuts in FY13 budget and in FY14 the Governor has basically provided a level funded library budget which is currently making its way through the process and will next be sent to the Ways and Means Committee. Legislation that will be filed includes: Rep. Sarah Peake’s construction bill—half for libraries on the waiting list and half for the new grant round. Rep. Sean Garballey is filing two bills—one on certification which eliminates the sub professional category and the re-filing of the MSLA supported bill to study school libraries. There is also a bill to authorize a Registrar of Deeds fee that will aid archives preservation. The Legislative Breakfasts held so far have been well attended and Rob thanked the Legislative Committee for their work on the breakfasts. This year’s Legislative Agenda is on the website. Tumblr is eliciting a good number of responses. Sometime in May the federal budget is due. Sequestration would mean about an 8% reduction in LSTA funding and would take the allocation to Massachusetts below the \$3 million mark for the first time in many years.

MLS—Greg reported all five Legislative Breakfasts so far have included MLS staff as speakers. “Take Action” toolkit and information highlighted. MLS has 2 vacant positions. John Ramsay is working on input from academic libraries for “Take Action” materials. MSLA information is also included. The Study Committee on Resource Sharing has a number of goals—a Spring e-book proposal, a statewide library card and more fully integrated resources beyond the Virtual Catalog.

MSLA—Rep. Garballey’s bill is HD2598. It has been modeled on similar PA and NJ legislation. PA bill will require accredited school libraries. Kathy will request MBLC endorsement.

State Library Tour—Katie Baxter gave the working title as Take Action! The State Library Tour for Librarians Who Want to Take Action on the Hill. It is scheduled during conference on Thursday, April 25, 10:30 am-1 pm. It is limited to 20 and will leave from the conference desk. On the vehicle guides will give information and logistics. Four groups led by a Legislative Committee volunteer will convene in the State Library for coffee at 11. The groups will tour the Great Hall, visit the Legislative Chamber, etc. and see a mock visit to a legislator. By 12:30 the groups will end their tour in the State House Bookstore. Greg is planning the State Library part with State Librarian Albie Johnson. So far volunteer guides include: Krista, Mary Rose, Nancy, Kathy and Beverly. MLS, MLA and the State Library will coordinate refreshments.

Breakfast on Breakfasts—Recent changes affecting planning indicate the need for a mentoring session. Regions used to support the breakfasts financially and administratively; now local groups and libraries are doing it. Communication has been inconsistent for many reasons, including director turn over. Using a school as a breakfast location is a new element. Collaboration with MA Municipal Association is a promising prospect. The Committee will plan an October Breakfast on Breakfasts to take up all these new developments.

Intellectual Freedom—Krista described and MLA and NELA collaborative program on privacy and other IF issues at the NELA fall conference in Portland. Krista and Jackie are also working on staff development workshops that could be offered throughout the state. Zach Newell of Salem State University will chair the new MLA Social Responsibilities Roundtable.

ALA Midwinter—Nancy reported on the dues discussion and the March ballot to members that will adjust dues for 4 years.

Library Legislative Day—March 26, 9am-1pm in the State House Great Hall.

Postcards—Instead of the expense of printed cards, the template will be posted with the LegCom toolkit for individual printing and use. As in past years, MBLC will distribute Legislative Day invitations in legislators' mailboxes and will provide legislative packets.

Stickers—Mary Rose will use the student-designed logo In Demand, Under Pressure for a B&W sticker with both MLA and MSLA logos. There was discussion about using the additional phrase Under Funded on the sticker.

Western MA bus—John Ramsay and Lynn Coakley have organized one that will stop at the Auburn Mass Pike tollbooth to pick up central MA attendees.

The set up in the Great Hall will include tables near the podium to accommodate MSLA materials and the usual registration, food serving and eating tables. One seat per table will be reserved for a legislator.

Schedule for the Day:

9 am MSLA sponsored breakfast and registration

9:30-11 MSLA bookmark contest or visiting legislators

11 Legislative Briefing by MBLC staff—Cindy, Diane, Commissioners

Noon-1 MLA sponsored lunch and program

Program: Welcome MLA Pres. Dinah O'Brien and MSLA Pres. Valerie Diggs

Introduction of speakers—Dinah as emcee

Kate Hogan recognizes legislators and Library Caucus members

Byron Rushing speaks

Advocacy Award to Councilor Tim Allen, introduced by Molly Fogarty

Recognition of other legislators by Dinah

Visits/appointments with legislators

The Committee decided to cancel the March 29 meeting due to insufficient business.

