



Massachusetts Library Association (MLA)
Administrative Board Meeting
May 8, 2014
DCU Center
Worcester, MA

In attendance: Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus (President), Maureen Ambrosino (Vice-President/President Elect), Ryan Livergood (Treasurer), Laura Bernheim (Secretary), Deborah “Debby” Conrad (Incoming Secretary), Ruth Urell (Incoming ALA Councilor)

President Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. [Minutes](#) from the March 2014 meeting will be approved at the July meeting.

President’s Report (Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcus)

- Betsy thanked Ryan Livergood and Sarah Hagan for their hard work concerning the Fiscal Year 2015 MLA Budget.
- Betsy thanked Laura Bernheim for her work on the board meetings minutes.
- Betsy thanked Maureen Ambrosino for being an excellent Vice-President.
- Betsy thanked Sarah for her work as Association Manager.
- Betsy thanked Ruth Urell for being so helpful with the interviewing process for the new association manager, and for being a “positive and practical person”.
- Betsy thanked Deborah “Debby” Conrad for agreeing to run for the position of secretary.
- There was a discussion about the 2014 legislative breakfast season. Betsy’s goal was to make sure that someone from MLA was on the agenda of every legislative breakfast, and succeeded in doing so for the majority of the breakfasts. Betsy spoke at the breakfast in Holyoke, for example, and everyone was very pleased that a librarian from Brockton attended. The state legislators at the breakfast incorporated Betsy’s speech into their speeches.

Vice-President’s (Membership) Report (Maureen Ambrosino)

- Maureen mentioned that 47 new members have joined in the last 30 days, most likely due to conference.
- Sarah mentioned that two lapsed members have renewed their memberships.
- Maureen is excited about the proposal from the New England Library Association (NELA) regarding joint memberships.

Association Manager’s Report (Sarah Hagan)

- Now that conference is over, Sarah is going to devote a lot of time to working on the website.
- Sarah will work on the MLA logo, and MLA branding.

- Sarah met with MLA archivist, Sunny Vandermark, and will be posting more historic photographs on the website.

Transition

- The next executive board meeting is on June 13 at the Brockton Public Library. The executive board will make a full transition.
- Debby Conrad will be the incoming secretary; Eric Poulin will be the incoming Vice-President/President Elect; and Ruth Urell will be the incoming ALA Councilor. Laura Bernheim will join conference committee as a member at large.
- Ruth Urell will meet with outgoing ALA Councilor, Nancy Rea. Ruth mentioned that she would like to brainstorm at the June meeting regarding getting MLA members an easy channel to ALA. Betsy also queried as to whether MLA has paid ALA its chapter dues.
- Erin Daly will be the incoming chair of the Youth Services Section (YSS).
- Beverly Shank will continue to co-chair Legislative Committee. Current MLA Past-President, Dinah O'Brien, will join Beverly as co-chair. Legislative Committee Co-Chair, Susan McAlister, will be stepping down.
- Nora Blake will be incoming chair of the Membership Committee.
- Maureen is looking into lining up the Worcester Public Library as the location for all executive board meetings.
- Administrative board meetings will most likely still be held at the Minuteman Library Network central site in Natick.
- Ryan would like to hold more trainings for chairs regarding section and committee budgets, as well as fundraising.
- There was discussion about recruiting new members. Everyone agreed that there need to be more stand alone programs, citing programs from YSS and the Intellectual Freedom Committee. Betsy emphasized the importance of promoting such programs on the website.
- There was discussion about the importance of MLA working more closely with the [Massachusetts Library Trustees Association](#) and [Massachusetts Friends of Libraries](#).

Conference Wrap-Up

- Sarah and Betsy discussed what they thought went well and what didn't.
- Sarah plans on talking with each vendor after they fill out their evaluations, as there was some confusion regarding the exhibit hall.
- Betsy emphasized the importance of transparency regarding the planning of conference from conference committees and the various other committees and sections responsible for various aspects of the conference.
- There was some discussion about how to be more welcoming to new people in MLA, especially at conference. Betsy suggested that there be a session for first time conference attendees. Sarah suggested setting up Kay Bader scholarship winners with a mentor at conference.
- Other suggestions that were made included: a brief open bar for the President's Reception; a pub crawl or dine around similar to what is done at NELA conferences; organizing a One Book/One Conference event.

The administrative board thanked Betsy for doing a great job as MLA President, who then proceeded to adjourn the meeting at 4:05 pm!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Bernheim
MLA Secretary