



Executive Board Meeting  
Worcester Public Library  
April 14, 2017  
10 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to order

Approval of minutes of the March 3, 2017 meeting

President's Report

Past President's Report

Treasurer's Report

Association Manager Report

New Business

Update of MLA Board Handbook

Annual Reports Due

MLA Archivist

Annual Conference Needs/Questions

Board of Library Commissioners – invite & lunch?

Old Business

ACTION: Jennifer Z. will research other member management solutions and report back to the board on whether there are other, suitable options for membership management.

ACTION: All sections and committees are asked to review their sections of the website and send requests to resolve issues and update information to Jennifer Z. This needs to be done by the end of March.

ACTION: Jennifer Z. will contact committees and sections to request content for future newsletters.

ACTION: (*re: Nominations*) Once the slate is formed, the Executive Board will be contacted with the slate and asked to vote to approve this slate via email.

ACTION: Membership Committee will review policies regarding award winners and make a recommendation regarding providing a membership to any award winner.

#### Committee reports

By-Laws  
Conference  
Intellectual Freedom  
Investment  
Jordan Miller  
Legislative  
Membership  
Nominating  
Personnel/Education  
Public Relations  
Website

#### Section reports

Paralibrarian  
RUSS  
Technical services  
Youth Services

#### Liaison reports

ALA Councilor  
MBLC  
Massachusetts Center for the Book  
MLS  
MSLA  
NELA

#### Announcements

#### Close of Meeting

## MLA Membership Committee Report

4/14/2017

- We are alerting speakers/shepherds to discuss MLA opportunities of interest based on session topics
- Table cards/tents about MLA & available committees (how to participate) - to be printed
- MLA Mentoring/Buddy Program - spoke with Laura B. and we will work together to get information to the new people.
- Meetup on Monday of conference at Port of Call - working on getting a gift certificate to add to a raffle at conference
  - Monday Trivia - will have table for people new to MLA
- Afternoon Break in the Exhibit Hall - will have a table, personed with membership committee

### Meet & Greet

We had a meet & greet on March 1st at the New World Tavern, Plymouth. We had 14 attendees and a good time!

### Pending Tasks:

- Get general list of where one's membership \$ goes (Laurie)
- Get Nora to host a Meet & Greet in Western, MA - Kathy
- Promote MLA CafePress store (Laurie) - decided to table this because I've tried in the past and the effort is wasted. Maybe next year will try again.
- Exhibit Hall - get brochures and committee members to station the MLA booth & promote membership
  - Give out candy & MLA info
  - Have questions to find their interests
  - free membership raffle approved by board
- Pricing Taskforce - Membership Pricing - will discuss with pricing taskforce
  - 1st time membership fee \$25 (student or unemployed is \$20. Do we need to match?)
  - Lapsed 5 years - rejoin for \$25

### Institutional Benefits - to be discussed at a future date

#### Get away from MLA is just conference

Offer more things throughout the year: meet and greets, use retirees to offer small workshops to keep them engaged in library community

Newsletter quarterly/seek short articles from membership/retirees to beef up message about professional/personal development.

Partner with MLS workshop offerings about Personal/professional development

Submitted by Laurie Lessner

## MLA Paralibrarian Section Report

April 14, 2017

The Paralibrarian Section met via Skype March 16th. The virtual meeting format eliminates travel for Section members, and means we easily have a quorum, and cover everything on a packed agenda.

- 7 PARA Certificates will be conferred at the MLA Conference.
- We received many nominations for the Paralibrarian Awards (Outstanding Library Support Staff and Paralibrarian Advocate); so far there are three entries for the video format Book Cart Drill Team competition and DEMCO is once again a generous Silver level sponsor with \$350 cash, \$500 in gift certificates for the winners, and logo stickers for the carts. The Section will donate a letterboxing basket for the raffle.
- Gerry Deyermond is working with the Capira Rep to develop online voting capability through the Conference app, they have not been responsive and she will work with Lori Lessner to follow up.
- Karen Horn, Chair Career Development subcommittee, will be presenting a program titled “Professional Development and Continuing Education/Self-Directed Bite-Sized Learning” at the RILA (Rhode Island) library conference on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Gerry, Joyce Senior and Anna McGrath moderated a PARA Certification Roundtable at Dracut PL, with 10 people attending and interested in applying for certification for 2018.
- The article Gerry and Allison wrote titled “What Paralibrarians Wish Their Directors Knew” for the librarydirector.org newsletter was distributed to MLA eboard members by Alex Lent and is reproduced in the spring issue of *ALA Associates*.
- March issue of Section newsletter ***Fast! Forward!*** was distributed (Anna McGrath, Hermayne Gordon)

Respectfully submitted,  
Allison Sloan, Chair

## Public Relations Committee Report

April 2017

The PR Committee met on September 8 and is working on the following projects during 2016-2017.

- PR Awards! Judges met March 22 and 23 at the Lakeville Public Library and evaluated over 50 entries. This was a lighter showing than usual for the PR awards, where we usually issue over 60 awards.

Next steps are to notify people who will receive awards, encouraging them to come to the Awards Gala.

- Jocelyn Tavares put together several pieces of publicity promoting Conference and some of its programs.
- The committee will meet this month to finalize gala plans and raffle baskets.
- Jocelyn and I have been attending MBLC's PR Committee regularly, promoting their initiatives on MLA FB and Fan Page.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Sheehan

Public Relations Committee Co-Chair

## MLA – President's Report April 2017

Since we last met, I have been quite busy. In preparation for our upcoming conference, I have signed several speaker agreement forms, and reviewed and signed seven new Para certificates. I've briefly touched base with Esmé Green regarding speaking at the opening session, and with Debby Conrad regarding the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Exhibit Hall.

I have corresponded with members and followed up on several different concerns that were brought to my attention regarding updates to the website. In addition, I have taken the comments collected from Administrative Board members and compiled them into an annual review of our Association Manager. The Board will be meeting again after our Executive Board meeting for the sole purpose of completing the review so that we can meet with Jen after conference. After conference, we will begin our review of the Conference Manager, in conjunction with the Conference Co-Chairs.

I had both email and phone correspondence with our Archivist, Sunny Vandermark, who is retiring in June. Sunny was very helpful in providing me with some background on both the archives and the position. She also shared with Ellen Rainville and I her duties as archivist. Since no job description exists, Ellen and I will be working on a draft description for the next archivist. If you know of anyone that you think might be a good fit for this position, please let me know.

Ellen Rainville updated the MLA Administrative Calendar that she was kind enough to put together for the Executive and Administrative Boards. She was also kind enough to put together a Board Directory.

Greg Pronovitz from MLS and I received an email from Bernadette Rivard on March 21<sup>st</sup>, regarding the bus to Book Expo 2017. For a number of years a BEA has paid for (or subsidized) a bus for transportation for Massachusetts librarians. This year, Besty Perry, who has coordinated it for the past couple of years, is unable to attend and is looking for someone to take over the coordination of the BEA bus. According to Betsy, BEA pays a set amount (\$2500) and the coordinator calls transportation companies to find one to do the bus within the BEA budget. She asked Bernadette to take over the responsibility, but she doesn't feel that this should fall on any one librarian. I am looking for a couple of volunteers that might be interested in taking on this responsibility.

Nora Blake graciously shared with the Administrative Board, old treasurer and finance committee information. When Bernadette Rivard took over as Treasurer, Nora wrote up instructions for her. She has now passed those along to Jennifer Pike. These instructions, along with the Administrative Calendar that Ellen Rainville has put together for us, will go a long way toward informing future Administrative and Executive Boards.

Thank you again to Ellen Rainville, who unearthed the old last edition of the MLA Handbook (2012). The Handbook is full of information that I wish I had when I started this journey as Vice-President last year. I am going to name a committee to work on updated the handbook for future Boards. This is just one way that we are working towards achieving our goal of straightening out MLA record keeping.

On April 11<sup>th</sup>, I received an email from Ruth Urell who was having trouble using Wild Apricot to register the MBLC as a Platinum Member. Ruth had spent an hour and a half trying to get logged in to the website and to register the MBLC for this new level of membership. Jen Zolkos was asked to help. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the problem will have been solved.

Respectfully submitted,

Nanci Milone Hill,  
MLA President



Nora Blake &lt;secretary@masslib.org&gt;

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**RUSS Report**

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**Pingsheng Chen** <pchen@mywpl.org>  
To: Nora Blake <secretary@masslib.org>

Mon, Apr 10, 2017 at 1:05 PM

Reference and User Services Section members met on March 23. Laura Bernheim on behalf of the section, has coordinated 7 programs for MLA conference in May. The members selected new leadership for the section: Laura Bernheim and Kristy Lockhart will be co-chairs. Paula Korstvedt will be Secretary. The section bylaws have been drafted and are under review to be finalized.

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**From:** Nanci Milone-Hill [mailto:[nhill@dracutlibrary.org](mailto:nhill@dracutlibrary.org)]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 3:59 PM

**To:** Nanci Milone-Hill <[nhill@dracutlibrary.org](mailto:nhill@dracutlibrary.org)>; [alent@minlib.net](mailto:alent@minlib.net); Nora Blake <[secretary@masslib.org](mailto:secretary@masslib.org)>; Jennifer Pike <[jpik@mywpl.org](mailto:jpik@mywpl.org)>; [eric.poulin@simmons.edu](mailto:eric.poulin@simmons.edu); Green, Esme <[GreenE@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:GreenE@sudbury.ma.us)>; Keane, Ellen ([Ellen\\_Keane@uml.edu](mailto:Ellen_Keane@uml.edu)) <[Ellen\\_Keane@uml.edu](mailto:Ellen_Keane@uml.edu)>; Danielle Savin <[dsavin@minlib.net](mailto:dsavin@minlib.net)>; Laurie Lessner <[llessner@sailsinc.org](mailto:llessner@sailsinc.org)>; Charlotte Canelli <[ccanelli@minlib.net](mailto:ccanelli@minlib.net)>; Susan McAlister <[smcalister@minlib.net](mailto:smcalister@minlib.net)>; Pam McCuen <[pmccuen@minlib.net](mailto:pmccuen@minlib.net)>; Jacqueline Rafferty <[jrafferty@ocln.org](mailto:jrafferty@ocln.org)>; Diane Annunziato <[dannunziato@mvlc.org](mailto:dannunziato@mvlc.org)>; Allison Sloan <[sloan@noblenet.org](mailto:sloan@noblenet.org)>; [kunderwood@mvlc.org](mailto:kunderwood@mvlc.org); Nancy Sheehan <[sheehan@noblenet.org](mailto:sheehan@noblenet.org)>; Jocelyn Tavares <[JTavares@sailsinc.org](mailto:JTavares@sailsinc.org)>; Erin Daly <[edaly@cwars.org](mailto:edaly@cwars.org)>; [ruth.urell@state.ma.us](mailto:ruth.urell@state.ma.us); Sondra Vandermark <[svandermark7@gmail.com](mailto:svandermark7@gmail.com)>; Ellen Rainville <[erainville@westfordma.gov](mailto:erainville@westfordma.gov)>; Carty, Dianne (BLC) <[dianne.carty@state.ma.us](mailto:dianne.carty@state.ma.us)>; Gregory Pronevitz <[greg@masslibsystem.org](mailto:greg@masslibsystem.org)>; Kathy Lowe <[klowe@maschoolibraries.org](mailto:klowe@maschoolibraries.org)>; Krista McLeod <[kmcleod111@yahoo.com](mailto:kmcleod111@yahoo.com)>; Sharon Shaloo, MCB <[shaloo@massbook.org](mailto:shaloo@massbook.org)>; Jen Zolkos <[manager@masslib.org](mailto:manager@masslib.org)>; Manuel Leite <[mleite@sailsinc.org](mailto:mleite@sailsinc.org)>; [lfarrell@ocln.org](mailto:lfarrell@ocln.org); Pingsheng Chen <[pchen@mywpublib.org](mailto:pchen@mywpublib.org)>

**Cc:** Pingsheng Chen <[pchen@mywpl.org](mailto:pchen@mywpl.org)>

**Subject:** Call for Reports

Hi folks,

It's that time again. We are meeting next Friday, April 14th, at the Worcester Public Library from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. If you have not yet sent your committee/section report to Nora, you should be doing it very soon. Please make sure that you get it to her no later than Wednesday, April 12th at noon.

Thank you -

Nanci

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Nanci Milone Hill  
Library Director  
M.G. Parker Memorial Library  
Dracut, MA 01826  
[nhill@dracutlibrary.org](mailto:nhill@dracutlibrary.org)  
[www.dracutlibrary.org](http://www.dracutlibrary.org)

What is more important in a library than anything else - than everything else - is the fact that it exists.  
~Archibald MacLeish

Youth Services Section Report  
April 14, 2017

Youth Services Section held its fourth and final in-person meeting of the year at the Woods Memorial Library in Barre on March 16. Discussion included a final rundown of Conference programming, last-minute preparations for the Unconference event the following week, nominations for upcoming elections to the YSS board, and project ideas for next year.

A virtual board meeting will be held on April 27 via Google Hangouts. A virtual turnover meeting will be scheduled for June.



YSS Unconference took place at the Duxbury Free Library on March 23. Twenty-one Children's and Young Adult Librarians participated (of twenty-four registrants). Thirteen were MLA members and ten were non-members. Minus lunch expenses, this program netted about \$275 in profit. Our host library donated dessert and a \$25 Amazon gift card as a door prize.

We crowd-sourced discussion topics and together collaboratively created a six-session agenda.

- Reader's Advisory and Collection Development
- Storytime and Song Share
- Teen/Tween Issues
- Shareable Programming
- Navigating the Current Political Climate and Work/Life Balance (aka "We Are Cranky")
- Coming Together:
  - Debriefing, MLA membership/Conference "commercials," and evaluations

Each discussion was spirited, full, and enlightening for participants. It was clear that these 45-minute sessions were just the "tip of the iceberg," as each went over on time and I had to end each one to keep to our schedule. All of our immediate, in-person feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the written evaluations we received echoed this. YSS is moving forward with tentative plans to repeat the program in Western Mass in the fall (early October, before NELA).

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa Farrell  
Chair

## **NELA Representative Report**

### **MLA Executive Board**

Submitted April 11, 2017 for Meeting of April 14

#### **NELA Activities**

The most recent NELA Executive Board Meeting was held (virtually) on March 30, 2017

NELA will be holding a Diversity Summit on Wednesday July 26 at Hadley Farms, Hadley, MA. The topics will cover diversity and recruitment in libraries and library associations.

The NELA Annual Conference theme is "Recharge" and the conference will be held in Burlington VT October 22-24. This is a joint Conference with the VT. Library Association. Noted author Chris Bohjalian will be the Sunday evening dinner speaker, and Ken Moniz, author of The Mindful Librarian will keynote.

Applications are being accepted for NELLIS 2017. Applications are due April 30. Visit the NELA website for the application.

Nominations are being sought for the Emerson Greenaway "Great Librarian" Award for 2017. If you have any suggestions for people you would like for MLA to nominate, please contact me if you would like assistance with the application.

Planning for the Academic Librarians Section second stand-alone conference has begun. The 2017 program theme is going to be about security in the library from online issues of authentication security to physical security on campus. The event will be on December 1 at University of Massachusetts Lowell.

#### **State News**

The Connecticut Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference is May 4 & 5 at the Mystic Marriott. The theme is "Unchartered Waters - Navigating the Changing Tides in Librarianship."

The NHLA 2017 Spring Conference will be May 4 & 5 in Portsmouth, NH. The keynote speakers will be Gene Ambaum of "Unshelved" and George Needham who co-hosts "Off the shelf" for WDLR-AM as well as running the Delaware (Ohio) County District Library.

A new event is being held in Vermont. The "Fairy Tale Festival" will take place on September 23 in Killington. The festival will educate the public about the great work of Vermont's public libraries. Participating Vermont libraries will choose a fairy tale and their corresponding tent will be decorated with their chosen theme; staff will be in character; games, crafts and other activities will be presented based on their chosen tale!

The 2017 Vermont Library Conference, "Let Your Voice Be Heard," will be Thursday, May 18 at the Killington Grand Resort and Hotel. It will be a low-cost unconference, a participant-driven program in which attendees choose the topics for discussion and become active participants in the conversation. New VLA officers will be elected.

Intellectual Freedom/Social Responsibility Committee Report  
April 14, 2017

The IF/SRC met March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Final discussions were held regarding arrangements for the three Committee sponsored programs for MLA 2017 next month. The contents of the Committee's nautical themed raffle basket were agreed upon.

The plans for the Committee's stand alone one-day Conference in October are coming together.

- The title of the Conference is "Libraries in a Post-Truth World: Continuing the Conversation". (We thank Phillips Andover Academy for permission to riff off their original conference title, "Libraries in a Post-Truth World".)
- The Conference will take place on October 13, 2017, at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston.
- We have secured two speakers and are waiting to hear from a third. The confirmed speakers are: Abigail Slater, Vice President , Legal and Regulatory Policy, The Internet Association and Shawn T. McIntosh, PhD., Assistant Professor of English/Communications, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.
- The Conference will look at "The Right to Be Forgotten"; laws in the EU and how they will impact the US, future legislation, the dangers of being used to "change history"; journalism's perspective; and the role of educators and librarians in relation to these issues.
- We can accommodate 100 subscribers.
- The cost will be \$45./person, including lunch.

The Committee is putting together plans to kick off the PR for this Conference at MLA 2017 in May.

The Committee is updating its page on the MLA website. Content will be submitted this week.

There was discussion about attrition in Committee membership since the merging of the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Social Responsibility Round Table. While it made sense to merge both due to overlapping issues of concern, some members are not comfortable with the more political aspects of Intellectual Freedom. They also feel that Social Responsibilities work suffers due to the more emergent issues of IF. Further examination and discussion is warranted.

The IF/SRC continues to be called upon by Library Directors in emergent situations involving Privacy and Intellectual Freedom issues, all of which also involve issues of Social Responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Annunziato  
Co-Chair, MLA IF/SRC  
Senior Reference Librarian  
M. G. Parker Memorial Library  
28 Arlington Street  
Dracut, MA 01826  
978.454.5474  
dannunziato@dracutlibrary.org