



Executive Board Meeting  
April 6, 2018  
Westborough Public Library  
10 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes of February 9, 2018 Meeting
3. Reports
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Close of Meeting

4/6/2018

Membership Report

- We had 21 new members in the past 30 days. 3 registered for conference and 3 attended Legislative Day.
- Last meeting we discussed if MLA should offer a discount for recruiting a new member? I spoke with Bob Scheier from NELA and said they no longer offer that discount but have a new member discount instead. Wild Apricot offers this feature for new members that we can set up. I suggest beginning next year as part of the rate changes and we can advertise both together. A \$10.00 discount is what NELA has. I suggest we do the same.
- **\*\*\*If anyone is reading this, could you please ask your committees for a volunteer to be at the President's Reception at conference and be able to answer questions about your committee (for the committee faire)?**
- We worked with the Northeast Storytelling Conference & Festival to offer MLA members the membership price to attend. I'm finding out how many MLA members took advantage of the discount.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Lessner

April 6, 2018

MLA Paralibrarian Section Executive Board Report:

The Paralibrarian Section met on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Middleborough Public Library with a full board and support team in attendance. The Section heard updates on the MLA Conference from Section Liaison Matt Costanza, and finalized details of our Raffle Basket donation. We then moved into Executive Session to review, discuss and vote on 2018 Outstanding Library Support Staff and Paralibrarian Advocate awards.

The response to Heather Maganzini's coordination and promotion of the Paralibrarian Awards was excellent. Her initiative to promote nominations via social media, and the updated nomination forms using Survey Monkey was successful. The Section received 13 nominations for Outstanding Library Support Staff and 2 nominations for Paralibrarian Advocate. Nominees will be honored and Awards will be presented at the PARAGANZA program at conference on Tuesday at 4:20pm.

Following the Section meeting, the PARA Review Board (Karen Horn, Anna McGrath, Lori Salotto, Joyce Senior) met to review 6 portfolio applications. It is expected that 13 PARA Certifications will be presented at conference this year. Between MLA membership fees, the application fee, and registration to attend conference to accept the PARA Certificate for recipients, library directors and staff and library trustees, it is estimated that the PARA Certification program will bring in more than \$2500 revenue this year.

The Section reviewed the pros and cons of the *Fast! Forward!* newsletter and determined at this time it is a duplication of information already available on the MLA website, through the revived MLA newsletter and via social media. No new issues are currently planned while we reevaluate the format and content.

Paralibrarian recruitment efforts continue. The website is up to date.

Submitted,  
Allison Sloan  
Chairperson

Youth Services Section Report  
April 6, 2018

Due to the back-to-back Nor'easters, the Retreat Center that was hosting the YSS biannual Retreat was forced to cancel our reservation. The YSS board is exploring options to reschedule the Retreat. We are working with the Association Manager to either hold registration for the participants or make refunds as necessary.

The edits and updates to the YSS Bylaws were passed by the YSS membership. Our nominating committee will be accepting nominations for Chair, Conference Committee Liaison, and Secretary starting now, to be voted on at our Annual Meeting during Conference in May.

There will be a virtual YSS board meeting on Thursday, April 26, to make final preparations for Annual Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Larissa Farrell  
Chair

## Legislative Committee Report

Massachusetts Library Association in conjunction with Massachusetts School Library Association held the annual Library Legislative Day at the State House on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. We had 29 Legislators and their aides stop by the registration desk to inquire about their librarians in attendance. Over 200 library supporters throughout the Commonwealth also attended. The day is primarily devoted to public and school librarians, as well as Library trustees and Friends groups visiting with their Legislators to discuss the importance of supporting the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) budget request including the various Library budget lines throughout the arduous budget process at the State level.

What organizers of the day have been working towards is teaching the newer librarians and supporters how to reach their Legislators, how to discuss funding and to know that this activity is essential when the House and Senate are meeting to prepare the budget. We now have a First Time Attendee Program that is an opportunity to discuss the methods of reaching Legislators, 50 people attended. We also have two Legislative Briefings that include the newest members of the Library Caucus as well as strong library supporters within the State House. 120 people attended one of those sessions. In the meanwhile, we have a Library Showcase exhibit where 15 libraries and 10 organizations have the opportunity to strut their stuff! We had, for example, beekeeping, Game of Thrones programming ideas, stuffed lamas with story time ideas and construction projects on display. This Showcase gives people a chance to connect with the variety of offerings that libraries now have as well as the latest technology that we provide to the public. And, we keep using our creativity with less and less funding.

As we continue our efforts beyond Legislative Day, we build off of the stories that are told by Legislators which always include memories from their childhood, or as adults ~ teaching their children to join in their first story time, or as seniors ~ learning to play chess. At the luncheon with 275 people in attendance; Alex Lent, President of the MLA recognized the Library Caucus for their dedication to supporting libraries. The Host for the day, Senator Kathleen O'Conner Ives, has served libraries with dedication. As new chairs of the Caucus were introduced, Representative Natalie Higgins, Senator Eric P. Lesser and Representative Brian Murray each spoke passionately about the importance and value of libraries. They understand that libraries are the key to life-long learning and a strong democracy.

Please check out the photos taken at the State House by in-house photographer, Elizabeth Dube at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmgDEzDF>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan McAlister  
Jennifer Harris  
Charlotte Canelli