



MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
May 24, 2017  
Hyannis Resort and Conference Center  
Hyannis, Massachusetts  
MINUTES

**I. Call to Order**

Call to order at 1:08pm – Nanci Milone Hill

**II. Approval of Minutes of the May 2016 Annual Meeting**

**Motion to approve – Bernadette Rivard. Second – Ellen Keane. Motion passed.**

**III. President's Report – Nanci Milone Hill**

FY2017 has been an eventful year for MLA. Last year at this time, I reported that the task ahead of us was to clean-up house, reevaluate our mission, streamline processes, increase advocacy and awareness of libraries; what we do and what we need to continue to do it, and create the first long-range plan in ten years. Some of that we have accomplished and some of it though begun remains to be completed.

Led by Alex Lent and Eric Poulin and following a day-long retreat at the Tower Hill Botanic Garden, the Strategic Planning Committee held several focus groups throughout the state before Eric accepted a position as Coordinator of Simmons SLIS West in the Spring of 2017 and had to step down. Debby Conrad graciously stepped in to take his place and continue the work with Leger-Horby Consulting to finish the plan. Approved by the Administrative and Executive Boards, it is being brought to you today for a vote. I would like to recognize the members of the Strategic Planning Committee, Alex Lent, Debby Conrad, Eric Poulin, Will Adamczyk, Debra DeJonker-Berry, Gerry Deyermund, Jen Inglis, Anita Koch-Cellucci, Ellen Rainville, and Antonia Stephens, for their hard work.

Led by Laurie Lessier, the Membership Committee worked hard to increase our membership. Meet and Greets were held several times throughout the state, membership reminders went out regularly, members of the Executive Board participated in calling lapsed members, a new brochure was completed, and an informational, electronic newsletter went out. The results speak for the work that was done. We increased new membership \$3,349.00 this year. Renewals increased by \$1,972.00.

The Legislative Committee once again did a great job increasing awareness of the need for library funding. Sixteen legislative breakfasts were held throughout the state. Legislative Day at the State House was once again a great success, with a full slate of legislators showing up to hear the speakers, browse the library showcase, have their picture taken, and enjoy lunch. The First Time Attendee program was held for the second year in a row and was once again very well attended.

Committee and Section Chairs worked diligently to provide our Association Manager with updates to the website. Though it still needs much improvement, we have begun working toward a better online face for the association.

Nora Blake, our secretary and former treasurer, worked with Jen Pike and Jen Zolkos to update our financial procedures and provide much needed historical content.

Led by Ellen Rainville, a committee has been formed to review and work on a much needed update to our Board Handbook, so that it may be used to inform future officers and board members. In addition, we have begun to explore different options for compiling and storing association documents so that they can be easily accessed and updated in one location, by board members.

I would like to recognize Diane Carty, who is retiring as MBLC Director. Diane has been a strong advocate for libraries during her tenure at the Board, and has been a pleasure to work with. We wish her the best of luck in her retirement, and look forward to working with incoming MBLC Director, James Lonergan.

I would also like to recognize Sonny Vandermark as she steps down as MLA's Archivist. Sonny has volunteered her time and worked diligently for the association over the years. I truly appreciate the time that she has spent with me helping to draft a job description for the Archivist, so that we may find someone just as dedicated as she has been. Thank you, Sonny.

Ruth Urell has stepped down as our liaison to ALA after several years. Ruth has made sure that Massachusetts and its needs are heard on the national level, bringing back information to our Board and keeping us informed about the larger issues facing libraries in the country. We thank Ruth for her service.

I think that you will agree that the Conference Committee, led by Esme Green, Ellen Keane and Danielle Savin, has once again pulled together a fabulous conference. We extend them our gratitude.

I would like to thank the many people on the Executive Board that have worked so hard for you this year. I won't list them all as there are many, but I do want to specifically thank Eric Poulin, Alex Lent, Nora Blake and Jen Pike for their undying dedication not only to the Board, but to the association, and to our Association Manager, Jen Zolkos, and our Conference Manager, Kristen Collins. Lastly, I would like to thank all of you, the members, for helping us to make this year such a success.

#### IV. **Treasurer's Report and Presentation of the FY18 Budget (ACTION) – Jennifer Pike**

Jennifer presented her annual report and the FY18 budget. She noted that membership numbers have increased a small amount and that conference attendance is at the same level as the previous year. The Investment Committee will resume regular meetings and Jennifer will work to update the Treasurer's information in the Board Handbook.

**Motion to accept Treasurer's Report – Diane Annuziato. Second – Krista MacLeod. Motion passed.**  
**Motion to accept FY18 budget – Virginia Johnson. Second – Diane Annuziato. Motion passed.**

#### V. **New Business – Presentation and Vote on MLA's New Strategic Plan (ACTION) – Alex Lent**

The Strategic Planning Committee collected feedback, ideas and comments from stakeholders across the state and held a day-long retreat with stakeholders at Tower Hill Botanical Gardens.

Alex reviewed the Mission and Vision Statement from the plan.

**Motion to accept the Strategic Plan – Diane Annuziato. Second – Bernadette Rivard. Motion passed.**

#### VI. **Nominating Committee (ACTION) – Krista MacLeod**

The committee members were Eric Poulin, Nancy Sheehan, Nanci Milone Hill and Krista MacLeod.

Nominations for Treasurer – Jennifer Pike. Vice President/President Elect – William Adamczyk. ALA Councilor – Charlotte Cannelli

A vote was taken by email and approved by the membership. There being no nominations from the floor, a call for a motion to approve the slate as presented.

**Motion to approve – Diane Annuziata. Second – Bernadette Rivard. Motion passed.**

## **VII. Presidential Transition**

Nanci gave Alex Lent his MLA pin and passed the gavel.

Alex's speech:

I am honored to be here and truly excited to serve as MLA President. Thank you, Nanci—I'm so glad to get another year to work with you. Thank you, Eric—congratulations on completing your sentence. Term. Sorry. And congratulations, Will—I'm looking forward to working together for the next two years.

I am thrilled to be here. And a little shocked. It was only a few years ago that I attended my first MLA conference in Worcester, as a recipient of the Kay Bader Scholarship for first-time attendees. I made some great friends at that conference, and I am so grateful to see some of them here today. Thank you for being here.

As part of the application for the Kay Bader Scholarship, I was asked to imagine the future of libraries. Or rather, because of the conference theme, I was asked to imagine that I was looking through a powerful telescope at a distant planet inhabited by an advanced alien race and describe their libraries. Here's part of what I wrote:

I see a great diversity of libraries. Tiny libraries serving communities of less than a thousand and giant libraries serving nations of millions. Virtual libraries serving billions. I see libraries that are silent and libraries that are loud, and both hum with activity. I see libraries that are housed in treasured landmarks, their buildings telling as many stories as the materials they contain. And other libraries, in plain, inexpensive buildings whose patrons come daily, working to re-write their own stories.

Some libraries have laboratories where patrons experiments and build and break and fix and learn by doing rather than just by reading. Other libraries do not. Some libraries have books. Other libraries do not.

The libraries I see—including the library tucked into the corner of a subway station and the library taking up ten city blocks—are diverse because they match the needs of their communities, and their communities are diverse.

Libraries that reflect their communities and meet their communities' needs—this is the future I see.

Thank you also to Dianne Carty for bringing us the latest news from Washington.

We can't achieve this future if we don't actively resist a political climate that defunds the Institute of Museum and Library Services, where the highest office in the country dismisses the importance of our work and holds values that are at odds with our own.

Libraries promote a civil, well-informed society. Our work today is more important than it has ever been, in this time of fake news and political divisiveness. The President himself single-handedly demonstrates the importance of our early literacy programs.

We are busier today than we have ever been. More people visit Massachusetts libraries each year than attend entire seasons of the Red Sox, Patriots, Bruins, and Celtics combined. We have opened our doors to everyone in our community. All are welcome.

To be here for our communities, to improve our culture and our Commonwealth, we must be strong advocates for libraries. We need the Massachusetts Library Community to work together, to rely on each other, to help us all chart our course forward in the face of these threats.

If libraries really are for everyone in our communities, libraries need to reflect everyone in our communities. Our field has a diversity problem. ALA membership was 86.7% white last year, but according to the Census Bureau, the United States is only 61.6% white. That's a significant gap. This is a problem that has long gone unaddressed and we cannot move forward without addressing it. We need a diverse field and we need a state association that will help us work toward that goal.

In order to achieve this future, MLA needs to make sure that policies and procedures are such that our volunteer-led association with its constantly changing leadership gets its bills paid, its communications out in a timely matter, its committees fully staffed and welcoming of new voices, and its other day-to-day business done, so that our larger goals are not hampered.

We need to strengthen the Massachusetts Library Association in order to strengthen Massachusetts libraries in order to strengthen Massachusetts. The first two words of our new vision statement—"MLA works"—will be a rallying cry and our overarching goal.

If you are interested in playing a more active role in MLA, in helping us to work for the Massachusetts Library Community—which is all of Massachusetts—come find me. We want your help and we need your voice.

Thank you.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

1:30pm. **Motion – Bernadette Rivard. Second – Charlotte Cannelli. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Blake, Secretary