



FY2017 ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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 Deyermond, 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Milone Hill, President

TREASURER'S REPORT

From FY2016 to fy2017 we only raised the budget \$200 and at the end of the year our net income was \$1,800. The Administrative Committee met in late February to look at the needs of the committees and the trends of the previous years. We saw that membership was on a slight rise. The good news is that even more have joined since that meeting. At the beginning of May, we had \$7,000 more than we projected for the FY17 budget. This is most likely due to advocacy after hearing of the potential budget cuts for libraries at the federal level. At the time of the meeting, we did not expect much more of an increase. 2016 Conference attendance numbers remained consistent with previous years. That is why this year's budget remains consistent and conservative. For FY2018 we raised the total budget only \$30.00

Membership Income

	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017*
New	\$7,507.50	\$12,333.00	\$10,801.00	\$14,150.00
Renewals	\$21,737.51	\$18,632.50	\$22,041.00	\$24,013.00
Level Changes	\$2,500.00	\$4,940.00	\$3,055.00	\$4,960.00
TOTALS	\$31,745.01	\$35,905.50	\$35,897.00	\$43,123.00

*As of May 10, 2017

Unfortunately, while we have been concentrating on the strategic plan we have not had an Investment Committee meeting this past year. Our investment account has grown from last year. I will work with incoming President, Alex Lent, to put together a committee, hold the two necessary meetings and develop a new investment plan. We will be meeting in June after the Executive Board meeting to discuss the Fidelity accounts and what is needed to maintain them moving forward. We did once again, make two transfers out of the cash reserves to our checking account in November and December this year to cover payroll. They were for \$5,000 each.

	April 2014	April 2015	April 2016	April 2017
Cash Reserves	\$13,238.84	\$8,240.38	\$16,247.07	\$16,265.78
Investment Acc.	\$125,300.04	\$134,945.55	\$114,436.20	\$120,173.46
TOTALS	\$138,538.88	\$143,185.93	\$130,683.27	\$136,439.24

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Pike, Treasurer

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Conference Committee

Conference was held May 16-18 and was in Hyannis for the first time in several years. There were 510 attendees and 43 exhibitors. The location was a hit with attendees and vendors. The theme was "Building Bridges," and for the first time, several general sessions by keynote speakers were part of the program. Melanie Townsend Diggs of the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore spoke about the unrest that followed the funeral of Freddie Gray; Jacqueline Mitchard was the One Conference, One Book speaker and featured the title *Two if by Sea*. Garry Golden, a futurist spoke about "Libraries at the Intersection of Creepy Lines and Compelling Futures."

For 2017, we will submit RFPs to both Hyannis and the DCU, while continuing to look for alternative, appropriate venues.

Respectfully submitted,
Esmé Green, Conference Co-chair

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has worked to gather in one place the Association's investment documentation and to make our investment paperwork functional for an Association with constantly changing officers. In June, we will be reviewing our options and making a plan for how to move forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Lent, VP/President-Elect, Chair of the Finance Committee

Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibilities Committee

The MLA-IFSRC developed the "MLA Civil Liberties Champion" award to recognize a person or organization that has significantly furthered the cause of intellectual freedom or social responsibility in significant and notable ways. The award is intended to provide an opportunity to honor persons outside of the library community; therefore no active librarian is eligible for consideration.

Krista McLeod conducted several Intellectual Freedom Tool Kit workshops in libraries. Program funds earned were submitted to MLA. A goal to train a couple of more committee members on conducting the workshop was set. This would enable us to promote the workshop to all regions of the state.

Co-chair Jackie Rafferty represented the MLA-IFSRC on the MLS "Patron Sharing Information Task Force" convened by Greg Pronevitz. The objective of the task force was to determine what types of patron behavior information can be shared among libraries. MLA-IFSRC members also collaborated with MLS staff on the development of a possible social justice grant and met several times to brainstorm programs focused on social justice.

Susan Pizzolato led the development of new MLA-IFSRC website content, including our new mission statement:

"The mission of Massachusetts Library Association's (MLA's) Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibilities Committee (MLA-IFSRC) is to inform and educate librarians and the general public about the nature and importance of intellectual freedom. The MLA-IFSRC encourages libraries and library staff to adhere to the principles of intellectual freedom, including unimpeded access to information, freedom of expression and the privacy rights of library users. The Committee also advocates for public policy that is consistent with the highest standards of good library practice and which supports freedom of thought and access to information for all people."

MLA-IFSRC develops, proposes and implements a process for MLA participation in national events and days such as Freedom of Information Day and Banned Books week, represents MLA on issues of intellectual freedom and provides assistance and/or information to librarians who have issues or questions about intellectual freedom situations. The committee selects and prepares information dealing with intellectual freedom issues for addition to the MLA web site, develops programming for annual conference and develops an award for presentation to an individual who has protected intellectual freedom.

The Committee will also draw attention to human rights issues and social inequity, as social responsibility is a core value of librarianship. The MLA-IFSR Committee will help establish progressive priorities within MLA and the state of Massachusetts, conduct programs to educate and inform our library colleagues and the public about social issues, and promote diversity in all aspects of librarianship and library service in the Commonwealth.”

In December, the committee worked to create awareness and advocacy for serious new privacy threats to Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Co-chair Jackie Rafferty drafted an official statement, which was signed by MLA President Nanci Milone-Hill, regarding MLA joining ALA in its support of the Review the Rule Act (S.3475;H.R.6341) to delay the implementation of changes to Rule 41. The resolution was distributed on the all-regions list-serv and sent to MA federal legislators.

We developed three programs for conference: Active Shooter, Violent Intruder; Coding Clubs for Libraries; and, Serving People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): A Blueprint for Innovative & Pragmatic Solutions. Led by Diane Annunziato and Krista McLeod, the MLA IFSRC is currently planning a stand-alone conference to be held at Tower Hill Botanic Gardens in October, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Rafferty, Co-chair, IFSRC

Jordan Miller Committee

The Jordan Miller Committee reviewed 68 applications for the \$500 Jordan Miller mini grant and chose the Milbridge Public Library in Milbridge, Maine as the winner. This application demonstrated a clear focus on storytelling, and an enormous need.

Amanda Goston, Director of the Milbridge Public library will be use the funds to bring one, maybe two, storytellers to her small library in northern Maine. This is something she would never have been able to do without grant funding. She will send me pictures of the events.

I made a formal announcement of the award at the NERTCL luncheon at NELA.

In next year’s grant cycle the Jordan Miller committee will give preference to a Massachusetts library. We will send out a call for applications in early September.

Allison Babin, Amber Coughlin, Lori Eldred, and Bethany Klem served on the committee this year. Next year Allison Babin and Bethany Klem will continue to serve, but Amber and Lori stepped down.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam McCuen, Chair, Jordan Miller Committee

Legislative Committee

The robust Legislative Committee made up of members from across the Commonwealth from many libraries, networks, and organizations began the year meeting at Central Site on July 15, 2016. Items on that agenda were a state budget update, a report on the Breakfast on Breakfasts held at CWMARS on July 15, a report on National Library Legislative Day on May 2, a joint MLA Legislative Committee/MBLC PR Committee meeting scheduled for July 28th in Dudley, the NELA Advocacy Summit on July 19, and an

advance review of the FY Legislative Agenda. A schedule of meetings for the year was set for August 26, 2016 at the Wareham Free Library, October 28th, November 18th, January 27th and February 24 at Minuteman Library Network offices with much of the meetings centered around plans made for Legislative Breakfasts which began in the fall and concluded several weeks before the March 7 Library Legislative Day in Boston.

Planning for Library Legislative Day was exhaustive up to and through March 7. An ALA Library Advocacy preconference was planned at the MLA conference on Sunday, May 21. Nancy Rea chaired this effort. A larger contingent for National Library Legislative Day in Washington, DC was encouraged. A meeting was held on April 18 at MLN offices with a recap of Legislative Day and advocacy efforts for the Legislative Agenda and funding for IMLS and LSTA.

The year's efforts concluded with these actions and observations:

- Legislative breakfasts were very successful across the state with early planning a key to success.
- The Engage software on the MLA website was adjusted several times over the year to make it easier to use. Members of the committee will continue to encourage librarians, trustees, supporters and Friends to visit the Engage website on a regular basis and join the list of library supporters. Committee co-chairs urged supporters across the state several times to write to their legislators to support library funding, to attend Library Legislative Day, and to advocate for IML S funding. Placement of the Engage link and legislative advocacy was modified throughout the year.
- The committee in 2017-2018 will include directors from each network across the state;
- Library Legislative Day in Boston had another year of success with thanks to many people and much work, including Legislative Day organizer Jennifer Harris, libraries who highlighted their innovative efforts, and the work of the rest of the committee.
- A group of nine librarians, advocates, associations and organization members attended National Library Legislative Day on May 1 in Washington, DC.
- A last meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held on June 30th.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McAlister, Krista MacLeod, Charlotte Canelli – Co-chairs, Legislative Committee

Membership Committee

Committee Members:

Matt Amory, Canton Public Library

Melissa Campbell, Plainville Public Library

Kathy Lussier, MassLink

Patrick Marshall, Bourne Public Library

Accomplishments

Marketing Materials

- Revised the association brochure in time to hand out at MLA
- Made copies of the brochure to hand out at the MLA Annual Conference
- Made a handout of association committees & sections w/ contact information
- Helped with creation of newsletter

Marketing Association

- Held three successful Meet & Greets
 - August 23rd, Quincy - 4 attendees
 - October 26th, Quincy - 12 attendees
 - March 1st, Plymouth - 12 attendees
- Enlisted Exec. Board to contact lapsed members to renew
- Sent follow-up email to Legislative Day attendees, restating the benefits of membership.
- Continued joint memberships with NELA, ALA (joint student)
- Conference activities
 - MLA booth in exhibit hall - membership information available
 - Shepherds had blurb to say about joining MLA and/or a committee
 - Meet & Greet for new and interested members on first night

Membership Numbers

- Current Members as of 5/5/2017 - 439
- MLA Legislative Day Follow-up email 3/8/2017 generated 19 renewals and 7 new registrations.
- Joint NELA members - 191

Action Items

1. Finalize Social Media Policy
2. Work with Pricing Taskforce to review pricing for conference, events and membership.
3. Continue to market association benefits and find places where interested members can serve and become an active part of the association.

Public Relations Committee

This year, the Public Relations Committee underwent much change and simultaneously made strides in advancing the public face of libraries in 2016-2017.

Co-chairs Jocelyn Tavares and Nancy Sheehan officially joined the MBLC Public Relations Committee, cross-promoting MBLC initiatives to the MLA membership. Campaigns undertaken by the committee were the Library Lovers valentine campaign, where patrons sent over 3,000 love letters to legislators

through MBLC, and #LibrarySelfie Week. Patrons took selfies at the library, using the #libraryselfie hashtag and tagged MBLC, who routed the selfies to legislators as they deliberated the state library budget. The MBLC Public Relations Committee plans to re-name the MBLC Newsroom and update it as a public relations resource. The new website will house seasonal campaigns and promotional materials that librarians can use to promote services and heighten awareness of the unique role that libraries play in their communities.

Jocelyn Tavares took on the task of liaison to the Conference Committee. Her contributions to publicity were readily evident as social media presence immediately improved visibility for Conference.

The bulk of the PR Committee's work went toward the judging of the Bi-Annual Public Relations Awards. In comparison to other years, 2017 saw a decline in the number of entries. However, it was indeed the year of the small library, as many urban libraries did not submit their usual contributions. Judges met in Lakeville to review entries and concluded the judging in a record two days. Notified finalists were encouraged to receive acknowledgement at the Awards Gala Dinner on Tuesday, May 23 at the MLA Conference in Hyannis. The PR Committee Prominently displayed all entries at Conference.

The PR Committee once again put on an Awards Gala Dinner. Chief among award recipients were the Bi-Annual PR Award Winners. Over fifty awards went to libraries throughout Massachusetts, including the categories Best in Show and PR for Pennies. Other award recipients at the Gala included NELLs scholarships, Paraprofessionals Awards, and the ever popular and entertaining Book Cart Drill Team Awards.

Respectfully submitted,
Jocelyn Tavares & Nancy Sheehan, Co-Chairs, PR Committee

Strategic Planning Committee

This year, the Association conducted Strategic Planning efforts to guide its work from 2017 through 2020. Co-Chaired by Eric Poulin, Deborah Conrad, and Alex Lent, and relying upon consultant Tracey Leger-Hornby, these efforts included surveys, focus groups, and comments from library stakeholders across the Commonwealth and a day-long planning retreat at Tower Hill Botanical Garden and resulted in clarified vision and mission statements and four goals:

Vision: MLA works for the advancement of the Massachusetts library community

Mission: MLA strengthens the Massachusetts library community through advocacy, connection, and collaboration

Goals:

- MLA will be a well-managed and administered association
- MLA will build an engaged, active, and diverse membership
- MLA will collaborate and cooperate with new and established library community stakeholders
- MLA will provide membership with robust and meaningful programs and activities

The Strategic Planning Committee is grateful to the many people who helped create our new Strategic Plan. The time and comments you provided help the Massachusetts Library Association work more effectively for the advancement of the Massachusetts library community.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alex Lent, VP/President-Elect, Co-Chair, Strategic Planning Committee

SECTION REPORTS

ParaLibrarian Section

The Paralibrarian Section of the Massachusetts Library Association held seven meetings of the Executive Board from June 2016 to May 2017. Meetings were held at the Dennis Public Library, Medfield Public Library, Middleboro Public Library, and the Annual Meeting at Conference in Hyannis. An eighth meeting will be held at the Reading Public Library in June. The different locations accommodate members traveling from around the state. Three meetings were held online, via Skype, to reduce travel time for Board members.

The members of the Section Executive Board are:

Allison Sloan
Chairperson

Anna McGrath
Hermayne Gordon
Co-Vice Chairs; *Fast! Forward!* Newsletter

Gerry Deyermond
Past-Chairperson; Nominations; Tech Support

Lori Salotto
Secretary; PARA Review Board

Joyce Senior
Treasurer; PARA Review Board

Matthew Costanza
Member At-Large/Conference Committee

Karen Horn
Member At-Large/Career Development; Chair PARA Review Board

In addition, the Section has a wonderful support team and appointed sub-committee chairs:

Gael Nappa
Awards

Debbie Pennino
PARA Review Board

The Section has the following open positions that we would like to recruit assistance for:

PARA Review Board
Awards
Publicity
Mini Conference planning
Youth Services/MLA Committee Liaison.

The Paralibrarian Section Mission Statement continues to be relevant and to represent the purpose of the Section:

“Through support and increased awareness of Paralibrarians, the Section advocates for recognition and participation in the library community. The Section promotes and provides a forum for networking and career development opportunities.”

The Paralibrarian Section held elections at the 2016 Annual Meeting at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, MA. The proposed slate of candidates for the 2017-2018 year will be presented and voted upon at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

The Section is developing a productive relationship with Jennifer Zolkos, Manager of MLA, and Conference Manager Kristen Collins. As a result we have had a good presence at the conferences and expanded visibility on the MLA web site. The Section posts articles, news and information on their Wordpress blog (<http://mlaparalibrarian.wordpress.com/>) ; Pinterest (<http://www.pinterest.com/mlaparas/>); FaceBook (<http://www.facebook.com/groups/133509333094/>); Twitter (Twitter- @MLAParas); and Instagram, as well the Section contributed articles to *ALA Associates: The Online Journal for Library Support Staff*, and *LibraryDirectors.org* international digital newsletter for library directors edited by Alex Lent, incoming MLA President.

Treasurer, Joyce Senior, updated the Section budget, and prepared a comprehensive format to allow comparison and tracking between the proposed and actual expenditures. She will present a full report at the annual meeting on May 23rd.

Chairperson Allison Sloan participates on the MLA Executive Board. Past Chairperson, Gerry Deyermond, participated in two MLA Executive Board Committees this year: Strategic Planning and Technology. The Paralibrarian Section would like to express thanks to the members of the MLA Board for their steady support of the Section and particularly for their continuing support of the Paralibrarian Recognition of Achievement (PARA) Certification, which has grown substantially. Now in its twelfth year, it offers four levels of achievement.

In 2016-2017 the PARA Certification program (PARalibrarian Recognition of Achievement Certification) certified seven applicants:

Level 1: James Graham; Heather Maganzini; Rachel Mimms; Irene Cunningham

Level 2: Judith Fallon; Kevin MacKenzie

Level 3: Stacey Charbonneau

The MLA Paralibrarian Section extends appreciation to Dianne Carty, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), for her ongoing support of the PARA Certification, and to the MLA Executive Board for working in conjunction with the Section's PARA Review Board.

The Career Development committee hosted two roundtable discussions to develop understanding and interest in the PARA Certification, at Barnstable Sturgis Library and Dracut Library. The mentorship program is ongoing to help applicants develop a comprehensive portfolio to submit. The Guidelines continue to be reviewed for clarity and user-friendly application. Guidelines may be viewed at: <http://masslib.org/PARAProgram>

The Awards Committee received eleven nominations for the Outstanding Library Support Staff of the Year Award and Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year award. Awards coordinator Gael Nappa updated the online "Survey Monkey" nomination questionnaire to assure comprehensive and consistent responses for comparison and selection. The nominees and award recipients were announced and applauded at the Awards Gala last night. A list of Awards nominees and recipients, and PARA Certificate recipients will be recorded in the minutes of the MLA Annual Meeting.

The Paralibrarian Section is proud to have received support from two sponsors. Special thanks to DEMCO for their generous support of the Book Cart Drill Team and MLA. DEMCO gave financial support and prizes to the competitors in the form of DEMCO gift cards totaling \$1000. Thanks also to Sunset Engravers of Methuen for their work on the trophies and plaques.

The Section looks forward to a productive and exciting 2017-2018 year. Our goal continues to be to develop opportunities for growth and recognition of Paralibrarians through the PARA Certification and to fulfill our mission to support and recognize the Paralibrarians of Massachusetts libraries.

Respectfully Submitted:

Allison Sloan, Chair, Paralibrarian Section

Personnel Committee

Manny Leite became the chair of the Personnel Committee in 2016. The goal of the Personnel Committee is to address personnel issues that concern the membership, investigate salaries studies/surveys, and recommend minimum salaries. The committee is working on creating a survey, informational handouts, and soon will be available for telephone consultations.

The Personnel Committee will be sponsoring a program at the annual 2017 MLA Conference. The title of the program is *Resume Writing Review*, and will focus on all aspects of resume writing, including keyword techniques and the benefits of writing functional resumes. The goal of the committee is to host one program at every MLA Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted, Manny Leite, Chair, Personnel Committee

Reference & User Services Section

In its second full year as a section, the Reference User Services Section continues to grow, along with chairs, Pingsheng Chen and Demetri Kyriakis and secretary, Laura Bernheim. The section is sponsoring several programs at the annual conference including: Mobile Technology in the Library; English Language Learning Programs at your Library; Balancing Life as a Reference Librarian in a Small Library; Small Business Outreach at the Public Library; Using Reference Statistics for Positive Change; Librarians Teaching Non-Traditional Reference Classes; and Erotica Readers' Advisory!

The section held four meetings, at both the Massachusetts Library System and Minuteman Library Network Central Site locations and continues to find a balance between acting as a gateway to MLA for Reference Librarians and serving as a stand-alone resource for reference librarians. Next year will see more growth along with newly elected officers: chairs Kristy Lockhart and Laura Bernheim and secretary, Paula Korstvedt.

Respectfully submitted,
Pingsheng Chen, Co-chair, RUSS

Technical Services & Technology Section

This year TSTS had a small section leadership. We had no previous chair, and one member who was signed on for the year as member-at-large- moved out of state. I had a high learning curve, since I was also new to MLA. As it stands, the section needs to evolve. We will be discussing the future of the section at the Annual Conference. Some MLA members are interested in developing a technology section, and in that context we are hoping to determine the best way for TSTS to serve the evolving needs of MLA members. Based on an informal survey of TSTS members with a small response, there is still interest in technical service programming, but a strong interest in technology programming. The section is at a crossroads, and all three section members feel a new direction is warranted and essential.

The name of our section has been a point of confusion we have attempted to straighten out this year. The change from Technical Services Section (TSS) to Technical Services and Technology Section (TSTS) was approved by the section at the 2015 Annual Meeting. The last step to formally changing the name is for section members to approve on revised bylaws. Since this was not done at the 2016 conference, it should be done at the TSS Annual Meeting at the 2017 conference (if this is still the desired direction of the section).

With the transition of section, Katie Lewis will be moving to the Previous Chair position as Whitney Watkins moves to Chair. Nick Szydowski has served many years as member-at-large, (way to go Nick!) and would be willing to yield his position to an interested person.

For the year ahead, Whitney and I have worked on establishing a timeline and goals for the section, so that we can get off to a good start.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Lewis, Chair, TSTS

Youth Services Section

This year YSS traveled to the Chelsea Public Library, the West Springfield Public Library, the Norfolk Public Library, and the Woods Memorial Library in Barre, to hold bi-monthly meetings.

YSS was very successful in encouraging librarians to attend meetings via video chat. Librarians on the Vineyard and Cape Cod were able to virtually attend our meetings in Chelsea and West Springfield. The YSS board also chose to hold one final meeting before Annual Conference using video chat to much success.

Discussion at all YSS meetings proved to be very fruitful, from event planning to crowdsourcing ideas for day-to-day work and life. Social media, the current political climate, and opportunities for professional development in New England. The board also planned and encouraged participation in *Take Your Child to the Library Day* in February and *Library Legislative Day* in March.

YSS hosted its first “Unconference” at the Duxbury Free Library in March. The program was positioned as an opportunity for Children’s and Young Adult librarians to come together and lead their own sessions on topics of their choosing. Twenty-one librarians attended the all-day event and planned, facilitated, and participated in six discussion sections. Topics included:

- Reader’s Advisory and Collection Development
- Storytime and Song Share
- Teen/Tween Issues
- Shareable Programming
- Navigating the Current Political Climate and Work/Life Balance
- Coming Together: Debriefing

YSS compiled evaluations, all overwhelmingly positive, that rang true with the immediate, in-person feedback we received that day. The program will be repeated at the Chicopee Public Library at the beginning of October for Western Mass youth librarians.

The YSS board is looking forward to new projects for FY18. These include a complete edit of YSS bylaws (as they have not been updated since 2011) and the creation of a video campaign to promote the value of library services.

Respectfully submitted,
Larissa Farrell, Chair, YSS