

MLA Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes August 25, 2017 Plymouth Public Library

Present: Susan McAllister, Charlotte Canelli, Jennifer Harris, Tressa Santillo, Greg Pronevitz, Celeste Bruno, Mary Rose Quinn, Jackie Rafferty, David Slater, Jayme Viveiros. On conference call: Tim Spindler, Kathy Lowe, Patrick McGowan, Anna Fahey-Flynn.

Susan McAlister called the meeting to order at 10:07 am at the Plymouth Public Library.

I. Meeting Dates and Locations for FY18 (MLA Leg Com)

Susan announced the meeting dates for the year that were agreed on in a conference call with Krista, Susan, Charlotte and Jennifer on June 30.

Aug. 25	Oct 27	Nov 17	Jan 26	Feb 23	Apr 27	Jun 15
Plymouth Public	MLN	MLS	MLN	CWMARS	MLN	Nevins Memorial
Plymouth	MLN Central Site Natick	Marlboro Offices	MLN Central Site Natick	CWMARS Worcester	MLN Central Site Natick	Methuen
10 am	10 am	10 am	10 am	10 am	10 am	10 am

Legislative Day possibilities are: March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 in 2018.

II. Legislative Agenda (MBLC)

Celeste Bruno began this update asking for feedback about the legislative agenda last year (12 different posters with the agenda on the reverse) and asked for discussion of what will work this year. She was disappointed with the online hits (1600) on the legislative agenda and the number of libraries that customized it. She asked what will work for everyone this year and pointed out that we need the legislature to see OUR priorities and what are they, exactly. A lengthy discussion was held for over the next hour with these points:

- ✓ The committee agrees that 12 posters from last year were terrific and that we should just build our message and priorities using them;
- ✓ Personal relationships with legislators are a must;
- ✓ The Miles to Reach You campaign (OCLN) had terrific results and more networks should try to use the idea;
- ✓ We revisited messages from the Advocacy Bootcamp at MLA;
- ✓ We were reminded that line items were cut IN COMMITTEE;
- ✓ After some conversation about libraries focusing on what legislators are focusing on (the OPIOID CRISIS) there was discussion about what is going on in their towns and cities to help and it was agreed that this topic might get legislators to recognize just what libraries are doing.
- ✓ Mary Rose spoke about the budget numbers coming out this month and next month and how that might impact the FY18 budget and the budget climate for next year.
- ✓ Steve Spohn volunteered to chair a "Moonshot" campaign about how libraries can assist in the statewide efforts to combat the Opioid Crisis. Jackie Rafferty and Patrick McGowan will assist and Steve will reach out to Michele Eberle (MLS) and Sharon Hawkes, director of the Nahant Library.

III. BOSTON BOOK FESTIVAL (ALL)

Celeste and Steve announced a meeting will be held at MBLC on Wednesday 30 at 10:30 am for all interested in organizing the MBLC/MLS booth at the Book Festival. MLA will join that booth and Jennifer Harris will attend as representative.

Susan McAlister volunteered to come up with a QR code for the Engage website and create postcard-sized handouts. Jennifer will bring a WiFi hotspot (in the event another is not available) and an iPad so that festival attendees can sign up for Engage on the spot. The booth will be staffed at the Book Festival on Saturday, October 28.

IV. READ POSTER DISTRIBUTION (MLS)

After the Book Festival meeting, Steve invited anyone who wishes to distribute READ posters to legislators to join him at the State House.

V. LEGISLATIVE DAY (ALL)

Two handouts were distributed: The Legislative Day Preparation – Tasks handout and the Legislative Day Timeline handout. Tressa went over the handouts, adding “find a host” to the “major logistics” category.

- ✓ Jennifer Harris and Tressa Santillo will chair this important committee this year after a successful Legislative Day last year.
- ✓ Susan McAlister will call for the date for the State House on October 1 at midnight.
- ✓ We agreed that Kathleen O’Conner Ives would be a great host and Krista McLeod will speak with her as soon as we have a date, if not sooner.
- ✓ Krista McLeod will once again work on finding the briefing and first-timer orientation meeting rooms (hopefully room 222.)
- ✓ Jennifer Harris will reserve the Hall and Lobby of the Grand Staircase.
- ✓ Tim Splindler will organize the Registration.
- ✓ Charlotte Canelli will arrange for catering with Metro.
- ✓ We need to be thinking about the recipient of the Advocacy Award.

We are on schedule on the timetable and will address more tasks at the October meeting of the committee.

VI. GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY (MLS)

Greg Pronevitz began this discussion with a list of actions and topics of the current committee of 14. The group is looking for replacement school committee, academic, and trustee representatives.

He recognized several grassroots efforts, including two that were peripheral to the task force: “Miles to Reach You” at OCLN and advocacy days supported by the Perkins School. Four others were direct spinoffs from the task force: an informative article targeting homeschoolers; an inspiring Mass. Friends of Libraries letter; a postcard writing event at an MFOL event; and a posting on the Digital Commonwealth. The group has a list of possible projects for the upcoming year too.

Greg asked what the MLA Leg Com wants from the group and if it should continue as a subcommittee of the MLA Leg Com. It was agreed that the group should continue and look for new members, reporting back to the Leg Com.

VII. CONFERENCE PROGRAM (ALL)

Susan informed the committee that Esme Green and the MLA Conference Committee would like the MLA Leg Com to let them know if we wish to hold a program at the annual conference. Committee members decided that we will hold a regular conference program this year TBD. Susan McAlister will notify the Conference Committee. (MLA is May 21-23 in Framingham.)

VIII. OTHER

Greg Pronevitz suggested that the Committee provide a legislative update at the MLS Annual Meeting, November 6 at Holy Cross. Susan McAlister and Jennifer Harris will coordinate.

Tressa reported on an advocacy program recently held at Athol Public Library.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm

Charlotte Canelli

Charlotte Canelli