

MLA Legislative Committee Meeting
March 13, 2015
Agenda and Notes

MBLC - Budget updates for current and next year, Commonwealth Conversations, Leg. Agenda

Dianne reported re: House 1 budget. Ways and Means hears likely in week of 3/23 public comment is not allowed but a show of support is valuable. She is cautiously optimistic. The budget is likely to be conservative for libraries. The public needs to contact their representatives and senators and hold their feet to the fire.

Senator at Monson breakfast said its important to listen to the legislators stories. It gets them invested in libraries.

Rep. Hogan suggested that we find champions for each budget line. Perhaps: Rep. Mark, Sen. Gobi, Sen. Wolf, Don Hummason, Byron Rushing.

It was recommended that library supporters get out to the Senate's Commonwealth Conversations. Online testimony is welcome. MLA should send out info.

The early retirement bill may affect the MBLC.

The Trial Court is looking at a large effect.

A 20% backfill is planned. Not enough for Trial Court.

Federal employees are not eligible.

Layoffs may result if the program is not successful during this fiscal year.

Mary Rose distributed green sheets and a new promo comparing libraries to tourist attractions. It was recommended that folks ask their elected officials to say libraries are in their top three priorities.

State aid review in progress. White paper is basis of review.

MBLC took a bit higher cut in its own line and shifted some funding to state aid.

MLS update – Greg and Deb

Searching to fill Vacancies for Training and Advisory Director and Business and Human Resources Director.

Ways and Means Priorities: eBook support, Training/Advisory services for libraries, delivery expansion SLIN, Interstate

eBooks – This year capped at 340 libraries with four entire networks.

Building for sale. Interest from Town of Whately.

Project Set 11 participants to build public speaking skill set for members.

MSLA update

Special Commission on Public School Libraries. A few commissioners were absent. It was a very good meeting. Two subcommittees are forming: one to plan a survey, perhaps having students do survey; a second subcommittee will look at locations for site visits and a hearing.

Leg. Breakfasts

Breakfasts were well attended.

16 total including the upcoming Auburn event on 3/27.

29th Annual Legislative Day - April 1, 2015, State House, 9 am-1pm

MLA should expand its role in setting this up. Beverly and Dinah will get in touch.

Dinah will take care of program printing.

MBLC will prepare packets.

We'll do our best matching legislators with constituents.

9 am Registration - Grand Staircase

9 am - Breakfast - Great Hall

9:30-9:45 am - Legislative Briefing - Great Hall

What should be covered? Prepare folks for their appointments. Going over the legislative agenda.

10 am-noon - Meetings with Legislators

10:30 am - Bookmark Contest Awards - Grand Staircase

11-11:15 Legislative Briefing

11:30 - "Legislator champions" Rep. Hogan - Great Hall

Noon - Luncheon Program - Great Hall

Welcome - MLA President Maureen Ambrosino

and MSLA President

Advocacy Award presented to Representative Byron Rushing

Introduction of Legislators

Conference Program

Sharon has set up program at MLA

Next meeting May 29 at 10am at MinuteMan.