



## **Massachusetts Library Association Annual Meeting**

June 11, 2020 at 2:00pm

Virtually via Zoom

**Welcome remarks**—Esme Green, President

**State of the State**—James Lonergan, MBLC

Current budget is the best in years; it provided much needed increases, especially for delivery. Our current legislative agenda is focused on \$2 million increase on state aid for libraries. This is especially critical this year. We are requesting 3% increases in most of our budget lines. The impact of COVID-19 on the economy has made it difficult to project revenue estimates. MBLC is supporting many initiatives to aid libraries. MBLC developed guidelines for libraries in regards to reopening phases, and those are continually being updated. MBLC also requested \$250 million to cover the construction bonds. Funds have been reduced to \$100 million for it due to pandemic funds being dispersed, but eventually raised back to \$115 million. MBLC released a statement about racial justice and are considering how to aid in this.

**Call to order** 2:11pm

**A motion to approve the minutes** from the previous annual meeting on May 22, 2019 is made by Will Adamczyk and seconded by Bernadette Rivard. All in favor.

**President's Report**—Esme Green

I would like to start off by taking a moment to acknowledge the worldwide protests for Black lives and the groundswell of motivation to address systemic racism. MLA published a statement this morning and you can find it on the [masslib.org](http://masslib.org) website. Beyond denouncing racism, MLA is committed to effecting real change going forward. By chance, we are about to embark on a new strategic plan, and our goal is to make diversity and inclusion a cornerstone of that plan.

It has been the best of times and the worst of times. This year started out great for the association. The officers and association manager worked hard to straighten out many internal procedures. We cleaned up our finances, created a shared drive to store, share and save institutional work; we updated and revised our budget and the process by which it is developed. We saw two new sections, Readers' Advisory and Leadership and Management begin to develop and grow. Conference was looking amazing, and nearly completely planned when the novel coronavirus hit.

There has been a silver lining in that both Macmillan and Lynda.com reversed their previous positions; Macmillan gave up its embargo to libraries, and Lynda.com revised its privacy policy. Both of these position changes fell in line with statements MLA published previously.

Unfortunately, MLA members have lost jobs as a result of extended library closures and severe budget cuts. MLA supports library workers, both to work safely and to protect their jobs. If you would like to see the full statements, they are posted on [masslib.org](http://masslib.org).

At this point, I would like to thank the chairs and committees who worked behind the scenes to keep things going. In particular Conference, who had to make the difficult choice to cancel a conference--after doing about 95% of the work to bring to fruition an amazing lineup of programs, events and speakers—to pivoting to the alternatives for this and next year that are cost effective and safe. THANK YOU: staff, officers, executive board, committee and sections and of course, you all, the members. I am looking forward to next time, when I hope we can do drag queen karaoke! Thank you.

#### **Treasurer's Report—Bernadette Rivard**

Great to be here. It's been an interesting year.

For the second year in a row we had a budget target of \$45,000 for membership income. As of May 8, 2020 without the incentive of conference for people to renew, our membership income was over \$38,000. If our average monthly membership income rate of \$3700 per month for this fiscal year continues, we will just meet our membership budget goal. The income did not drop of in March, but it was \$2000 less than average in April. So, meeting that goal might be difficult given the current financial climate.

With the cancellation of our 2020 conference due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the need to refund exhibitors and sponsors, our steadily improving financial picture took a very big hit, as did all of the world economy. To meet our monthly expenses in April of 2020 we moved \$12,000 from our Fidelity cash reserves account into the TD Bank checking account.

In early May we were notified that we received the Payroll Protection Program loan from SBA in the amount of \$10,335. This will enable us to keep our two employees on the payroll and the loan will eventually be forgiven. This will extend the date we will need to again dip into our Fidelity investment funds, but barring a miracle, that will be impossible next fiscal year. To make those funds available we will need to trade funds to move from the investment account into the cash reserves account. Funds are moved from the cash reserves to the bank account any time the bank balance drops below \$4000.

Looking at our investment portfolio we have lost all the investment gains we made since July of 2018

Fidelity Investment Accounts	7/1/18	8/7/19	5/6/2020
Cash Reserves	11,412.00	6,574.05	3,634.12
Investments	136,310.79	141,754.12	132,352.85
<b>Total Fidelity Accounts</b>	<b>136,310.79</b>	<b>148,328.37</b>	<b>135,986.97</b>

FY2021, with the world in so much upheaval, will be a difficult year. We had prepared a detailed budget, that once the pandemic erupted and we realized conference would be cancelled this year, we adjusted to reflect our best guess of an unknown reality. As the weeks have worn on, we still have concerns about the feasibility of having a conference in the spring of 2021 and have prepared contingency budgets to address alternative situations, either a virtual conference or no conference at all. At the annual meeting we will present the first revised budget, the one that includes a spring 2021 conference. If it becomes apparent during the year that an in-person conference will not be feasible, we will come back to the board to adopt either the virtual conference or no conference revised budgets.

This has been a difficult spring, but I want to commend the MLA leadership on the professional manner in which we have approached these challenges head on and await the day we can say this bad patch is behind us.

**Presentation of FY21 Budget.** Motion to accept the FY21 budget is made by Will Adamczyk and seconded by Ellen Rainville. All in favor.

#### **New Business:**

- Proposal of changes to the ByLaws –Ellen Rainville. Bylaw changes are housekeeping ones. We are taking out the past treasurer office, that does not exist. We added specific dates for the nominating committee. We reordered bullets under elections so that they make sense. **A motion to accept the changes to the ByLaws** is made by Bernadette Rivard and seconded by Nora Blake. All in favor.

#### **Presentation of the slate of officers–Will Adamczyk**

##### **Nominating Committee Report**

- I would like to first thank everyone who worked with the Nominating Committee this year, and for the ByLaws Committee for helping to readjust how it will be done going forward.

I am very happy to present the following slate of officers for 2020-2021. I would like to thank all of our members who put their names forward as nominees and I encourage people to consider running for these positions in the future.

The slate of officers is as follows:

*Secretary* (This is a Two Year Term): Noelle Boc, Tewksbury Public Library  
This will be Noelle's second two year term at this position. She has spent over twenty-five years working in libraries in Texas, New York and Massachusetts. Noelle first became involved with MLA by attending Youth Services Section meetings and eventually became the chair.

*Vice President/President Elect* (This is a Three Year Term): Joanne Lamothe, Sandwich Library

Joanne started her career in Duxbury, eventually being appointed their library director. She next moved to Weymouth, before joining Sandwich. Joanne has been a longtime member of MLA, and most recently has served as Conference Committee Co-Chair for the past three years. Joanne has also served as President of NELA.

*ALA Chapter Councilor* (This is Two Year Term): Esme Green, Goodnow Library (Sudbury)

Esme has been actively involved in MLA for a number of years. She served as a Conference Committee Co-Chair for six years before being elected to the President Elect/VP role. It has been my pleasure to serve as an officer with her over the past two years.

This is our slate of officers for 2020-2021. Thank you for volunteering to serve our association.

This report serves as a motion to the group, and I will now turn it over to Esme to call for nominations from the floor and for a vote.

**A motion is made to vote on slate as presented;** all in favor

**Presidential transition**—Esme Green

It has been a wild year and I'm ready to turn the reins over.

**Remarks by incoming President**—Nora Blake

I am honored to be taking over the position of President of our Association.

Esme, this has been an incredibly challenging and volatile year for libraries everywhere and I appreciate and admire your leadership of our organization as we navigated a host of issues over the course of the last year. I only hope that I can continue to provide MLA with reasoned and steady leadership as we continue to wade through such difficult waters. We also owe Esme a big party since she missed out on having our Annual Conference and a celebration at that event. We will find a way to honor you, Esme.

Will, I think we may have both started our service to MLA as part of the conference committee more than 15 years ago, or is it more like 20 years ago now? You have given so much greatness to MLA. I will miss working with you!

I have to admit that I feel very concerned about the year to come, not only for MLA and the financial health of our organization, but for libraries and our society as a whole. So much seems so tenuous at this moment, but I take solace in the fact that MLA's leadership, and the Chairs of our Committees and Sections, are people with strong passion, creativity and energy. I look forward to working with these wonderful people over the next year as we develop what I hope is a meaningful path for MLA for the future.

We are always looking for more active members. If you feel passionate about our profession and want to play a more active role in one of our committees or sections, please reach out to me or to Laurie Lessner, our Membership Committee Chair, and we will connect you with the leader of the section or committee you want to work with.

Thank you all for being with us today. I am looking forward to meeting the challenges of the next year.

**Motion to adjourn** the meeting made by Esme Green at 2:32pm.

The annual meeting was followed by a virtual "Fireside Chat" with guest speaker Nancy Pearl.