



Transition Meeting

Friday, June 11, 2021

10:00am – 1:00pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82832523996>

Meeting ID: 828 3252 3996

PART ONE: Business Meeting (10:00am-10:45am)

1. Call to Order and approval of Minutes from April 2021 Executive Board Meeting (All)
2. Treasurer's Report (Treasurer)
3. May 2021 Conference Review (Conference Committee Chairs)
4. Updates
 - a. MBLC
 - b. MLS
 - c. MSLA
 - d. NELA
 - e. Center for the Book
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Future Meeting Dates
8. Adjourn Business Meeting

PART TWO: Transition Meeting MLA Conference & Section Chair Training

1. Introductory Remarks (Nora & Joanne)
 - a. Outline of the days events
2. Introduction of officers - explanation of roles and duties (Nora & Joanne)
 - a. President
 - b. VP/President Elect

- c. Past President
- d. Treasurer
- e. Secretary
- 3. MLA Budget (Bernadette)
 - a. Budget timeline - submit October, discuss December, vote February
- 4. Introduction of MLA staff - explanation of roles (Nora & Joanne)
 - a. Association Manager - Rebecca Beckley
 - b. Conference Director - Kristen Collins
- 5. Important documents - overview of Google Drive (Nora & Joanne)
 - a. By-Laws
 - b. Section mission statements
 - c. Strategic Plan update
 - d. Calendar (including future meeting dates)
 - e. Budget
 - f. Masslib.org website - where to find meeting info (Noelle)
 - g. Google Drive (Rebecca)
 - h. Contact List for Organization (Rebecca)
 - i. Annual Calendar (Rebecca)
- 6. Introduction of Committees, Sections, Liaisons & Archivist - explanation of roles and expectations (Nora & Joanne)
 - a. Expectations
 - b. Attend Executive Board meetings - One vote per section
 - c. Create and submit a budget
 - d. Prepare reports for EBoard meetings (6 times a year)
 - e. Prepare an annual report for Annual Meeting (happens at Conference)
 - f. Hold regular section meetings/programs
 - 1. Supply association manager with information for posting
 - g. Appoint a liaison for Conference Committee and ensure that person attends Conference Committee meetings
 - h. Prepare programs for Annual Conference
 - i. Maintain accurate information on Masslib.org
 - 1. Regularly review your area of the website
 - 2. Supply association manager with information for posting



Conference Committee Report

June 2021

Conference Recap:

Conference was held virtually May 17-19. There were 367 attendees and 19 sponsors. The theme of the 2021 Conference was “Let’s Get Digital,” A throwback to the 80s and a way to make the virtual event have a little spark. The Conference kicked off with Anika Nailah, former professor at Wheaton, Cambridge, and Smith colleges, who discussed “what life is like for African Americans in a USA where self-described white allies don’t know what they don’t know.” Our Wednesday keynote was Stephanie Chase, Principal, *Construction Distraction* who discussed *No More Silos: Keys to Implementing Self-Management to Fully Empower Staff*. Other extremely popular sessions were *Harper Collins Book Buzz*, *Inclusive Library Services*; and *Controlling the Beast: Libraries and Social Media*. The Conference Committee did our best to have a networking aspect of the Conference with our ever-popular Trivia Night with Nora Blake and a new event: Music Bingo.

Our post-conference survey is still being compiled and we will report out on that at the next Eboard meeting.

Planning for next year:

The Conference is tentatively scheduled for in-person, May 23-25, 2022 in Hyannis. The theme for the conference is Turn the Tide.

Submitted by,
Michelle Filleul, Conference Co-chair



Legislative Committee Report

June 2021

Legislative Committee continued to meet both as a large group, but also in committees during the first half of 2021.

The Committee at large has been concerned with the following:

- **2021 MLA Annual Conference** – John Chrastka from EveryLibrary was the morning keynote for the MLA Conference on Tuesday, May 18th. John provided tools for advocating for your library on the local and state level. We believe that it was well attended.
- **FY22 State Budget** –The Senate Ways & Means Committee released their budget proposal on May 11th. This proposal funded all of the MBLC Legislative Agenda asks and met the House figures, with the exception of the Center for the Book. The Center for the Book was \$0 funded. An amendment was put forward to restore funding to \$300,000. Additionally, the Senate increased the Regional line above the initial ask.
- **Every Library partnership/Advocacy Action Subcommittee** – This group is made up of members of LegComm, MSLA, and other stakeholders. Current project:
 - We have developed a Legislative Briefing with MSLA to be distributed to all legislators. We are working with the Library Caucus and their co-chairs to have this sent out. The briefing's theme is 'Creating Opportunities for All', and includes updates about:
 - Supporting economic development in every town and neighborhood
 - Early literacy that leads to personal success
 - Equitable access for every student and family
 - Centers for community growth and cohesion
 - Workforce development that lowers barriers
 - College and career readiness for every learner
 - Technology bridge our citizens need

LegComm continues to benefit from working with members of MBLC, MLS, MSLA, WMLA, and CMLA, who regularly attend our meetings.

Next meeting: June 25, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chair, Jennifer Harris, Plymouth Public Library, retired & Co-Chair, William Adamczyk, Milton Public Library



Library Information Technology Section Report

June 2021

The Library Information Technology Section (LITS) of MLA is welcoming a new chair to the section, Siobhan Robinson of the Tewksbury Public Library. Past chair Callan Bignoli will stay active on the section to guide the transition. LITS is partnering with the Massachusetts Library System on a Massachusetts-specific library technology and privacy LibGuide, and is actively trying to recruit folks who expressed an interest in joining the section when they registered for this year's conference. We are eager to keep our momentum going under new leadership.

Submitted by

Callan Bignoli, LITS Past chair

MBLC Director's Report to MLA Executive Board June 2021

The Senate unanimously approved their version of the Fiscal Year 2022 spending plan on May 27. The full Senate budget for the MBLC budget lines mirrored the proposal offered by Senate Ways and Means, which did not include funding for the Center for the Book. The Senate funding for the MBLC budget lines met the Legislative Agenda requested amounts for five of the seven budget lines. The State Aid to Regional Libraries line (7000-9401) received an increase of one million dollars over the FY 2021 budget, \$624,520 higher than the Agenda requested amount for that line. A conference committee will reconcile any differences between the House and Senate budgets and send that budget to the Governor to be put into place hopefully by or around July 1.

MBLC	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2022	FY 2022	
Item Number & Item Name	Final GAA FY 2021 Budget	Legislative Agenda Request	Governor's House 1 Budget (January)	House Budget (April)	Senate Budget (May)	Items in Conference	Request to Conference Committee
7000-9101 Board of Library Commissioners	\$1,579,876	\$1,627,272	\$1,585,251	\$1,627,272	\$1,627,272	in conference	shift earmarks to 7008-1116
7000-9401 State Aid to Regional Libraries	\$12,516,000	\$12,891,480	\$12,516,000	\$13,516,000	\$13,516,000	in conference*	resolve textual differences
7000-9402 Talking Book Library	\$482,264	\$496,732	\$482,264	\$496,732	\$496,732	not in conference	
7000-9406 Talking Book & Machine Lending	\$2,745,774	\$2,828,147	\$2,745,774	\$2,828,147	\$2,828,147	not in conference	
7000-9501 State Aid to Public Libraries	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$13,000,000	\$13,000,000	not in conference	
7000-9506 Library Technology & Resource Sharing	\$ 4,386,770	\$4,518,373	\$4,386,770	\$4,518,373	\$4,518,373	not in conference	
7000-9508 MA Center for the Book, Inc	\$225,000	\$300,000	\$225,000	\$ 300,000	\$ -	in conference	fund at \$300,000
TOTAL	\$33,935,684	\$35,662,004	\$33,941,059	\$36,286,524	\$35,986,524		

House and Senate = \$624,520 more in line 7000-9401 than requested
House earmarks totaling \$75,000 on Agency line (7000-9101); not included in the chart above.

7000-9101 For the operation of the board of library commissioners; provided further, that not less than \$25,000 shall be expended for the city of Fitchburg for repairs to the boiler at the Fitchburg public library; and provided further, that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for a feasibility study to rehabilitate the former Gloucester Free Library
 \$1,702,272

ARPA Funding: In keeping with IMLS guidance regarding the use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the focus on digital inclusion, we are moving forward with creating a statewide WiFi hotspot lending program. We've held preliminary meetings with three hotspot vendors that are on statewide contracts: T-Mobile/Sprint, AT&T, and Verizon.

We surveyed public libraries to gauge their interest in the program and received responses from 307 libraries requesting approximately 2300 hotspots. Approximately half of the libraries already lend hotspots. We are leaning towards primarily working with T-Mobile, possibly using Verizon as an alternative for libraries in communities with connectivity issues. We hope to have the hotspots sent to public libraries and possibly the Perkins and Worcester Talking Book libraries by mid-July for usage through September 2022.

We also plan to use ARPA funds to continue our support of e-content through both the Library for the Commonwealth and MLS and are considering a limited number of subgrants to communities that have been hard hit by COVID-19.

The **State Advisory Council on Libraries** (SACL) held their LSTA Direct Grant review meeting on May 5th. This meeting consisted of reports of grant recommendations from SACL subgroups. 36 grant applications were recommended for approval by the Board of Commissioners. The complete list of grant recipients will be brought to the Commissioners at the July 2021 board meeting for final approval.

Of special note this application round was the inclusion of an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) component to the grant application and scoring. In general, SACL members and staff were pleased with how grant applicants incorporated EDI as a factor in creating their grant programs and as a component of grant impact within their communities.

The MBLC and members of SACL were saddened to learn that Dominic Paulo, a Weymouth Library trustee and SACL member, died on Monday, May 25th. Dominic just recently joined SACL representing library users. Although we had the pleasure of his company for only a few meetings, his intelligence, perspective, and good nature will be sorely missed. Dominic's obituary can be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/southofboston-ledger/obituary.aspx?n=dominic-m-paulo&pid=198812664&fhid=5914>

MBLC at Massachusetts Library Association Annual Conference: Congratulations to Lyndsay Forbes, Shelley Quezada and Maura Deedy for their informative and well-received presentations at this month's MLA Annual Conference. The programs that they delivered drew on average 70 attendees. The programs also showcased the work being done at the MBLC as well as their knowledge and expertise to the library community.

Lyndsay Forbes and Christi Farrar from MLS presented ***It's an Equity Issue: Why Public Libraries Should Have a Dedicated Teen Services Librarian on May 19th***.

Shelley Quezada facilitated a program titled: *Inclusive Library Services: New Tools and Techniques to Reach People with Disabilities* on Monday, May 17th with panelists: Carla Burke, Assistive Technology Coordinator, Brooks Free Library, Harwich; Erin Fragola, Library Outreach Coordinator, Perkins Library; Jonathan O'Dell, Assistive Technology and Training Specialist, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Maura Deedy facilitated a program titled: *Does the Mayor Have a Library Card: Understanding Local Government and Making Libraries Important to it* on May 19th with the following panelists: Mehreen N. Butt, Wakefield Town Councilor; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor, City of Easthampton; John Mangiaratti, Acton Town Manager. Panelists answered questions about funding, municipal priorities, and the importance of the First Amendment and protected free speech.

I presented the **State of the State** address at the MLA Annual Business meeting on Wednesday, May 19.

Portal redesign: Paul Kissman, Kate Butler, Celeste Bruno, and Matt Perry have been dedicating a significant amount of time working with Kyyba Tech, a leading technology design and consulting firm to create the specifications for the MBLC’s consumer portal redesign. During the pandemic the need for providing online services became abundantly clear. The redesign of the MBLC consumer portal will enable citizens from across the Commonwealth to better access statewide library services. The initial design phase is a critical stage in the redesign roll out.

Trustee Orientations: We launched the next season of Trustee Orientations with an increased focus on board dynamics and telling advocacy stories. We look forward to considering these for in-person sessions for the fall, with some combination of virtual programming for the Trustee Deep Dives.

Program	Date/Time	Attendance
Trustee Orientation	Thursday, April 29, 2021 10:00am - 12:00pm	25
Trustee Orientation	Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:00 pm	11
Trustee Orientation	Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 2:00 pm	15
Trustee Orientation	Tuesday June 1, 2021 at 6:00 PM	14
Total		65

In addition to trustee deep dives and orientations, Maura Deedy’s work on updating the **MBLC Trustee Hiring a Director search packet** continued in May. Maura facilitated a series of focus groups with library trustees and directors who have recently gone through the search and hiring process. Insights gained from these sessions, and the work of her ad-hoc advisory group, will inform updates to the director search packet.

Some of the comments have included “the New Director Search packet was so helpful in guiding our search”; feedback on salary requirements to boards; clear communication about the process, including whom they will be interviewing with; and managing the process and news with staff. We will be launching a survey in June to directors and trustees. One surprising and helpful piece of information was about the role of the municipality, which is lacking in the current publication. Maura plans to reach out to a few municipal officials to interview them for the packet.

Paul Kissman, the state E-Rate coordinator for Massachusetts libraries, provided an overview of the **Emergency Connectivity Fund**, a part of the American Rescue Plan Act, on May 27. The Emergency Connectivity Fund provides over \$7.1 billion to the nation's schools and libraries to address the

"homework gap" for students and the connectivity gap for library users. Libraries will be able to purchase laptops and tablets for lending to patrons, mobile hotspots, or set up internet connections beyond the library's walls for use by library patrons. 100% of the cost of eligible equipment and services will be covered. ECF complements the longstanding E-Rate universal service program, but there are important variations in rules, process, and coverage.

MPLCP: Five newly built or renovated and expanded libraries will be opening in the next few months. MBLC library building specialists made site visits to Norwell, Sherborn, Grafton, and Littleton last week. Norwell is scheduled to open to the public on June 10; Sherborn and Grafton in late summer; and Littleton in the fall. Medford will also be opening this fall as the first stand-alone net-zero-ready library.

MBLC Office Reopening: The Governor has established a hybrid model of work for most office-based state employees for the future, which will enable us to achieve an appropriate balance of in-office and remote work. We are transitioning from most staff working fully remotely to a hybrid model over the summer, with an expectation that all employees will generally be working in the office three days and remotely two days a week after Labor Day. We anticipate holding our first in-person board meeting since last March in the MBLC office in September.