



Massachusetts Library Association Annual Meeting

May 24, 2022 - 8 am

Annual Conference

Cape Cod Resort and Conference Center, Hyannis, Mass.

AGENDA

1. Welcome Remarks - Joanne Lamothe, President, Massachusetts Library Association
2. Guest Speaker: Patty Wong, President, American Library Association
3. State of the State: James Lonergan, Director, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
4. Call to Order: Joanne Lamothe, President
5. Approval of May 19, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (ACTION)
6. President's Report: Joanne Lamothe
7. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of FY23 Budget: Bernadette Rivard, Treasurer (ACTION)
8. By Laws Change Proposal: Nora Blake, Past President
 1. Article IV - Officers (ACTION)
 2. Article V - Elections (ACTION)
9. Presentation of FY23 Slate of Officers: Nora Blake, Past President (ACTION)
10. Presidential Transition
11. Remarks by Incoming President Kim Hewitt
12. Adjournment (ACTION)

Massachusetts Library Association
Annual Treasurer's Report
2022

As of April 30, 2022, our income to date was \$119,904.61, expenses \$71,223.86, with a YTD positive balance of \$48,670.65. This does not include the \$21,579 in receivables for income, nor many conference expenses. We did budget \$5900 to be transferred from our cash reserves account into our operating account to make up for any shortfall, however, we are hopeful that that we will end this fiscal year in the black without using any cash reserves.

The good news is that by April 30th we had already exceeded our budgeted figure for membership dues, so thank you to all for you continued support of MLA.

Our second PPP loan was forgiven in 2021.

In the fall of 2021, when the performance of the stock market was volatile, the Investment Committee voted to move \$25,000 from our Investment Account into the Cash Reserves for three reasons: 1) protect some of the funds from losses, 2) rebalance the portfolio to meet our Investment Policy, and 3) have cash reserves available to meet operating expenses in the event the income did not meet the fiscal year expenses.

Fidelity Investment Account Summary

Fidelity Investment Accounts	8/7/19	5/6/2020	4/9/2021	4/30/2022
Cash Reserves	6,574.05	3,634.12	4847.72	29829.58
Investments	141,754.12	132,352.85	158,876.65	131,367.26
Total Fidelity Accounts	148,328.37	135,986.97	163,724.37	161,196.84

We anticipate continued challenges in FY2023. We have projected income at \$165,765 (this includes a potential transfer of up to \$9675.00) from cash reserves; and projected expenses of \$165,695.

I am thrilled that MLA has added an Assistant Treasurer to the Board and look forward to working with Sarah Breen in her new role in the upcoming fiscal year.

I would like to thank everyone on the Admin Committee and Executive Board, as well as Kristen Collins and Rebecca Beckley, for the cooperation during a continuing challenging time for MLA's finances.

Respectfully Submitted.

Bernadette Rivard
MLA Treasurer
May 5, 2022



Conference Committee Annual Report 2022

Conference:

Our first in-person conference since 2019 is scheduled for May 23 and 24 in Hyannis. To encourage attendance and as a budgetary move, we reduced the length of the conference from three to two days. As of May 11, there are 405 registrants, 37 exhibitors, and 11 sponsors. We also sold 6 ads and 1 promo item for insert in the conference swag bag. The theme of the 2022 Conference is “Turn the Tide”. This was initially our theme for 2020 and we felt it was appropriate to use in 2022. This year’s programs focus on many subjects that are affecting libraries across the state and country, including programs on self-care, censorship, low morale, and climate change. Our keynotes for the conference are John Chrastka, Executive Director, EveryLibrary, and Kaetrena Davis Kendrick, Researcher and Facilitator, Renewals.

To encourage networking, there is an optional Sunday bird-watching excursion planned and events on Monday evening. The Hall of Fame Awards will also be given out at the Monday evening dinner, when honorees from 2021—Michael Colford, Patience Jackson, and Greg Pronovitz— will be acknowledged.

Our post-conference survey will be compiled and we will report on that at the next Eboard meeting.

Planning for next year:

The Conference location and dates are still in the planning stages.

Submitted by,
Michelle Filleul, Conference Co-chair



Intellectual Freedom/Social Responsibility Committee FY22 Annual Report, May 2022

Fiscal year 2022 was busy as challenges ramped up in Massachusetts and nationally; we witnessed library materials, services, and programs weaponized in increasingly organized attacks. IF/SRC stepped up to support staff. The committee invested time attending professional development on challenges and spoke with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, Massachusetts Library System, and American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom consultants. The most frequent challenges are to school and public library youth collections, queer positive books programming, sexual education and anti-racist curricula and materials. Freedom of Information Act requests and social media campaigns are increasingly being used to complicate and strengthen challenges to libraries.

We helped craft the MLS Intellectual Freedom Libguide for libraries to respond to challenges- published in April of 2022- and are presenting a conference panel and guide on how to prepare and respond to challenges on behalf of MLA. We also fielded many media requests on this topic as well as other IF/SR related subjects. As public libraries and school boards update their collection development policies, we recommend language be added to limit who can mount a formal challenge to municipal residents or students, staff, and guardians of school districts. Our committee also recommends that MLA, MBLC, and MLS work together to strategize solutions and communicate them efficiently statewide.

In addition to supporting those fending off challenges, we helped mount our own to digital content provider Hoopla. Several Massachusetts librarians brought our attention to unvetted/fringe publishers on the platform providing dozens of titles filled with health misinformation, holocaust denial, anti LGBTQ + and white supremacist propoganda.

After consulting with multiple MA libraries, we helped arrange a meeting with a Hoopla representative at the PLA Conference in Portland, OR and arranged a session with a representative at the MLA conference. Progress has been made, but some questionable content is still on the platform. We recommend that libraries request vendors like Overdrive, Kanopy, and Hoopla provide collection development policies in the procurement phase.

A few highlight of this year's work include:

- Rebuilding membership and refocusing direction with a Networking and IdeaShare event
- Consulting with local libraries and media on Follett's proposed Destiny ILS update, granting guardians the ability to view and censor student's check-out transactions at school libraries-this update was suspended after hearing from librarians
- Consulting on a six-library material challenge to *Amazing Women of the Middle East: 25 Stories from Ancient Times to Present Day*
- Consulting on challenges and threats to Morrill Memorial Library's Pride events & staff
- Spoke with a reporter at the Boston Globe looking for an update on Everett's removal of an independent Board of Library Trustees in 2019

- Informed a reporter at WGBH about content on Hoopla, resulting in investigative reporting and an on-air and print story.
- Planning and implementing conference sessions:

IF/SRC is sponsoring and facilitating these conference sessions:

1. TikTok and Libraries: Let's Talk About It
2. Pronouns: A Guide for Library Staff
3. Blue Marble Librarians: Be the Change You Wish to See in the World!
4. Disasterology: Dispatches from The Frontlines of The Climate Crisis
5. Sex is a Funny Word: Handling Challenges to Materials and Programs
6. You Belong Here: or Why Being Inclusive is so Divisive
7. Is it Censorship or is it Collection Development?
8. Vendor Collection Development Failure and Recovery: A Conversation with Midwest Tape

Committee Roles:

- Chair: Andrea Fiorillo
- Co-chair: Stephanie Alexandra Barnaby
- Conference Committee Liaison: Clayton Cheever
- Intellectual Freedom Champions: Matt Amory and Susan Caulfield
- Legislative Committee Liaison: William Adamczyk
- MLS Liaison: Michelle Eberle
- Secretary: Annette Diola
- Social Planner: Annette Diola

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Fiorillo



Jordan Miller Committee Annual Report May 2022

The Jordan Miller Committee reviewed 40 applications for the \$500 Jordan Miller Mini-Grant and chose The Norwell Public Library in Norwell, MA.

The Norwell Public Library used the funding to hire Storyteller Len Cabral for “Stories with Len Cabral” on April 20th. They also created a Storywalk of Cabral's picture book *How the Rabbit Lost His Tail* and placed it outside the library for young patrons to enjoy.

The award was announced through the NERTCL state representatives in November.

This year preference went to Massachusetts libraries. Next year, preference will go to New England libraries outside of Massachusetts.

Pam McCuen of the Wayland Free Public Library and Amy Dorsheimer of the Nevins Memorial Library served on the committee this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Dorsheimer and Pam McCuen
Jordan Miller Committee Co-Chairs



Leadership and Management Section Annual Report May 2022

This year, LAMS hosted 4 section meetings (September, November, January, March) and saw growing attendance in each. Additionally, the administration team (Co-Chairs, Secretary, and Conference Committee liaison) met on the alternate months for purposes of planning the section meetings.

September and November meetings were open discussions among members, with November being more focused on issues relating to hiring gaps in libraries, particular focus on the opportunities provided to rethink policies and onboarding processes and employee retention.

January and March saw guest speakers at our section meetings. In January, we heard from Katie McCue of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA). She spoke about the MMA-Suffolk University graduate level program for a Certificate in Local Government Leadership and Management. In March, we met with Terry McQuown (MLS) and Doug Nathan (Doug Nathan Consulting) who spoke about professional development centered around leadership culture, cultural conflict and coaching.

LAMS looks forward to the coming year!

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Deedy, Co-Chair
Lynne Soukup, Co-Chair
Sarah Sullivan, Co-Chair



Legislative Committee Report Annual Report for 2021-2022

The Legislative Committee had a very productive year. The committee continued to meet remotely, but with a regular schedule, and with active subcommittees.

Major projects and accomplishments include:

- **MLA/MSLA Legislative Day Virtual Events**– April 5th, April 6th & April 7th
 - There were four different sessions representing Western, Central, Boston/South, and Boston/North. Legislators from the different regions, as well as from MLA, MSLA, and the MBLC spoke at each event. Over 65 members of the legislature attended at least one meeting. There was a total attendance of over 250, with the majority identifying as public librarians.
- **House 4120 (eBook Bill)** – Several members of LegCom have been involved in the discussion of H.4120. Jennifer Harris led several meetings of a stakeholders group, and worked with a smaller group within this to create a memo and recommended amendment language to share with Rep. Balsler. This group met again on March 31, 2022 to address finishing touches to the amendments. The bill is still in committee and will be reported out by June 1st. Rep. Balsler has communicated with the Attorney General’s Office for their feedback as well.
 - More information about the bill can be found on the MLA website.
- **FY23 State Budget** – The Governor’s initial budget was disappointing for libraries. We worked with MBLC and others to begin to reach out to the House and Senate about increasing funding for a number of MBLC lines.
- **Legislative Breakfasts** – The committee worked with several libraries and networks that hosted events this year. Some events have been in person, others hybrid or online.
- **MLA Annual Conference** - We believe that the Conference is an important opportunity to provide strong advocacy programming. New Library Directors are always coming on board and will need training. John Chrastka from EveryLibrary will be keynoting one of the days with an ‘Advocacy: Part Two’ session.
- **EveryLibrary partnership** – We continue to work with EveryLibrary on local issues. A subcommittee has been working on addressing other Massachusetts Legislation that affects libraries in the Commonwealth. We are working with the bill sponsors about how MLA can advocate for the individual bills.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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



ParaLibrarian Section ANNUAL REPORT May 2022

The Paralibrarian Section of the Massachusetts Library Association held six virtual meetings between, June 2021 and May 2022.

This Year's Highlights

Collaborating with Rebecca our MLA manager, to mechanize the PARA Certification process.

The Paralibrarian award committee received six nominations for the "MLA Paralibrarian Section Award for Outstanding Library Support Staff" and two nominations for "MLA Paralibrarian Section Award for Library Support Staff Advocate". (see attached) The executive board reviewed and voted on April 12, 2022. The winners and nominees will be recognized and announced at our Annual meeting on May 24, 2022.

The Section conferred PARA Certifications on ten Candidates from nine different libraries across Massachusetts. (see attached)

The proposed slate of officers on ballot for 2022/2023 for the Paralibrarian Section Executive Board are:

Annamarie McGrath, Chair

Desiree Zicko, Vice Chair

Valerie Gould Heithaus, Secretary

Geraldine Deyermond, Career Development Chair PARA Review Board

TBD Conference Committee

The election for board members will be at our annual meeting at the MLA Conference on May 24, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted:

Annamarie McGrath,

Chair MLA Paralibrarian Section

2022 MLA Paralibrarian Section

Award for Outstanding Library Support Staff Nominees

Patricia Lareau	Oxford
Abrera Delaney	Sandwich
Garrett Morin	Worcester
Melissa Meneses	Stoughton
Teresa Romeiro	Stoughton
Frances I Bausman	Yarmouth

2022 MLA Paralibrarian Section

Award for Library Support Staff Advocate Nominees

Brian Defelice	Scituate
Beth Gallaway	Grafton

2021-2022 PARA Certification recipients

Rebecca Boudreau	Level 1	Topsfield Town Library
Aila Colburn	Level 1	Merrimac Public Library
Meghan Kemp	Level 1	Eldredge Public Library (Chatham)
Yareli Schez Arenas	Level 1	Chelsea Public Library
Jennifer Finn	Level 1	East Bridgewater Public Library
Angela Howes	Level 2	East Bridgewater Public Library
Danielle Driscoll	Level 2	Tewksbury Town Library
Andrea Hogan	Level 2	Reading Public Library
Marilyn Wilcox	Level 2	Grafton Public Library
Cheryl Salem	Level 4	Parker Memorial Library (Dracut)



Personnel & Education Committee Annual Report

May 2022

New Focus and Goals – What is the Personnel & Education Committee?

The Personnel and Education Committee is in the process of refocusing their mission and brand. We are prioritizing the topics that are the most important to our members and have the greatest impact in our industry.

Our focus and goals for the future are:

- Diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Library Industry in MA
- Fair salaries for individuals within the Library Industry in MA
- Assisting MA Libraries and leadership with employment best practices
- Increasing collaboration with other established MA Library Networks (including, but not limited to MBLC, MLN, MLS) and MLIS Educational Institutes to help reach our goals

What We're Working On Right Now

Intellectual Freedom & Social Responsibilities: Diversity, equity, and inclusion has an immediate place within the conversation about book challenges and intellectual freedom & social responsibilities. The Personnel and Education Committee will work side by side with the MLA IFSR Committee to assist in anyway they can.

Regional Salary Study: The Personnel and Education Committee is representing the Massachusetts Library Association on a regional salary study that the New England Library Association hopes to accomplish in coming years. If successful, this study would provide benchmarking data for Library Directors and Trustees to use in negotiating higher salaries for employees across their organizations' hierarchal structures. This would also provide data points for individuals in salary negotiations. At a statewide (regional) level, this data would be used to provide minimum salary recommendations by region.

New Chair, MLA Members Join Our Committee!

Emelia Thibeault, Office Supervisor at Goodnow Library, took over the role of Personnel & Education Committee Chair in December of 2021.

With a background in Business, Customer Service and Human Resources, she is excited to work with Executive Board colleagues and MLA members to further the goals of the committee and the association at large.

Anyone interested in joining the committee or learning more, please contact Emelia at personnel@masslib.org. We look forward to working with you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Emelia Thibeault, Personnel & Education Chair



Program Planners Section Annual Report 2022

We are so pleased to have initiated an MLA Program Planners Section this year, approved by membership at the annual meeting in May 2021. As programming becomes more of a core service for libraries of all shapes, sizes, and makeups, we have been excited to take our collective knowledge and share it with MA librarians and library workers.

After being voted a section last May, we started meeting every other month. We broke the group into 3 individualized sections to cover children's, adults and teen programming, creating sub-committees for each, including the Program Planners Warrior group which has been working on programming best practices.

You can check out our [Bylaws and Mission](#), become a programming [Mentor/Mentee](#), donate to [support an LIS student](#) interested in programming, and/or attend our meetings.

We have been working with MLA leadership on creating a state-wide program planning database which we hope will benefit all libraries and librarians across the commonwealth.

In addition to bringing Section sponsored programs to MLA's annual conference, we are working on a stand-alone conference for the Spring or Fall of 2023, probably a performer's showcase for library programmers for all ages.

And, of course, we are committed to using a DEI lens for all of the programming and planning that we are doing.

Respectfully submitted by:

Meena Jain

Chair of the MLA PPS

mjain@minlib.net

Section officers for FY22-23

Robert Hayes

Vice-Chair of the MLA PPS

rhayes@tewksburypl.org

Ona Ridenour

Treasurer

Betsy Perry

Conference Committee Liaison

Heath Umbreit

DEI Liaison

Robin Brenner

Teen Programming Chair

Kate Tigie
Children's Programming Chair

Gabriela Toth
Adult Programming Chair

Ellen Meyers
Best Practices (aka Program Planning Warriors) Chair

Darshana Merchant and Ruby Vail
LIS Student Liaisons

Find all of our meetings on the [MLA calendar](#)



Public Relations Committee 2022 Annual Report

The Public Relations Committee focused energy on supporting committees' and sections' social media efforts for their specific audiences within MLA. A few sections formed group accounts under the MLA facebook umbrella. Other sections and committees now have the ability to broadcast their messaging through the MLA social media channels.

MLA PR Committee has spent a bit of time promoting the annual conference, the first in-person MLA conference in two years. In addition to social media, a conference edition newsletter was sent to the membership.

MLA PR Committee recognizes the work of former co-chair Andrea Puglisi and member Desiree Zicko for their work in preparing transition documents for both the PR Committee and the Association. We are grateful for their willingness to share their time and expertise so that the committee can evolve with its duties in assisting the Association.

MLA PR is grateful to the work and service of its committee members. We have a small team and everyone's role is critical to our success. We also thank all of our peers on the Executive Board for their support in our transitions and challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Tavares, MLA PR Chair
May 14, 2021



Reader's Advisory Section FY2022 Annual Report

The Reader's Advisory (RA) Section had a quiet year. We held four (mostly) bi-monthly meetings online via Zoom, combining business meetings with genre discussions.

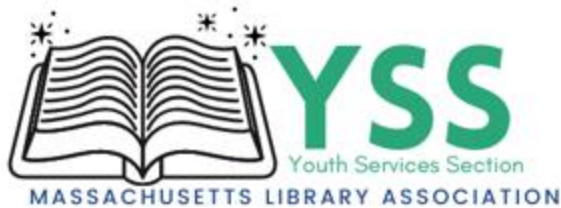
The RA Section's officers were: Pam Aghababian, co-chair; Anna Mickelsen, co-chair; Alene Moroni, Secretary and Treasurer; and Kristi Chadwick, Sisters in Crime New England liaison.

Our genre overviews have been a popular part of our meetings. This year, we discussed romance, genre blends, and fantasy, as well as other genres and titles that members have been reading. We are excited to be able to share our knowledge and learn from others during these conversations. We have begun posting our genre overviews on the MLA Youtube page and on the Reader's Advisory page on the MLA website.

With the support of LibraryReads, the Readers' Advisory section is delighted to be bringing Kaite Stover, Director of Readers' Services at the Kansas City Public Library, back to the annual conference for two exciting programs, both on the Monday of the conference. Book Groups are a Readocracy, which focuses on library book groups, will offer several great titles for future discussions, ideas to enliven existing book groups, resources for finding books, and tips on handling specific book group challenges. RA on the Fly will be offered by Kaite and RA section members to help attendees brush up on in-person readers' advisory skills.

We encourage MLA members who are interested in Reader's Advisory to consider joining this section, and we look forward to growing our membership in the coming year. Please reach out to us directly to be added to our mailing list or to ask questions at ra@masslib.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Aghababian and Anna Mickelsen, Co-Chairs



Youth Services Section Annual Report 2022

Board: Felicia O'Keefe (Chair, Westwood); Katrina Ireland-Bilodeau (Conference Committee Liaison, Northborough); Audrey Snowden (Secretary, Medway)

Regional Members at Large: Carol Gafford (Southeast, Swansea)

The Youth Services Section started having monthly meetings (instead of the usual bimonthly meetings) back in September 2021, virtually on Zoom. Zoom was a huge advantage and provided a space that youth services librarians all over the state could take an hour out of their day for a meeting, without the hindrance of travel. The monthly meetings helped the committee get back on track and figure out what our goals were for the next few months, since there was a lot of fluctuation over the past two years. These goals included a Lunch & Learn initiative and the continuation of our YSS newsletter.

Over the past year we have started a new Lunch & Learn initiative. We wanted to come up with an opportunity for youth librarians to share their knowledge with others as well as attend professional development from our peers in our own state. People might feel intimidated about presenting at conferences without having any previous experience doing something like this. Our goal was to have a virtual presentation on the off-months from meetings, by youth librarians around the state. We held our first one in March and hope to continue in the Fall again with more of these.

The Youth Services Section brought back their monthly newsletter *The Flyleaf*, as a quarterly newsletter. The name Flyleaf is a bookbinding term and refers to a blank sheet of paper at the beginning or end of a book that helps to reinforce the cover and body of the book. The newsletter is spearheaded by members of our board, but is filled with professional news, book suggestions, collection management ideas, and articles from fellow youth librarians across the state.

Please encourage your youth librarians to join us! In the past, we met bimonthly all over Massachusetts. We will continue to utilize zoom for our bimonthly meetings with potential in-person meetings quarterly. If you are interested in getting involved in any way please don't hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully submitted,

Felicia O'Keefe,
Youth Services Section Chair

Massachusetts School Library Association

MLA Annual Report May 13, 2022

1. School Library Advocacy:

Fall 2022:

- Senator Lesser and 35 other MA State Legislators signed MSLA letter to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Commissioner Riley requesting that DESE collect data through an annual census to determine where future investments are needed in school libraries. Based on MBLC survey showing that over 90% of parents/caregivers want their children to understand how to identify misinformation online, over 95% say that it's important/somewhat important for their children to develop research skills.
- Messaged that without a certified school librarian, students' only access to MBLC databases is via the public library and a majority are not.
- Riley's responded that a census would be too costly. Follow up letter indicated to DESE's Judy Marcella that only the number of school librarian counts in a given district is what was requested. No word to date.
- MSLA thank you campaign to legislators who signed the letter
- MSLA Leadership sent letters to MBLC, BPL & Boston Public Schools Leadership about school library support and the use of Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) Funds;
- BPS school committee unanimously passed [BPS Library Services Strategic Plan](#) and the Superintendent Cassellius committed to equitable access to a certified librarian, a school library and updated collections.
- MSLA Advocacy attended a DESE "Office Hours" about Student Learning Experiences or the amount of time students are with a teacher; school librarians are not included. Data is in [Edwin Analytics](#), but not public and a request through Marcella was not answered.
- Certified Librarian Data available in DESE Education Personnel Information Management System, which collects numbers of certified school faculty; MSLA can't access this. Continued lack of response regarding access to that data

Winter

- MSLA's Advocacy Chair established a **new** relationship with Heather Peske, DESE Senior Associate Commissioner. Dr. Peske presented at the MSLA annual conference on March 28 the DESE [Mass Literacy](#) initiative. They are open to working with MSLA the regarding effective school library programming library teachers offer school communities.
- MSLA Advocacy representative on

Spring

- Organizing Summer 2022 [MSLA Strategic Plan](#) revision
- [MSLA Annual Conference](#)

2. MSLA and Legislative Agenda:

Fall

- Solicited MSLA members to host legislative breakfasts. Two agreed, but had to pull out due to the Covid surge.
- Submitted written [MSLA testimon](#) supporting H4120, an Act Modernizing Library Access to Electronic Books and Digital Audio Books.

Winter

- At MBLC Legislative Event 2/11, Northampton PL Claudia Palframan, Dupont Middle School Library Teacher,,represented MSLA. Senator Anne Gobi asked about the status of the Senator Lesser letter to DESE ; reported out to attendees about this lack of support.Senator Gobi is willing to support policy changes including MSLA acquiring DESE data on the number of librarians in the state AND seeking legislation ensuring equitable access to school libraries and librarians. MSLA leadership is constructing a follow-up.

Spring

- Presented [MSLA Talking Points](#) at the four Legislative MSLA/MLA Days.

3. Every Library:

Fall

- John Chrastka provided numerous ideas to partner with DESE census idea including partnering with another unrepresented, DESE content area to get a .5 or .3 designated point person; gathering school librarian job descriptions; possible use of Case Studies based on the [Massachusetts School Library Study: Equity and Access for Students in the Commonwealth](#)
- Chrastka, “Eyes on the Prize for School Librarians -- Legislation requiring them statewide”
- All on hold except for job description.

Spring

- Advocacy is collecting job descriptions.

4. Intellectual Freedom:

Fall

- MSLA represented at ALA summit on challenges to libraries and staff. Plans to join MLA in efforts to support efforts to remove public libraries and schools ability to make their own decisions re: purchasing literature. MSLA board continued on with PD about this issue.

- Planned four events:
 1. Policy Basics
 2. Basics Follow Up / Town Hall & Role Plays & Resources for MSLA LibGuide
 3. Panel on book challenges experiences for Conference
 4. Book Discussion on [Controversial Books in K–12 Classrooms and Libraries: Challenged, Censored, and Banned by Randy Bobbitt](#).

Winter

- [Policy Basics: Protecting Intellectual Freedom](#) - 1/6/22
- Book Discussion - 1/12

Spring

- Panel Discussion at [MSLA Conference: You have a book challenge, now what? A panel discussion of experiences facing book challenges](#)
- Discussion and plan to work with MLA and MLS about this issue.

5. Digital Equity Act - Senator Markey

Spring

- Janet Freedman, retired Dean, Bridgewater State University Library & MSLA President, Jen Varney discussed *Securing Universal Communications Connectivity to Ensure Students Succeed (SUCCESS) Act* to leverage school library growth in MA and nationwide.

- Will be meeting with Benjamin Thomas of Senator Markey’s office on 5/26 to discuss. An editorial by Senator Markey, in [3/11, issue of Commonwealth Magazine](#), describes the act.