



Annual Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2019
Sheraton Conference Center, Framingham

Introduction -- William Adamczyk

State of the State--James Lonergan.

- Presentation on the state budget as it impacts libraries, as well as the IMLS budget.

Remarks from ALA Chapter Relations Office—Michael Dowling

Call to order: 8:20am

Motion to approve the minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting made by Diane Annunziato, seconded by Betty Johnson Colrane. All in favor.

President's Report—William Adamczyk

Good morning. I want to start by thanking you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as the president of MLA. I feel very fortunate to have gotten involved with MLA, to have been able to attend Executive Board meetings, and to have been involved in guiding our organization forward.

I hope I was able to put as much into MLA as I am able to take from it. MLA was an opportunity for me, but it is an opportunity for everyone working in Massachusetts libraries.

Here's my recruitment pitch. Join Us! MLA is the opportunity to meet with your peers, not just from your neighborhood, but from across the state. MLA is the opportunity to learn things and get new ideas, whether at conference or at a section meeting. MLA is an opportunity to advocate for libraries, the people, the buildings, the idea. MLA makes libraries better and makes us better. Join us.

This past year, MLA has done all of these things. Thank you to the sections and committees that make MLA run. Thanks to the chairs who take the time to recruit members and set agendas, and who serve on the Executive Committee. If you aren't ready to join a section, at least you've joined us here today. Next year, join us at the State House when our legislative committee plans a program where we are able to advocate for support from our legislators. So far this year, it has paid off.

This past year was a time to take stock and to move ahead. We put a strong focus on our strategic plan, making sure we were using it as a guide. We also had the opportunity to take stock in what we need from an association manager, when our previous manager left in late 2018. I am happy to introduce Rebecca Bleckley, who has hit the ground running and is taking the Association Manager position in a new direction with great ideas. We are looking forward to working more closely with a strong Association Manager.

A lot is happening. We are discussing new sections to meet growing needs of our members. The Paralibrian Section is working on cross state certification. We have a new archivist, Aimee Westphal, making sure we maintain our history. That is enough history for now, let's get on with the show.

Treasurer's Report (viewable on a presentation slide at the meeting, on paper, and in the online meeting packet):

- A bit of a challenging year getting finances moved from bank to bank and getting things in order.
- **Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report** by Charlotte Canelli, seconded by Krista McLeod. All in favor.

Presentation of FY2020 budget (viewable on a presentation slide at the meeting, on paper, and in the online meeting packet):

- We've changed the budget process internally to have a more standardized form for the sections and to streamline the process.
- We saw growth in income and expenses.
- **Motion to approve the FY2020 budget** as presented by Laura Bernheim, seconded by Diane Annunziato. All in favor.

Presentation of Slate of Officers:

- Nora Blake for Office of the Vice President/President Elect
- Bernadette Rivard for Treasurer Elect.
- **Motion to approve the slate of officers** for the Administrative Board made by Nanci Milone Hill, seconded by Maureen Ambrosino. All in favor.

Presentation of Reader's Advisory Section--Nanci Milone Hill

- June 7th will be the first organizational meeting.
- The core mission of the library has been to put the right book in the right hand of the right person at the right time. There are 4 reader's advisory roundtables throughout the state, but until now there hasn't been one place in the state for everyone to come together. Section Purpose: To champion and advance the practice of Readers' Advisory (RA) statewide by means of, but not limited to: providing educational opportunities and resources to libraries, librarians and all library workers; fostering and promotion of grants from organizations and institutions for purposes of furthering RA; and connecting writers and the library community.
- **A motion to approve the creation of the Reader's Advisory section** made by Kim Hewitt, seconded Laura Bernheim. All in favor.

Presentation of Leadership & Management Section--Kim Hewitt.

- We need a section that is committed to thinking about leadership and management. A lot of training focuses on hard skills instead of soft skills. 57% of surveyed librarians didn't plan to be management and only 11 out of 78 directors who responded received any extra training once becoming directors. This would also be a way to facilitate conversations. Section purpose: The purpose of this section is to provide a forum for ongoing conversations around leadership and management within libraries, to provide resources and promote lifelong learning to managers and to those who aspire to become managers within the Massachusetts Library Association.
- **Motion to approve the creation of the Leadership and Management section** made by Maureen Ambrosino, seconded by Kristy Lockhart. All in favor.

Presidential Transition—Esme Green

Glad tidings, fellow librarians! Thank you for being here.

Thank you, presenters. Conference this year has been exceptional; the quality of the programs you prepared and presented has been outstanding. Thank you for sharing your time, expertise, and stories with us.

Thank you, Administrative and Executive Board Members, for your efforts to maintain and sustain MLA. Your commitment keeps our association moving forward.

Special thanks to the MLA staff: Kristen Collins. You are amazing. You literally keep this crazy ship we call conference sailing smoothly ahead. Rebecca Beckley, thank you for jumping in during our busiest time of the year, and calmly bringing order to our administrative affairs.

Conference co-chairs and committee: You guys. My pack. You delivered another awesome conference. Thank you.

Will. I have loved working with you this year, and have been secretly taking notes on everything you do so that I don't screw it up.

Finally, MLA Membership: thank you. MLA would not exist without you. Your support and participation is so important, whether you serve on a committee or section, present a program, attend conference, or come together to network with each other.

There are a lot of exciting, important national conferences and associations out there. But this one is the one I prize the most. Not only has it supported my personal development in librarianship, but it's also the one that fights for our libraries--whether it is for adequate state budget lines, or the protection of our governing structures, as we are seeing in the city of Everett right now. Just this morning, Will and I received an email from a student at the Swampscott High School, whose student body is planning a walkout this Thursday to protest layoffs in the school library--and they want us to come and speak about the importance of libraries in the community.

We can and should hold our heads high for our work, our mission and our values. Every day we make lives better, we strengthen communities, we build social capital and resilience.

I am looking forward to a great year, working with our new officers, the entire board and staff. Our efforts will focus on creating a well-oiled machine, that functions smoothly and efficiently to promote library services and librarianship to our members across the Commonwealth.

I'll finish with a quote from Peter Block, which sums up how I feel about being your MLA president: "To be a citizen is to show up--to accept the invitation to participate, or to create it if it is not offered, to act as a co-designer...I am responsible for the health of the institution and the community even though I do not control it. I can participate in creating something I do not control." I believe that it is important to be a participant, and work towards the greater good. Thank you for this opportunity.

Motion to adjourn at 8:47am by Karen Tobin. All in favor.