



**Massachusetts Library Association
Annual Meeting
Minutes**

May 19, 2021 at 9:00am
Virtual Meeting

Special Guest Speaker – Julius C. Jefferson, Jr., ALA President.

“Your work matters. I want to thank you all for the difference you are making.”

State of the State – James Lonergan, MBLC.

We welcomed three new commissioners this year, have a new strategic plan and moved to a new office. The FY21 budget was much better than expected, with additional monies; FY22 is focused on state aid and is asking for an additional \$1 million. Debate on the current budget looks positive and should mainly fund our lines, and should be finalized by July 1st. Other federal funding has been largely aimed at e-content support and is looking at creating a hotspot lending program.

Presentation of 2020 Hall of Fame winners – Jocelyn Tavares, PR Committee

The winners are: Michael Colford, Director of Library Services at BPL; Patience Jackson, Former Library Building Consultant: Mass Public Library Construction Program; Greg Pronevitz, Director of Outreach, Mass School Library Association

Call to order at 9:50am

A motion to approve the June 11, 2020 Annual Meeting minutes made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

President’s Report – Nora Blake.

It has been an incredibly challenging year in a host of ways. The disruption from the pandemic had deep impacts on the personal and work lives of everyone. MLA experienced challenges on many levels as well. We were forced to cancel our 2020 conference entirely, resulting in a major loss of revenue for the organization. We applied for and received Paycheck Protect Program funding from both the first, CARES Act, and the second, American Rescue Plan Act, pieces of legislation. These two infusions of funding combined with some withdrawals from our investments allowed MLA to retain our two excellent employees and continue to function as we had been.

Our entire Executive Board worked to continue to advocate on behalf of funding for libraries and protections for library workers throughout the year. Libraries have been challenged to reformulate their services, their workplaces and their funding to meet the challenges of the last year and MLA did everything we could to support their work.

I am so grateful for and amazed by the dedication of all our Committee and Section leaders and the rest of the volunteer leaders who help advance the work of our organization. People kept showing up for meetings and contributing meaningful help and ideas! Legislative Committee developed and executed two Virtual Library Legislative Day multi-day events over the last 15 months. Our Youth Services, Reader's Advisory, and Reference and User Services, Paralibrarian, and Leadership and Management Sections all continued to offer meetings and discussion opportunities for their members. Our PR Committee developed newsletters and maintained our social media channels to keep our members informed of our work.

And of course, our incredible Conference Committee worked hard throughout the year to develop the fantastic programming that you have been enjoying since Monday. This dedicated group of volunteers has given us so much energy and creativity over the years and we couldn't be more grateful.

Rebecca Beckley, our Association Manager, and Kristen Collins, our Conference Director, have continued to work hard for us to keep driving MLA forward. They are both superstars and MLA is unbelievably lucky to have both of these women on our team!

Finally, I want to say a giant THANK YOU to Esme Green. Esme has given a seemingly endless number of years of volunteer time to MLA. Even though she will be leaving the administrative work of MLA behind her, I am happy that she will not be leaving MLA's leadership entirely. Esme is the ALA Chapter Councilor for MLA and will occupy that position for at least another year for us. She might even get to go to an in-person ALA Conference for us before her term is up!

It is the dedication and generosity of the staff and all the volunteer leaders of MLA that has given me the energy to keep working for MLA and all of our members. We have a great team and we've been able to work together to get through a really difficult time.

Thank you.

Motion to accept the President's Report made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Bernadette Rivard.

This has been a very difficult year. We had no idea that COVID would go on this long and that our budget would not be what it should be. Our membership has nearly been met. Good news, considering the climate. The stock market has been our life saver with our investment portfolio. We think our budget will be feasible for 2022.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

Presentation of FY22 Budget

Our proposed budget is a little different than it was the previous year. We are only projecting a profit of \$300. We are hopeful the conference will exceed last year's budget.

Motion to accept the FY22 budget made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

New Business:

- **Proposal of changes to the By-Laws**— Ellen Rainville

Just two changes—we are adding the office of Treasurer Elect who will be mentored by the Treasurer. The second is a housekeeping change to make sure that the Administrative Board is referred to as Administrative Committee from here forwards.

Motion to approve the changes to the ByLaws as proposed made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

- **New Program Planners Section** – Meena Jain

Myself and a group of programming librarians have put this proposal together to create a cohesive statewide database of programming. After this difficult year, programming felt like such a core service, taking what we knew before COVID and incorporating what we learned on how to expand and extend programming made this section seem like a natural next step.

Motion to approve the new Programming Section made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

- **Strategic Plan FY2022-2025**—A survey was put out this summer to gather information and we crafted a plan that is a balance of aspiration and ways to strengthen our organization. The intention is for this to take effect July 1 of this year and run through June 20 of 2025. We apologize that this plan did come together late.

Motion to approve the Strategic Plan made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

- **Presentation of the slate of officers**—Esme Green.

I want to thank everyone who put their names forward and I encourage anyone here who is not already involved to get involved. Great opportunity to meet other people and contribute to advocacy statewide. For Treasurer is Bernadette Rivard who has been the director of Bellingham for thirteen years. She has served three times in MLA and this is her second term in this position. And introducing Kim Hewitt as the Vice President/President Elect. She is the Head of Circulation at Waltham Public Library. She petitioned to start LAMS successfully and is a member of the Conference Committee. Note the slide shown to the group mistakenly had Esme's name instead of Bernadette Rivard's on it. No nominations from the floor were put forward. This report serves as a motion to the members present.

Motion to accept the slate of officers made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe. All in favor.

Presidential transition –Nora Blake

We welcome Joanne Lamothe as our new President.

Remarks by Incoming President – Joanne Lamothe

Shout out to Nora for her calm and steady leadership this year. And to Esme. We'll make the fun up to you next year. Echo the thanks to everyone who contributed this year. Very honored to accept the presidency this year. It's been a wild ride. No one ever talked about what we were going to face this past year. Crisis management back in the day seems so insignificant. We need to connect more than ever. Re-engage our users. We need to connect with like-minded people. I encourage each and every one of you to participate in the work and the camaraderie of MLA. Reach out to become part of this team.

Motion to Adjourn the annual meeting at 10:19am made by Kim Hewitt and seconded by Joanne Lamothe.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Boc
MLA Secretary