

## Attendees

Susan McAlister, Krista McLeod, Tressa Santillo, Jennifer Harris, Tim Spindler, Greg Pronevitz, Mary Rose Quinn, Charlotte Canelli, Nanci Milone-Hill

**Phone:** Kathy Lowe, Sharon Shaloo, Steve Spohn

- **State Budget Update (MBLC)**

Mary Rose spoke. Amendments were taken up in the House for education and local aid. The House Ways and Means funded MBLC, Perkins and Worcester. Funding amendment for the Center for the Book. All told there is an increase of \$904,642. Senate Ways and Means tries to finish by Memorial Day.

- **Engage alerts**

Susan tried something new this time and sent the Engage alert through the MLA Wild Apricot with the help of Laurie Lessner. Members got a personalized message. Susan also mentioned that ALA loaded ALA members that reside in MA into our Engage database creating a large number of duplicates. Many may not have opted in. Susan was able to work with someone at ALA to fix some of these issues. Another issue raised about local town officials being inaccurate.

- **Conference program (Greg, Jennifer)**

Jennifer and Greg lined up Jason Tate (Communications), Bernadette Rivard (Bellingham) talking on CMLA, and Andrea Bernard (Charlemont) on local library advocacy efforts. Committee fair on Tuesday at 5:20. They are looking for committee reps to be there. Susan volunteered to staff the “booth” for LegCom.

- **Debrief Legislative Day (Tressa and Jennifer)**

Jennifer and Tressa provided notes on the day with some suggested changes. Set up a pre registration day webinar. Refer to registration as check in on LegDay.

- **Statement on Net Neutrality (Jackie)**

*The Massachusetts Library Association (~~MLA~~) opposes the FCC’s plan to repeal all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order. Net Neutrality\* is essential to intellectual freedom, guaranteeing the right to communicate, seek information, and engage in commerce via the internet without limitations or discrimination. A healthy democracy requires that all citizens have access to information from many sources representative of diverse viewpoints. American democracy will be seriously compromised if the FCC repeals all protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order with no plans to replace it with any enforceable rules.*

\*See [ALA’s Definition of Net Neutrality](#)

\_\_Do we need net neutrality definition? See [ALA’s Definition of Net Neutrality](#)

*“Network neutrality is the concept of online non-discrimination. It is the principle that consumers and citizens should be free to get access to—or to provide—the Internet content and services they wish, and that consumer access should not be regulated based on the nature or source of that content or service. Information*

*providers—which may be websites, online services, etc., and who may be affiliated with traditional commercial enterprises but who also may be individual citizens, libraries, schools, or nonprofit entities—should have essentially the same quality of access to distribute their offerings. "Pipe" owners (carriers) should not be allowed to charge some information providers more money for the same pipes, or establish exclusive deals that relegate everyone else (including small noncommercial or startup entities) to an Internet "slow lane." This principle should hold true even when a broadband provider is providing Internet carriage to a competitor."*

Susan will send Jackie Rafferty our suggested changes and ask that the IFSRC adopt the statement at their next meeting and forward along to Alex Lent, MLA President. The statement will need to be approved by the MLA EXEC committee. We hope that this can occur later in the week of April 30<sup>th</sup> in time for National Legislative Day.

- **Ballot questions( Sales tax, Millionaire tax) - how we/do we support these questions (ALL)**

Do we want to weigh in on ballot initiatives? There is a proposed reduction in the sales tax. The millionaire's tax is a proposed ballot measure but there is a current legal case related to this proposal. We might want to look at what the teachers unions are doing on this. In the past, we cooperated with the teachers on past ballot issues. We will review the wording of the ballot positions. Discuss at the June meeting.

- **Old Business**

- **Grassroots Meeting**

Greg explained that the subcommittee tried to get some of the trustees and friends group to be more effective but there wasn't a lot of energy from these groups. Therefore, we are recommending to provide the grassroots groups with materials and support for grassroots efforts. MBLC wants to try and rebuild the Trustees group that has been less active in recent years. Part of the issue is that directors aren't taking an active role in advocacy and working with their trustees and friends groups.

Use a report or checklist to encourage participation. There was a discussion about a document that Steve Spohn had developed last year. Steve is resending the document.

- **New Business**

- Krista asked if we need to do a Candidate's Questionnaire. There are a difficulties with the timing of gathering the information. This would be for candidates of state office. This is more for a tool about educating candidates and less about measuring candidates responses. The questionnaire in the past consisted of about 5 questions. It was difficult to get a list of candidates. This needs to go out in the summer to cover the primaries. Office of Campaign and Political Finance may be the best place to get the list of the candidates. Krista feels it is important that we are present before they get elected. It is also

important to build that relationship with those who aren't elected because they may be town officials or run again. This will be put on the next agenda.

**Next Meeting June 15 in Methuen**