

MLA Legislative Committee  
Meeting Minutes - 4/26/19  
MLS - Marlborough

Meeting Start: 10:10 a.m.

Present: Margaret Cardello, Jayme Viveiros, Greg Pronevitz, Michael Moran, Charlotte Canelli, Steve Spohn, Tressa Santillo, Marnie Warner (guest)

- 2/22/19 minutes were approved.

**Uniform Electronic Materials Act (UELMA) Update** (Guest Marnie Warner, Law Librarians of New England (LLNE) Government Relations member)

- Law librarians are trying to get the Uniform Electronic Materials Act (UELMA) in MA
  - Background: “Official” state documents are now online only instead of print in other states
  - 19 states have already passed this
  - UELMA would provide guidelines on HOW to do this (not WHAT to digitize in MA):
    - Authenticated - to determine that it can't be altered (Minnesota is the lead here)
    - Preserved for the future
    - Accessible to the public on a permanent basis (but doesn't have to be free)
- MLA has endorsed similar legislation in the past - looking for endorsement again
- Also, LegComm should alert the Legislative Library Caucus to get it on their radar
- **LegComm Action:** MLA LegComm voted to recommend MLA support of UELMA (Margaret initiated the motion, Charlotte seconded it - the motion passed, all in favor); co-chairs will bring this to eBoard

**MBLC Update** (Mary Rose/Jennifer)

- House Ways and Means
  - MLA Legcomm/MLA sent letter to House Ways & Means
- House Amendments
  - MLA members/library community at large contacted legislators
  - Check the status of amendments (including earmarks):  
<https://malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2020/HouseDebate/Amendments/7000-9>
- Next up: Senate (process will repeat the same way, timing is mid-May)
  - Plan to use Engage for senate budget vote/amendments
    - Try to get list from Sen. Lesser for additional senators to sponsor amendments (Jennifer/Michael)

### **Library Legislative Day Post Mortem (Tressa/Jayme)**

- Exhibits Showcase
  - Went well considering new space but did have an impact on the success (did it really work to showcase libraries with legislators?)
  - Showcase adds to energy of the day
  - Way to encourage end users to attend? (Invite Friends and Trustees next time)
- MLTA and Friends Meetups - appeared to go well, would try something similar next year
- PR/Social Media/#supportMALibraries - this hashtag doesn't expire
- General review and follow up survey
  - Survey
    - Sent to 250ish attendees; 76 respondents
    - 86% visited their legislators
    - Reasons for not meeting: legislators not available, recently met or contacted legislators, participating in other activities of the day, ran out of time
    - Feedback: Positive - event well organized, pleasant experiences with legislators/aides, attendees felt well informed; Negative - not enough tables for lunch, showcase (bad location, not enough libraries)
  - General Review
    - WMLA group meetings went really well
    - Dedicate a meeting just for Leg Day (and breakfasts) review
      - Hire a facilitator to have a thorough discussion about LegDay planning
      - Bring in legislators - what do they think is most effective?
      - Invite members from CMLA, WMLA, MLA eBoard, MSLA
      - EveryLibrary webinar ahead of Lib Leg Day
      - Grassroots efforts - should MLA LegComm invest more time facilitating small groups talking to legislators?
      - Potentially develop "Educational plan" related to run up to LegDay
    - Opportunity for schools to get more in synch with legislative agenda and for schools to get more in synch with public libraries

### **MSLA Update (Greg)**

- MSLA met with DESE again along with James Lonergan of MBLC. We shared our two short-term priorities, i.e., assign responsibility for school libraries to a DESE staff member and conduct a thorough census/audit of school libraries, school library staff, and services as first steps in implementing the recommendations of the Special Commission on School Library Services.
- We are working to arrange a visit from DESE Commissioner Riley to a highly performing school library.

- We are requesting meeting with Jt. Cte on Education to seek implementation of the Special Commission's recommendations.

### **Engage Update** (Steve & Tressa)

- Engage demo using House Amendment mockup text as example
- Michael is offering to help draft future texts for Engage
- MLA Legislative Alerts Plan
  - Drafts will be shared with MLA LegComm for comment (use reply all) by deadline
  - Chairs will approve messages
  - Text will be added into Engage and sent
- Database cleanup
  - "False" advocates cleanup expected by 4/29
  - Boston area ZIP code problem - also being fixed soon

### **WMLA Update** (Mike)

- Idea Share breakfast - May 2 at 9AM at Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton

### **CMLA Update** (Margaret)

- CMLA Trivia Night Fundraiser - April 26 at 7PM at American Legion Post 2, Barre

### **Old Business**

#### **MLA Conference Program** (Jennifer)

- 5/20 Mon 10:30-11:30 (all committee members should plan to attend)
  - Program: "Meet and Greet Your Library Legislative Committee and Library Caucus"
  - Town hall style - State reps will be attending along with Roland Ochsenbein
  - MLA LegComm members should attend the session if possible
  - Opportunity for attendees to ask questions of legislators

### **New Business**

- Everett Update (Will)
  - Mayor moved to remove Board of Trustees as main governing body of library and the measure passed
  - MLA is spreading word of the importance of Board of Trustees and for people to pay attention to town laws regarding this issue
  - State law re: towns must have Board of Trustees (not cities) - bring to attention of library caucus?
- Charlotte is stepping down from co-chair of LegComm but will still be on LegComm and will still be MLA Councillor for MA
- Should there be another co-chair? Will discuss at June meeting.
- MLA LegComm email list

- MLA should implement Google Apps
- New schedule for FY20 (Jennifer)
  - Will bring to June meeting

#### **FYI & Other**

- ACLU “Lobbying 101” workshops around the state happening now:  
<https://action.aclu.org/webform/ma-lobby-day-training>
- Have a school librarian join MLA LegComm?
- Have MLA members do a session at MSLA area groups? (Start with WMLA/west)
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  - MLA should implement Google Apps

Meeting Adjourned: 12:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 28 from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. at Minuteman, Natick.