

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 04/17/2020
Online/Virtual

Meeting Start: 10:02 a.m.

Present: James Lonergan, Mike Moran, Becky Plimpton, Sarah Sogigian, Will Adamczyk, Jennifer Harris, Catherine Halpin, Noreen O’Gara, Greg Pronevitz, Jeanette Lundgren, Eileen Dyer, Tressa Santillo, Mary Rose Quinn, Kimberly Lynn

- 02/21/20 minutes were approved.

MBLC Update (Mary Rose, James)

- Budget
 - FY2021 Legislative Agenda:
<https://mblc.state.ma.us/about-us/legislative-agenda.php>
 - Interactive website: <http://mbclclegislativeagenda.com/>
 - State aid is the priority
 - State has to rework revenue projections for rest of FY20 and FY21 (going to look different than governor's original budget)
 - How do we keep libraries in the minds of legislators during these difficult budget cuts
 - Still advocate for state aid but adapt talking points
 - Rich assortment of online content that is available
- Construction Bond
 - Actual construction on library projects - deemed non-essential at the moment
 - Still waiting for bond bill to pass
- 3 State Aid discussions going forward next week - libraries are asking lots of questions about eligibility in light of current conditions
- MBLC Commissioners put out statement on library closures
- Working with MLS to have discussions about libraries wanting to reopen safely
- \$30M of the \$50M of IMLS funds will be released soon as part of CARES act (\$622,000 coming to MA)
- “Dear Colleague” letter in Congress now for an additional \$2B but no updates on that
- Work continues on MBLC strategic budget
- “Regular” IMLS budget - generally still on track

MLS Update (Sarah)

- Delivery is suspended
 - Working with Optima and network admins to work out pickups and dropoffs
 - Materials safety is a concern - working w/Evan Knight & MBLC on this

- Materials in warehouses now haven't been touched since shutdown (mid-March)
- Reopening delivery is dependent on when libraries reopen
- MLS and MBLC working on guidelines for reopening libraries will include input from the networks

Library Legislative Day REBOOT

- No plans to reschedule event in the immediate future
- Ideas
 - Online "webinar" w/library legislative caucus (150 max)
 - Divide into different sessions
 - Have a few speakers (MBLC, MSLA, etc.) with adapted talking points
 - Follow up would be in Engage
 - Have a session on how to use Engage
 - Sessions could be co-sponsored by advocacy groups (WMLA, CMLA, MSLA, etc.)
 - Committee: Jennifer, Catherine, Greg, Becky, Will, Mike
 - **Meeting - Apr. 23 at 11am**
 - Timing - early/mid-May

MSLA Update (Greg)

- MSLA has been involved in many activities surrounding the COVID-19 crisis because of all schools closing until May. Can be used for online content.
- The [Virtual School Librarian](#) LibGuide was launched by the MSLA Advocacy Team, in collaboration with MBLC, MLS, and BPL. It provides links to statewide online content, BPL e-card info, and a new **Ask a School Librarian** online form designed to serve schools that lack a school librarian.
- Virtual "**Work Alike**" meetings are scheduled weekly for middle school and high school librarians to network.
- We postponed and now, plan to reschedule our **2020 Conference, "We can do it: School libraries build strong communities,"** which was planned for March 29-30 at the Sheraton in Framingham.
- **Weekly updates** began this week and are planned for the duration of the crisis.

WMLA Update (Mike)

- The legislative breakfast sponsored by WMLA at the new East Forest Park branch of the Springfield Public Library on March 6 attracted an impressive turnout, including Senators Eric Lesser and James Welch, and four Springfield representatives. I was delighted to speak for WMLA and to reconnect with a former Bay Path colleague, who spoke as a Springfield library user. The facility itself was amazing, and the legislators were especially enthusiastic about celebrating how these concrete results of their support are now benefiting their constituents.

- A number of WMLA library reps attended the legislative breakfast sponsored by CMLA at the nearby Monson Free Library on March 9. None of the legislators invited could be there, but I enjoyed catching up with Senator Anne Gobi's supportive aide Lucas McDiarmid, who grew up in my home town of Palmer.
- Our cancelled March meeting was to have featured special guest Terry McQuown, MLS Consulting and Training Services Director. We'll reschedule him at a future meeting.
- This year's annual WMLA Idea Share breakfast at the Blue Bonnet Diner in Northampton has been cancelled on the original date of Thursday, April 30, 2020, but we hope to reschedule it in June.
- At our February meeting we began discussing outreach soon to cultural sites and organizations in the western part of the state who would renew or initiate sponsorships for the statewide 2020 summer reading program.

CMLA Update (Marie, Becky)

- CMLA board met on 4/16
- Remaining grant funds are unrestricted - figuring out what to do (hotspots, newspaper ads, online trainings, purchasing Zoom accounts)
- Concerns over delivery, town budgets, and coordinated openings
- Investigating zooming with state reps
- Annual trivia night with Sen. Gobi has been move to the fall

Academic Libraries Advocacy Update (Amy)

- Announcements about statewide budgets should go to [ACRL New England](#) and [BLC](#)
- Since most academic librarians in Massachusetts also reside in a town or city in Massachusetts, they are concerned with the library in their own locality and would be eager to advocate if they are given a standard letter/or a few sentences

Engage Activity(Will)

- MLA legislative alerts: <http://cqrcengage.com/alama/?0>
- Loose calendar for legislative actions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVjtvGUSENh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit
- See the MLA website for up to date info
- Need 2 new messages
 - Get legislators to attend the new "Legislative Day"
 - Message to send after phone call
- Something else - libraries strong - #supportMAlibraries

Old Business

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- Stay tuned while new plans for Legislative Day Online Event

Macmillan/Amazon/OverDrive/eBooks Update (Jennifer)

- Macmillan went back to its original lending models
- Lynda.com no longer requires complicated account signup

Library Breakfasts

- Hoping to add tracking info for FY21 events
- Breakfasts on March 6 & 9 - good job!

MLA Conference Advocacy Program Update (Jennifer & Greg)

- Cancelled due to conference being cancelled

New Business

- **FY21 Committee Member Update and Schedule**
 - Let Jennifer know if you want to stay on or drop off the committee
 - Jennifer will have tentative FY21 meeting dates ready for next meeting

FYI & Other

- National Library Legislative Day also cancelled
- Legislators need to hear from us especially for jobs & career help

Meeting Adjourned: 11:38 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, May 1, 2020: 10am-11am - virtual (new)

Friday, June 19, 2020: 10am-12pm at MLS - Marlborough