

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 01/16/20
Minuteman Library Network, Natick

Meeting Start: 10 a.m.

Present: Noreen O’Gara, Will Adamczyk, Catherine Halpin, Jennifer Harris, Tressa Santillo, Jeanette Lundgren, Mike Moran, Greg Pronevitz, Amy Lewontin, Marie Letarte, Eileen Dyer, Mary Rose Quinn

- 11/22/19 minutes were approved.

MBLC Update (Mary Rose via Jennifer)

- Budget
 - FY2021 Legislative Agenda (paper) is out and circulating
 - Governor’s State of the Commonwealth is on 1/21
 - Governor’s budget due out on 1/22
 - MBLC packet for legislative breakfasts includes the FY21 Agenda and other handouts about funding to libraries
(<https://mblc.state.ma.us/about-us/legislative-agenda.php>)
- Construction Bond
 - Bond bill is in House Ways & Means now (150M being considered at this point; asking for 25M cap)
- National Library Legislative Day - Jennifer and others are going to attend

MLS Update (Sarah)

- Please let MLS know (Sarah S.) about upcoming legislative breakfasts and events so an appropriate staff member will be able to attend and speak at the event

Library Legislative Day (Tressa, Catherine, Jayme)

- Date is April 2, 2020
- Room 222 is reserved
- Call for the showcase went out on Jan. 11 (submissions due Feb. 12)
- Registration will open on Feb. 12
- Invitation to legislators is ready - what do we need to do to send it out?
- Schedule of events:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zQ_TKWvVAWFsDIV9vS9boT5uWvV9O5WAjAR3LCFY92I/edit?usp=sharing
- Next steps: finalizing the schedule, checking on the reserved spaces, assembling the speakers

- WMLA (\$400) & CMLA (\$200) contributions for Legislative Day - thank you!
- Registration form - need question about making your own appointment
- Contact people who attended last year (Wild Apricot)
- Legislator invitation - send to Mary Rose when finalized

MLA Legislative Committee FY2021 Budget (Jennifer)

- LegComm budget ready to be submitted to MLA E-board

MSLA Update (Greg)

- MSLA Annual Conference, We can do it! School libraries transform communities, on March 29-30 will include an event on March 30: School Library Advocacy in 2020. We will also be encouraging members to send an email, perhaps via Engage, we're working with Tressa, to their legislators to support the Library Legislative Agenda and, hopefully, a specific ask for school libraries.
- We're working with Tressa and the Legislative Day Planning Committee to arrange for school librarians to join the delegations and invite a few to attend remotely.
- We are developing a strategy to reach out to Board members of the Dept. of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) to share the Special Commission's recommendations and MSLA priorities.
- Legislative Breakfasts. We're encouraging MSLA leadership to attend breakfasts and seeking opportunities to present and distribute handouts. We're planning two school library breakfasts in Feb/Mar in Dorchester and S. Dennis.
- School legislative breakfasts - March 27 (South Dennis); Dorchester (TBD)

WMLA Update (Mike)

- WMLA is sponsoring the following legislative breakfasts this year:
 - January 31 (Friday, 8:00 am): Monterey Public Library (Senator Adam Hinds)
 - February 14 (Friday, 8:00 am): Holyoke Public Library (Former Senator Donald Humason)
 - February 21 (Friday, 7:30 am): Leverett Library (Senator Jo Comerford)
 - March 6 (Friday, 9:00 am): Springfield City Library, (new) East Forest Park Branch (Senators Eric Lesser & James Welch)
- Since the following legislative breakfast sponsored by CMLA overlaps with WMLA territory, we'll support it with a financial contribution:
 - March 9 (Monday, 8:00 am): Monson Free Library (Senator Anne Gobi)
- This year's annual WMLA Idea Share breakfast will be held at the Blue Bonnet Diner in Northampton on Thursday, April 30, 2020. More details will be shared when discussion topics are finalized and a flyer is developed.

CMLA Update (Marie via Jeanette)

- Legislative breakfasts: Feb. 14 - Southborough; Feb. 21 - Leicester; Feb. 28 - Dudley; March 6 - Clinton; March 9 - Monson
- CMLA is donating \$ for Library Legislative Day
- Upcoming programs at Gardner (Fake News & how to spot it) and Ayer (Active Bystander training)

Engage Update (Will)

- MLA legislative alerts: <http://cgrcengage.com/alama/?0>
- Next steps - targeting House Ways & Means
- Loose calendar for legislative actions: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVjrtVGUSeNh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit

Old Business

Recruiting New Members (Jennifer)

- Welcome Noreen from Minuteman! Welcome Amy from Northeastern!
- Still working on representation from NOBLE and MVLC

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- No new updates

Macmillan/Amazon/OverDrive/eBooks Update (Jennifer)

- KKR purchased OverDrive from Rakuten - what does this mean for us?

MLA Conference Advocacy Program Update (Jennifer & Greg)

- Noreen is the shepherd for the session!
- Session is on the same day as connecting w/local officials session

New Business

ALA State Legislative Days (Jennifer)

- ALA level of what's going on in the states (see notes below on Legislative Review session Eileen attended)

Legislative Breakfasts/Events Update

- Do members of the MLA LegComm speak at legislative breakfasts? Not typically but could be local to your own area. Also events go quickly and you don't want to repeat yourself but you can introduce yourself as a member of various groups.
- No breakfasts in metrowest scheduled at this time
- How to get new directors to do breakfasts, especially in central area? Connect w/CMLA and also WMLA
- New breakfast - Feb. 28 Danvers (9 or 10am?) ?

FYI & Other

- Tressa attended *Building Relationships with Legislators: How to Work with State Legislators for Greater Shared Impact* sponsored by the Community Foundation of Western MA with Sen. Jo Comerford & Rep. Aaron Vega
 - Takeaways - the budget cycle is not a linear process; aides are just as good as getting the legislator (if not better sometimes!); for the budget, phone calls and letters are more impactful than emails; library legislative breakfasts and events are working to get legislators to support the library budget lines; legislators should be more transparent about earmarks and how they're used (discrete projects not for ongoing funding)
- Eileen attended ALA's *Legislative Review* webinar
 - ALA asked states to share their current legislative agendas:
 - Received replies from 25 state (including MA)
 - Results
 - funding for state resources (16)
 - funding for state aid (14)
 - school libraries/school librarians (11)
 - funding for state library (8)
 - funding for capital funds (6)
 - net neutrality (4)
 - also: academic libraries; ebooks; intellectual freedom; governance; taxing authority
 - CQ Engage:
 - Two states -- [Missouri](#) and [New Hampshire](#) -- shared their CQ Engage sites as good examples.
 - ALA suggests Five Things to Do Now (CQ Engage)
 - Confirm system administrators & contact info
 - Update your advocate database
 - Publish your advocacy priorities
 - Post your legislative day
 - Prepare templat
 - Keep in mind you may have to address adverse legislative issues too
 - Deborah Caldwell-Stone ALA OIF
 - Some national trends adverse to libraries
 - Legislation targeting controversial library materials and/or programs: Bills eliminating legal defenses that protect librarians and educators from prosecution under obscenity laws, or that allow patrons to sue librarians or educators

- Bills creating parental oversight bodies designed to supplant library board and override library staff collection decisions, and that criminalize the loaning of mainstream materials
 - Bills creating unfunded mandates that require background checks on persons who have contact with minors
 - Bills that propose onerous pay to access filtering requirements
 - Bills that require filtering in libraries in order to obtain state library aid ("Mini-CIPAs")
 - Bills eliminating the requirement of a court order before providing law enforcement library record
 - "Campus Free Speech Laws"
 - "Religious expression in schools" laws, i.e. certain Bible electives have to be offered; also concern with collection development in these schools
- Article in CLAMS area re: people wrote in why they love their library

Meeting Adjourned: 12:07 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, 2/21/20 at **11 AM** MLS, Marlborough (moved up one hour due to legislative breakfasts)