

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 7/26/19
MLS-Marlborough

Meeting Start: 10:15 a.m.

Present: Jennifer Harris, Catherine Halpin, Greg Pronevitz, Will Adamczyk, Eileen Dyer, Mary Rose Quinn, Tressa Santillo

- 6/28/19 minutes were approved.

MBLC Update (Mary Rose)

- Budget
 - Conference committee was late but library budget lines are looking great (committee took the higher of the recommended amounts in most cases and the total budget for the library lines received an extra \$1M overall attributed to the Library Technology & Resource Sharing line)
 - \$158,000ish total amount in earmarks
 - As of this date, the budget is awaiting approval from the governor (10 days to take action)
- Construction Bond
 - Still in committee but on hold pending questions from Senate members
 - We need \$250M to get through library waitlist (currently at \$100M)
 - Cap was also not raised from \$20M to \$25M
 - 45 libraries have expressed interest in the next grant round in addition to libraries on the waitlist
 - Mass Municipal Association is willing to support us on this - this is great news
- Census 2020
 - Citizenship question is not on the form
 - Census can be taken online
 - Census group is looking towards libraries to assist with the census
 - \$2.5M in state budget to support Census - the first group to benefit will be public libraries
 - More info to follow in the fall
 - More people = more funding

Census

- What role does MLA LegComm have in this?
- General awareness and messaging will start at MBLC then filtered down (lots of stuff is going to go on the MBLC Awarehouse).
- MLA LegComm can also send things out but all involved groups and messaging should be coordinated. Jennifer will draft a brief message and send something out.

MLS Update (Sarah)

- Sarah is on vacation
- See previous minutes for updates

Library Legislative Day (Tressa/Jennifer)

- Ideas for changes:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xcS8era-vqeOxqQAMyuzaEFA4CaBNQPTTDSwCGsu3bo/edit>
- Tressa, Jayme, and Catherine will start meeting in August to determine next steps and plan
- Group will first determine suggested dates for Legislative Day 2020

MSLA Update (Greg)

- Kathy Lowe has stepped back in part-time until we can fill the role of association manager.
- Our 2020 Conference, "We can do it: School libraries build strong communities," will be held March 29-30 at the Sheraton in Framingham.
- We are working to arrange a visit by DESE Commissioner Riley to an exemplary school library and continuing to request that DESE bring on a school library specialist and conduct a full census of school libraries/services.
- New advocacy co-chairs have been appointed: Deeth Ellis, Boston Latin and Georgina Trebbe, Minnechaug Regional High School. We are attempting to connect with legislators who are on the Joint Committee on Education, Ways and Means, and the Library Caucus.

WMLA Update (Mike)

- As we do every year, WMLA board members stuffed envelopes after our July meeting on the 18th at the Sunderland Public Library with free passes to museums and discount coupons from restaurants in western MA to be used as summer reading prizes for delivery via MLS/Optima to libraries throughout the state.
- As he is every August, James Lonergan will be our special guest at the WMLA board meeting on the 22nd of next month at the Tyler Memorial Library in Charlemont.
- At our September meeting on the 19th of that month at the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford, we'll be joined by Senator Adam Hinds (D - Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden) and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli (D - 4th Berkshire).
- Our annual meeting in October will tentatively feature a showing of the film "The Public" at the Forbes Library in Northampton, followed by discussion. The date and time will be confirmed ASAP.
- A new slate of officers will also be elected at the annual meeting, and board membership will be updated (pending the vote, I expect to serve a second three-year term and to continue as our rep to the MLA Leg Comm).

CMLA Update (?)

- Margaret has left MLA committee, we need a new liaison
- Jennifer will look to recruit

CQ Engage (Tressa)

- Loose calendar for legislative actions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVijtVGUSeNh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit
- Tressa is setting up training with Jennifer, Will, and Eileen so they can learn the backend of Engage

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- Jennifer shared House list that she got from co-chair Rep. Murray
- List still might be out of date
- Goal is to break this up by districts and have MLA LegComm members contact their reps
 - Think of other opportunities to engage this group (Legislative Day, MLA Conference, etc.)
 - Jennifer will follow up with Sen. Eric Lesser to get the Senate list

Old Business

New Meeting Schedule for FY20 (Jennifer)

- September 27 at MLS-Northampton
- October 25 at Minuteman
- November 22 at MLS-Marlborough (tentative)
- January 17 at Minuteman
- February 21 at MLS-Marlborough (tentative)
- March 3 - LegDay?
- April 17 at Minuteman
- June 19 at MLS-Marlborough (tentative)

Uniform Electronic Materials Act (UELMA) Next Steps (Jennifer)

- Jennifer will update the letters from UELMA and get that MLA eBoard

New Business

Recruiting New Members for the Legislative Committee_(Jennifer)

- Jennifer is working on this
- Trying to get someone from CW MARS and CMLA
- Esme is going to see if any other Minuteman directors are interested
- Need reps from MVLC area and also NOBLE area

“Breakfast on Legislative Breakfasts”

- This was done in the past - should we bring this back?
- Consider this and related materials:
<https://www.masslib.org/advocacy-central/legbreak-toolkit> for a future meeting
- Perhaps a webinar?
- Schools are also interested in legislative breakfasts or equivalent
- Share info about related events
- MLA conference program idea?

Candidate Survey 2020

- Need to wait until the deadline for candidates to file paperwork (spring?)

FYI & Other

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Meeting Adjourned: 11:50a.m.

Next Meeting: *September 27, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at MLS-Northampton*