

MLA Legislative Committee Meeting
May 29, 2015

Attending in person: Susan McAlister, Beverly Shank, Kathy Lowe, Dianne Carty, Mary Rose Quinn, Jackie Rafferty, Anna Kung. Joan Kuklinski participated by phone.

Reports:

MBLC Update

Mary Rose Quinn reported on the budget, which is now in conference committee and includes some earmarks which will hopefully be eliminated and those funds put back into the line items. MLA will call for the conference committee to eliminate the earmarks and support the highest levels of funding approved by either House or Senate.

Dianne Carty reported on National Library Legislative Day. Ruth Urell also provided a written report. The group of six from Massachusetts visited both Senator's offices and divided up among the Representatives' offices. The focus was on LSTA funding and specific activities of libraries in MA. MBLC Committee could expand scope to more deliberate PR on the national level.

This is MBLC's 125th year. There is a logo to commemorate this and there will be a social media initiative for 125 days prior to the Oct. 30th anniversary to send out historical facts about the agency. There will also be a celebration and commendations from Governor and Legislature. Dianne is looking into having archival documents digitized.

MSLA Update

Kathy Lowe gave an update on the progress of the legislative commission tasked to determine that state of school libraries in Massachusetts. The commission has met twice. They are working with two researchers to develop a survey and are considering the best methods for gathering quantitative and qualitative data.

Start planning next year's events, e.g. doing more in the fall

Jackie Rafferty reported on a conversation she and Greg Pronevitz had with Rep. Kate Hogan about how the Legislative Committee can work more effectively with her and the Library Caucus. Rep. Hogan suggested an ebook platform demo for the Library Caucus. The conversation at today's meeting suggested it might be broadened to include other library programs and services funded by the state. Greg and Jackie are following up on this.

Legislative Breakfasts

Jackie Rafferty volunteered to coordinate breakfasts statewide. Develop timeline, contact list, stay in contact with organizers to facilitate planning and follow-up. Network admin's could be points of contact in each area. MSLA has budgeted funds for breakfasts in each of the former regions and tasked its Area Directors with soliciting school libraries to host.

Capwiz migration to Engage

Susan reported that network managers are questioning logistics of this change in platform for contacting legislators. Susan will look into it further.

Beverly Shank needs to step down as co-chair of this committee, so a replacement is needed.

Next Meeting (date/time TBD by Doodle poll) at Minuteman Network will focus on:

- Coordination of Legislative Breakfasts
- Fall presentation for Library Caucus
- Continuation of Legislative Day