

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 11/22/19
Minuteman Library Network, Natick

Meeting Start: 10 a.m.

Present: Marie Letarte, Will Adamczyk, Catherine Halpin, Jennifer Harris, Mary Rose Quinn, Tressa Santillo, Jeanette Lundgren, James Lonergan, Mary Rose Quinn, Sarah Sogigian, Mike Moran, Greg Pronevitz

- 10/25/19 minutes were approved.

Guest Speaker: Raymond Bennett, US Census Liaison

- Need to recruit 54,000+ people statewide to help run the census
 - Jobs: 8-12 weeks per operation
 - People should apply now because of lengthy background process
- Count everyone once, only once and in the right place
- Census provides population benchmarks for nearly every other US survey
- Census is safe
- Cybersecurity - data is safe and secure
- Census is easy - online, phone, paper, personal visit by census employee
- Census takers will never ask for: full SSN, \$\$ or donations, anything on behalf of a political party, full bank or credit card account
- More options for language support
- Complete Count Committee - group of gov. & community leaders who raise awareness about the 2020 census and motivate their community members to respond

MBLC Update (Mary Rose)

- Budget
 - Legislature still working out details on some budget points but not about the library lines
- Construction Bond
 - Still a work in progress - some key support for amending the current bonding bill but perhaps not quite up to the \$250M ask
 - Governor's office has noted strong advocacy efforts of library community
 - MBLC encourages libraries that are in the planning stages of renovations to apply for grants

MLS Update (Sarah)

- MBLC & MLS have census webinar coming up - <https://calendar.masslibsystem.org/event/6009162>
- Annual Meeting - FY2021 budget and plan of service approved by membership

- Appreciate Jennifer's information on Legislative Committee
- 3 new board members appointed - joining in December
- 3 board members cycling off in December
- We welcomed our new Consulting and Training Services Director, Terry McQuown recently

Library Legislative Day (Tressa, Catherine, Jayme)

- Date is April 2, 2020
- Sending out save-the-date on listservs soon
 - Save-the-date handout can also be used at legislative breakfasts/events
- Prepping registration form - registration will open on Feb. 12
- Invitation to legislators - plan to send in January

MLA Legislative Committee FY2021 Budget (Jennifer)

- Need to submit budget to MLA eBoard
- Our committee pays to rent to the state house, the lunch, and breakfast for Legislative Day (with help from MSLA, WMLA, CMLA, etc.)
- Also some \$ for postage
- \$ for someone to attend National Library Legislative Day

MSLA Update (Greg)

- **Legislative Day – April 2, 2020**
 - The MSLA Board discussed the importance of having school librarians attending. While it may be possible for some, we wonder if we might explore remote participation by school librarians in the group meetings of constituents.
- **MSLA Conference - March 29-30, 2020**
 - *We Can Do It! School libraries build strong communities* at Sheraton Framingham
 - Keynotes: Kathy Carroll, AASL President Elec; Rep. Tram Nguyen, 18th Essex District
 - Program on: How school librarians and library supporters can advocate; Where to advocate
- **MSLA Advocacy Summit held in October**
 - Thanks for Jennifer Harris, James Lonergan, Sarah Sogigian, and Tressa Santillo for joining us!
 - Emerging Priorities from Follow Up meetings with MSLA:
 - Create unified message to communicate with stakeholders
 - Encourage advocacy among MSLA members e.g., host and attend breakfasts and develop relationships with members of the Joint Committee on Education
 - Provide all DESE Board members with a copy of the Special Commission's study
 - Reaching out to administrators

- Enhance work with Educational Collaboratives

WMLA Update (Mike)

- WMLA officers for the 2019-2020 year are: Nora Blake (Emily Williston Library, Easthampton), President; Joe Rodio (South Hadley Public Library), Treasurer; and Andrea Bernard (Hawley Library, Charlemont), Secretary.
- At our November meeting last week, we began planning for our upcoming legislative breakfasts and a similar event that we'd like to schedule in the late afternoon to see if this new timing might increase attendance.
- Thanks to followup after the meeting from new WMLA board member Lisa Downing (Forbes Library, Northampton), Senator Jo (Joanne) Comerford is now an official member of the library caucus in the Massachusetts legislature.

CMLA Update (Marie)

- Clinton, Leicester, Monson, Dudley, and Southborough are planning legislative breakfasts and will also collaborate with WMLA on overlap districts
- CMLA is co-sponsoring a session on the Gale databases

Engage Update (Will)

- First event coming up is governor's budget
- Possible item on the bond
- Loose calendar for legislative actions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVjrtVGUSeNh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit

Old Business

Recruiting New Members (Jennifer)

- A couple of new members joining - welcome!

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- Jennifer spoke with Rep. Kearny re: members of legislative committee meeting/speaking with library caucus members '
- Also possible visit to Boston Public Library

Macmillan/Amazon/OverDrive/eBooks Update (Jennifer)

- Group met to discuss the situation - possibly going to reach out to attorneys
- Macmillan CEO will be at ALA Midwinter - coordinated response?
- ALA's response - maybe ask our councillor?

MLA Conference Advocacy Program Update (Jennifer & Greg)

- Ask Cape legislators to speak

- MLA eBoard/admin is also doing an advocacy session on collaborating with local officials
- Do more promotion externally

New Business

FYI & Other

- Current head of IMLS nominee is favorable - waiting to see if he'll be confirmed
- Legislative Breakfasts/Events - email manager@masslib.org but check conflicts first!
 - At least two schools are interested in hosting events

Meeting Adjourned: 12:04 p.m.

Next Meeting: *Friday, 1/17/20-Minuteman, Natick*