

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 10/25/19
Minuteman Library Network, Natick

Meeting Start: 10:00 a.m.

Present: Marie LeTarte, Greg Pronevitz, Will Adamczyk, Catherine Halpin, Jennifer Harris, Mary Rose Quinn, Tressa Santillo, Jeanette Lundgren

- 9/28/19 minutes were approved.

MBLC Update (Mary Rose)

- Budget
 - Legislative agenda is done – focus is state aid (local aid for public libraries)
 - Legislative agenda debuted at Boston Book Festival
 - Next steps – work with Administration & Finance (A&F works with Governor's office and independent agencies like the MBLC)
 - MBLC also has to move – included in MBLC's budget line
- Construction Bond
 - \$100M for construction (ask was for \$250M)
 - More info will be coming out and then we can take action (Engage, etc.)
 - 17 libraries are on the waitlist and there's only money right now for 16 (if the \$100M passes)
 - Rep. Brian Murray is agreeable to filing an amendment for this
- Census 2020
 - Maura Deedy at MBLC is taking the lead
 - OCLN had meeting w/ northeast Census rep – Jennifer will invite him to a future LegComm meeting
 - Encourage networks and libraries to join Complete Count committees

MLS Update (Tressa)

- MLS Annual meeting is Nov. 4 at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester - register to join us: <https://calendar.masslibsystem.org/event/5777531>
 - Jennifer will be giving a brief update on Legislative Committee activities

Library Legislative Day (Tressa, Catherine, Jayme)

- Didn't get a date in March - will try for a date in April (TBD)
- Tentative Schedule
 - 9am-9:30am: check in and mingle
 - 9:30-10am: legislative briefing and how to talk to your legislators (room 222)

11:00-11:30am: legislative briefing and how to talk to your legislators repeat (room 222)

9:30am-11:30am: small showcase in grand staircase area (theme: "Libraries Respond" to opioid crisis, census, entrepreneurship, etc....)

12-1pm informal lunch w/legislators (with library legislative caucus co-chairs to speak if available, MLA & MSLA presidents)

All Day: coordinated groups will be talking to legislators which will all be set up ahead of time

- Legislator co-hosts are set (Reps. Muratore & LaNatra)
- Working on questions to ask on the registration form
- School librarians will join groups of public librarians to visit their legislators

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- Catherine updated the list for both reps & senators:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I9QkSVvpozpWOu-L2lrEJgran06xo37UVg-uRt4ZdbU/edit?usp=sharing>
- Next step is to spread the word to public library directors & library staff to encourage conversations

MSLA Update (Greg)

- MSLA Board endorsed the MBLC Legislative Agenda
- MSLA Advocacy Summit is happening on Oct. 30, 2019
 - Developing an MSLA Legislative Agenda
 - Hope to have a call to action for Legislative Day and Breakfasts
- Advocacy Priorities:
 - 1. Appoint School Library Point Person for School Libraries to encourage implementation of the Special Commission on School Library Services in Massachusetts recommendations to create equity of access statewide.
 - 2. Conduct complete census for public school libraries, librarians, staff, collections, services, resources, and budgets.
- Met with Joint Committee on Education - they're focused on the \$1.5B education bill and suggested working with DESE on MSLA priorities
- Met Sen. Comerford - supporter of school libraries and raved about MBLC/MLA advocacy approach
- MSLA Annual Conference 2020 (March 29-30 at Sheraton Framingham)
 - Greg is proposing an advocacy panel

WMLA Update (Mike)

- WMLA's annual meeting on October 17 at the Forbes Library in Northampton featured a showing of the movie "The Public," followed by a panel discussion with: Lisa Downing, Forbes Library director; Matt Berube, Jones Library (Amherst) assistant director;

Michelle Eberle of the MLS staff; and two local representatives of Eliot CHS Homeless Services, who work directly with the homeless and with library staff who serve them. Lisa and Matt shared guidelines developed by their libraries for providing services to homeless patrons (attached, with their gracious permission). Michelle described several impressive training programs offered by MLS.

- At the annual meeting we also gave thanks for the contributions of three departing board members (Mary Anne Antonellis, M. L. Spear Library, Shutesbury; Deb Kern, Northfield Public Library; Eliza Langhans, Hatfield Public Library) and welcomed three new board members (Lisa Downing, Forbes Library, Northampton; Wendy Pearson, Springfield City Library; Andrea Puglisi, Storrs Library, Longmeadow).
- Our letter to Gov. Baker regarding library legislative priorities for the FY2021 state budget (attached) was delivered to him in person on October 10 by MBLC Commissioner and WMLA board member Mary Kronholm at a non-library function in her home town of Blandford.

CMLA Update (Marie)

- No new updates

Advocacy Exchange Webinar (Jennifer)

- ALA(?) webinar from the Indiana Library Federation
- Takeaways
 - Use Libraries Transform toolkits a lot
 - Process - advocacy, results, surveys, feedback
 - Working towards one library card for the state
 - Building relationships is crucial
 - Always a Non-partisan “ask”
 - Make sure they have capacity for what they’re advocating for
 - Timing is of the essence – what else is happening when they’re doing

CQ Engage Training (Tressa)

- Tressa showed Will how to do Engage
- Loose calendar for legislative actions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVijtVGUSeNh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit
- Focus now will be on the messaging - what do we WANT to put into Engage?

Old Business

Recruiting New Members (Jennifer)

- Greg is going to reach out to directors at NOBLE and MVLC for suggestions

- See who the contact people are for legislative breakfasts/events

Boston Book Festival, Oct. 19 & 20 (Catherine) - went well and lots of foot traffic!

- Went well with lots of foot traffic

Macmillan/Amazon/eBooks Update (Jennifer)

- Rhode Island is discussing legal action - can we do this in MA with the Attorney General?
- A small LegComm subcommittee will convene to discuss possibilities and next steps

MLA Conference Advocacy Program Update (Jennifer & Greg) - conference proposal submitted (legislator panel)

Breakfast on Breakfasts (Jennifer) – see if WMLA and CMLA want to hold a session (their choice of format) on how to run a breakfast

New Business

2019 Fall/ 2020 Winter Legislative Breakfasts

- All information should be sent to the MLA manager, Rebecca
- Info needed:
 - Brief Intro (optional)
 - Date / Time / Location
 - Legislator Speakers / Keynoters
 - Contact Name / Phone / Email
 - RSVP Email / Link
 - Snow Date (optional)

FYI & Other

- none

Meeting Adjourned: 12:16 p.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, 11/22 ~~Marlboro~~ Minuteman, Natick