

MLA Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes - 9/28/19
MLS-Northampton

Meeting Start: 10:10 a.m.

Present: Mike Moran, Becky Plimpton, Marie LeTarte Mueller, Greg Pronevitz, Will Adamczyk, Esme Green, Sarah Sogigian, Catherine Halpin, Noreen O'Gara, Eileen Dyer, Jennifer Harris, Mary Rose Quinn, Tressa Santillo

- 7/26/19 minutes were approved.

MBLC Update (Mary Rose)

- Budget
 - Jennifer attended the MBLC Board meeting recently- 3% increase pretty much across the board except for State Aid & Mass Center for the Book (will ask for more)
 - Legislative Agenda (sheet) due to be finalized at the Oct. MBLC Board meeting
- Construction Bond
 - Eileen testified recently w/MBLC (James & Roland) about the construction bond and why it should be increased (to include all 17 libraries on the waiting list and to be able to support the 45 libraries that are in various steps of interest in construction)
- Census 2020
 - MBLC will be sending out posters to libraries, directed at end users
 - Check out the new tab on the MBLC website
 - Training webinar for libraries in the works (MBLC & MLS to coordinate)
 - Need to make sure library advocacy (and related) events have info about census going forward (legislative breakfasts, Boston Book Festival, etc.)
 - Boston has its own census committee - but no library representation yet
 - State wants to use MLS delivery to deliver items to municipalities via libraries

MLS Update (Sarah)

- Office move is complete - the meeting room should be up and running pretty soon
- New Consulting & Training Services Director has been hired - will start in Nov.
- Pleased with budget increase for MLS to sustain delivery at current service level
- Save the Date for the MLS Annual meeting on Nov. 4 (Holy Cross in Worcester)

Library Legislative Day (Tressa, Catherine, Jayme)

- Legislative Day dates 10,11,12
- 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 ("Libraries Respond" to opioid crisis, census, entrepreneurship, etc....) - themes - get partners?

12-1pm informal lunch w/legislators (with library legislative caucus co-chairs to speak if available, maybe co-chairs of LegDay or chair of LegComm give brief welcome?)

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

- WMLA and CMLA can coordinate their areas
- Need point people for metrowest, northeast, southeast, cape & islands
 - Start with networks
- School attendees - focus on Joint Committee on Education? Also should be visiting their own legislators in their district.

MSLA Update (Greg)

- Greg Pronevitz, Mass. School Library Association (MSLA), Director of Outreach, reported that MSLA Advocacy Co-chairs and Leaders are working to meet with their legislators to share our legislative priorities.
- Meeting with Rep. Peisch next week!
- MSLA Advocacy Summit Meeting on October 30 to create a strategy that will allow MSLA to create a Legislative Agenda that will bring the Special Commission's recommendations and the need to include school libraries in education reform in collaboration with legislators and education officials. We would like to develop this in sync with the Library Legislative Agenda (MBLC) and seek mutual support for both Agendas and a joint or complementary message at Library Legislative Day and legislative breakfasts/events.

WMLA Update (Mike)

- At our September meeting last Thursday at the Porter Memorial Library in Blandford, we were joined by Rep. Smitty Pignatelli (D - 4th Berkshire) and Jon Gould, Hilltown Community Liaison for Senator Adam Hinds (D - Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden) - Rep. Pignatelli recommended focusing on 2-3 major priorities in our next legislative agenda (e.g., state aid, and construction); Mr. Gould indicated that Senator Hinds would support a similar approach.
- Earlier this month, Mike reached out to Georgina Trebbe, librarian at Minnechaug Regional High School in Wilbraham, about coordinating her statewide advocacy efforts on behalf of school libraries for MSLA with WMLA's advocacy work for the interests of all types of libraries in western MA, and she welcomed this opportunity.

- WMLA will deliver our annual letter to Governor Baker regarding our legislative priorities for the next fiscal year to him in person when he visits Blandford on October 10.
- Mike represented WMLA at a Massachusetts Municipal Association legislative breakfast last Friday at the Wilbraham Public Library, where MMA staff solicited legislative priorities from attendees - WPL director Karen Demers and I mentioned state aid and public library construction, to which the group seemed quite receptive.
- WMLA will send the attached letter to Macmillan Publishing today (Friday) objecting to their new ebook embargo policy for libraries.
- Our annual meeting on October 17 will feature a showing of the film "The Public" at the Forbes Library in Northampton, followed by discussion.

CMLA Update (Becky & Marie)

- First ever annual meeting happened on 9/23
- Received grant to support website, membership, logo redesign and more
- Legislative breakfast subcommittee (Lisa Cheever from Blackstone PL is the chair)

NLLD 2020 – May 4-5, Georgetown University Conf Center (Jennifer)

- There is money in MLA budget for someone to help attend
- WMLA sometimes also has money for someone to attend
- Mary Rose will continue to be the coordinator to set up appointments

CQ Engage Training (Tressa)

- Tressa showed Eileen and Jennifer how to do engage
- Loose calendar for legislative actions:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IMvOkZ_LGwDDvoTVjtVGUSeNh0DKXwGP_725W6UrZk/edit

Library Caucus List (Jennifer)

- Catherine updated and fixed the rep list (Google doc)
- Jennifer is waiting for Senate list from Sen. Lesser's office

Old Business

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

- MLA sent out the letter last week in support of this

Recruiting New Members (Jennifer)

- Jennifer cleaned up the list
- People who were interested from MLA conference session are now on the list
- Still need more representation from Minuteman, NOBLE, CLAMS, FLO, and HELM

New Business

Boston Book Festival, Oct. 19 & 20

- MBLC & MLS are sharing a booth; BPL has its own booth, Mass Center for the Book has its own booth (?)

MLA Conference Advocacy Program Update (Jennifer & Greg)

- Getting reps & senators again (maybe from the cape since that's where the conference is?)
- (LLAMA) How library staff at all levels can be advocates
- Legislative process, agenda, etc.

OverDrive and Macmillan Update

- MLA prepared letter
- ALA is driving conversation and response
- MLA also prepared letter for LinkedIn

FYI & Other

- MBLC is going to have to move in June 2020
- Letter to the governor - should MLA do that again (Dec.)
- Breakfast of breakfasts - discuss next time

Meeting Adjourned: 12:21pm

Next Meeting: *October 25, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Minuteman (Natick)*