



Stronger Together

MLS Member Update
May 2017

Fy2018 Budget

There is positive news in the recently announced [Senate Ways & Means](#) budget with a substantial increase for library lines, including MLS. While there are several steps remaining in the budgetary process, e.g., Senate amendments; Conference Committee to reconcile House and Senate budgets; Governor's signature and possible vetoes, we ask you to advocate for the higher figures for library lines.

Saturday Delivery Ending on July 1

While this possible increase is substantial, it is only about one-third of next year's shortfall; and we must announce the elimination of Saturday delivery on all MLS delivery routes beginning July 1, 2017.

Statewide Database Content Reduced

The procurement for fy2018+ was based on a 30% reduction in available funds. Please see the announcement about changes in content at [LINK](#).

We'll be watching the budget and looking at other previously announced service reductions, and, restoring whenever possible.

Executive Board Update

The Board approved a motion to recognize Dianne Carty for her valuable service and high level of collaboration with MLS and member libraries over her lengthy career at MBLC.

The Board met on May 15 and approved a recommendation to remove 68 school libraries from the membership roles because the schools were unable to meet MLS membership eligibility requirements (chiefly because no certified library teacher is in charge). We expect many of these schools to report back and become eligible.

The Board discussed ways to effectively engage members with MLS on our advisory committees as we explore alternatives to our current committee structure.

Selected Events in May and June

Spring Conference – June 13 at Devens Common Center

MLS members and staff were vocal about the need for libraries to be inclusive, support diversity, and provide equity of access. We've scheduled an event to take an important step in that positive direction, "**Talking Social Justice in Massachusetts Libraries: Diversity to**

Equity.” Please join us to hear April Hatchcock, Keynote who writes and presents on these topics. Attend the Idea Fair to learn what other libraries are doing in this sphere . . . and more!
[RSVP](#)

Listening Tour

- Milton Public Library (10:30-12:30) – **Libraries & Advocacy** – [RSVP](#) – June 8
- Visit our new [Guide](#) for advocacy resources.

Urban Library Directors Forum

- Brockton Public Library (10-12) – **Libraries & Advocacy** – [RSVP](#) – June 9

Statewide eBooks Strategy

The Commonwealth eBook Collections Steering Committee convened a meeting on April 26 with invited guests from the resource sharing networks, MBLC and LFC to discuss statewide eBook strategy and to view a presentation by the Digital Public Library of America on its new focus to build a national eBook platform for libraries. There will be an opportunity for Massachusetts to be a pilot participant in this library centric exchange for commercial and open eBook content. Learn more [CLICK](#)

MLS Community Engagement Blog Update

Hot off the press! The [MLS Community Engagement Blog](#) features creative ways librarians are connecting with their communities. Get ready for some outstanding stories of how librarians are making their communities better places to live, work, study, and play.

This month, the Community Engagement Blog featured the following success stories:

[Play the WGBH FIX IT Game!](#)

[Somerville Public Library Declaration of Inclusion](#)

[Cambridge Public Library Declaration of Inclusion](#)

[Forbes Library Declaration of Inclusion](#)

[Peabody Institute Library Declaration of Inclusion](#)

[Librarians' Critical Role Serving Immigrant Communities](#)

[Shrewsbury Public Library Memory Cafe](#)

Does your library have a community engagement success story that you would like to share? We are interested to highlight success stories from public, school, academic, and special libraries. If you are interested, please contact Michelle Eberle at michelle@masslibsystem.org.