

## Member Update June 2018



### Executive Board Activities – June 18, 2018

#### Letter from Greg Pronevitz

June 29, 2018

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This is my final update as MLS Executive Director and I'd like to thank you for your support, collaboration, and dedication to library services. I am retiring on July 5 and plan to do some consulting part-time and I hope that our paths continue to cross. It has been such a rewarding experience working with library people at all levels from academic, school, special, and public libraries as well as our associations, automated networks, and the Board of Library Commissioners. Thank you for the work you do!

It has been a privilege and a pleasure working with you to make libraries the best that they can be over the past 20 years in Massachusetts. The success of the automated networks in promoting automation and resource sharing was long established when I arrived and their work has continued to improve services over the years. The collaboration among members in the regional systems that merged into MLS eight years ago provided the physical delivery to compliment the networks' work along with additional services which are now essential to our multitype library membership. I owe a great debt to my regional library system colleagues for building the foundation for MLS services. The leadership and staff at the MBLC provided rock solid support for our work and direct assistance to libraries in so many different ways. Together, these organizations provide an invaluable fabric of infrastructure and support for 1,600 libraries across the Commonwealth.

The 2009 economic crisis forced the merger of regions and provided MLS the opportunity to carry on regional work on a statewide level. I was proud to be appointed as MLS' founding executive director and I thank you for your support and encouragement. MLS needs the active engagement of members to be successful and I encourage you to be active and participate in MLS. MLS also requires the work of many talented and dedicated staff members to provide services to the membership. I'm very impressed and proud of the accomplishments of our leadership and staff in our first eight years. And, I'm grateful for the support and encouragement of the Executive Board.

Massachusetts' success with resource sharing and library services requires strong support for all of the fibers in our library fabric. I would like to encourage all library supporters to stay in touch with elected officials at the local, state, and federal levels to tell them how important libraries are to our communities, schools, and campuses and to encourage support. I would like to echo the sentiment of Mary Ann Cluggish, Chair of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and ask you

all to encourage five or ten friends and colleagues to make their voices heard and amplify our message to elected officials in support of libraries. You can make a difference!

Best wishes,

Greg

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Greg Pronevitz  
Executive Director  
508-357-2121 x303 (until July 5<sup>th</sup>)

### **Sarah Sogigian named as Interim Executive Director beginning July 6, 2018**

Sarah Sogigian, MLS Consulting and Training Services Director has been named Interim Executive Director beginning July 6, 2018, as Greg Pronevitz retires (see his letter to the membership below). Sarah has been with MLS since its formation in 2010, first as an Advisor for Youth Services and promoted in 2015 to Director of Consulting and Training Services when she became an integral part of the MLS Leadership Team, regularly participating in Executive Board.

Her contact info: 508-357-2121 x311 | sarah@masslibsystem.org

### **MLS Finalist Interview Schedule**

Dear Massachusetts Library System Members:

The finalists for the position of the Massachusetts Library System Executive Director will take place on Monday, July 9, 2018 and Tuesday, July 10, 2018. The schedule is as follows:

July 9, 2018

9:00 – 12:00 Nancy Kirkpatrick [Register to attend](#)

1:00 – 4:00 Dawn LaValle [Register to attend](#)

July 10, 2018

9:00 – 12:00 Stephen Spohn [Register to attend](#)

The format will be a presentation to the MLS Executive Board, MLS Members and MLS Staff first beginning at 9:00 a.m. The presentation time will allow for questions and answers related to the presentation at the end. At 10:00 a.m. the candidate will meet with the Executive Board alone and then at 11:00 a.m. there will be a meet and greet with the MLS staff.

The schedule will follow the same theme for the afternoon interview only the times will be 1:00 p.m. for the presentation, 2:00 p.m. meeting with the Executive Board and 3:00 p.m. for the meet and greet with staff.

**Please note: Members will need to register in order to attend.** Registration to attend is done via the online calendar at the above links.

The candidates' presentations will be recorded and posted on the MLS website.

Members and staff may post feedback to [execdirsearch@masslibsystem.org](mailto:execdirsearch@masslibsystem.org). We would appreciate receiving comments by 5:00 p.m. Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Procurements

The Massachusetts Library System and [Massachusetts Higher Education Consortium](#) have invited interested suppliers to submit proposals for two exciting new programs. Suppliers may submit proposals for one or both programs.

1. [Digital Library Products Cooperative Purchasing Contract](#)
2. [Emerging Online Products Innovative Offerings](#)

The Digital Library Products procurement provides a pathway to MHEC's new L54 Digital Library Products Contract. This offers broad exposure to libraries throughout New England.

The Emerging Online Products RFI is an effort to explore innovative projects and vendor partnerships to launch emerging online products in Massachusetts libraries.

## New MLS Partnership

MLS has begun an exciting partnership with Harvard University's Democratic Knowledge Project. The partnership began after Dr. Danielle Allen spoke at the MLS 2017 Teen Summit as our opening keynote. April and Christi have been working with Dr. Allen and post-doctoral fellow, Chaebong Nam, on their IMLS grant proposal, "Young Changemakers in the 21st Century Library". The grant funding would provide training to library staff to support the civic engagement of

youth in Massachusetts. The partnership will focus on professional development, knowledge creation and sharing, and assessment strategies for new civics in library settings. A pilot workshop of “Young Changemakers in the 21st Century Library” was recently held at the Marlborough office with 12 attendees representing school, public and academic libraries from around the state. The workshop introduced the reflection-action framework, known as “The Ten Questions for Young Changemakers,” which was drawn from multiyear research conducted by the MacArthur Foundation’s Youth and Participatory Politics Research Network. The Ten Questions Framework serves as a set of ethical guidelines that young people can count on to meet challenges and derive benefits from the new media environment.

Visit <https://yppactionframe.fas.harvard.edu/home> to access the Ten Questions and resources including a teaching guide, downloadable mini-posters and instructional videos.

## **Announcing Project SET Class of 2018**

Congratulations to the newest cohort of Project SET participants.

Name	Library
Alyson Cox	Marlborough High School
Andrew Meger	Peabody Institute Library, Danvers
Benjamin Phinney	Seekonk Public Library
Elizabeth Teoli	Northern Essex Community College – Bentley Library
Eva Thaler-Sroussi	Needham Free Public Library
Heather O’Leary	Ames Free Library
Julie O’Brien	Apponequet Regional High School
Liz Cashman	Westfield Athenaeum
Quincy Knapp	Wellesley Free Library
Rhonda Cunha	Stevens Memorial Library, North Andover
Supriya Bhat	Chelmsford Public Library
Weronika Zawora	Regis College

Project SET (Skills, Empowerment, Talent) is a learning community established to cultivate new talent amongst the Massachusetts library community and to provide support and encouragement to build participants confidence and strengthen their career paths. Project participants will engage in activities and discussions designed to develop their leadership skills as a trainer in the library community.