

Member Update

December 2016



Executive Board Actions in December

2017 Executive Board Roster

The Board took action to fill two unanticipated vacancies until the next election (see 2017 roster below*).

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LIBRARY	TYPE	POSITION	Term Began	Term Ends
Toromoreno	Henry	Haverhill High School	School	President	Jan-16	Dec-18
Lewontin	Amy	Northeastern University	Academic	Vice President	Jan-16	Dec-19
Johnson	Betty	Griswold Memorial Library	Public	Past President	Jan-15	Dec-17
Berube	Matthew	Jones Library	Public	Treasurer	Jan-15	Dec-17
Dombrowski	Clare	Amesbury Public Library	Public	Secretary	Jan-16	Dec-18
Adamczyk	William L.	Milton Public Library	Public		Jan-16	Dec-18
Brown	Christine	Bridgewater State University	Academic		Jan-16	Dec-18
Frieree	Stephanie	Mass Eye & Ear	Special		Jan-16	Dec-18
Hoag	William	Roxbury Community College	Academic		Jan-17*	Jan-17
Hooke-Lee	Sarah	Northeastern University Law School	Academic /Special		Jan-16	Dec-18
Keane	Ellen	UMass Lowell Libraries	Academic		Jan-16	Dec-18
Luker	Laura	Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School	School		Jan-16	Dec-18
Marshall	Patrick	Jonathan Bourne Public Library	Public		Jan-15	Dec-17
Rafferty	Jacqueline	Paul Pratt Memorial Library (Cohasset)	Public		Jan-17*	Jan-17
Schuck	Elena	Mattacheese Middle School (West Yarmouth)	School		Jan-16	Dec-18

Carty	Dianne	Mass Board of Library Commissioners	Special	Ex Officio	N/A	N/A
Fahey-Flynn	Anna	Boston Public Library	Public	Ex Officio	N/A	N/A
Pronevitz	Gregory	Mass Library System	Ex Officio	Ex Officio	N/A	N/A

Dissolution of WMRLS Corporation

In light of the canceled mortgage debt on the Whately facility, the Board approved the next steps in the dissolution of WMRLS. The dissolution was an important consideration in requesting debt cancelation. We hope to complete the process by July 2017.

Fake News and the MLS Listening Tour

The subject of fake news is prominent and we consider it a library issue. MLS is rolling out many listening tour events in 2017. This will most likely be the theme for the kick off tour event. MLS is planning a webinar on this topic on Jan. 31 in the afternoon. Details for both events will be shared once finalized.

Social Justice

Michelle Eberle, Consultant, has submitted a letter of intent for a new grant opportunity. The MLS is applying for a 3 year National Library of Medicine Information Resource Grant to Reduce Health Disparities. The proposed project will develop an online portal, Librarians Fostering Social Responsibility, Health Equity and the Public Health of our Communities. The project will start a dialogue with librarians of all types about social responsibility as a social determinant of health.

Marketing & Communications

Anna Popp has launched the Word of Mouth Marketing program and is accepting applications from libraries, see: <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/marketing/WOMM>

Boosting Advocacy

MLS is working with many partners through the Mass Library Association's Legislative Committee to boost advocacy. We believe that library advocacy needs to be robust and include the voices of librarians, staff, faculty, students, patrons, and other stakeholders. MLS will be working to develop a plan to boost member and member stakeholder advocacy. Please email [Greg](#) if you would like to get involved with this effort.

Fy2018 Budget Impact Statement

We discussed a draft fy2018 budget impact statement as follows:

The Massachusetts Library System (MLS) has been spending its appropriations very prudently over the past three years to continue delivering all of our services despite major cost increases for delivery service.

We are striving to keep our children's school libraries, our public libraries that serve everyone from toddlers to seniors, and academic libraries for higher education on the front lines of

digital literacy to combat “fake news.”

Our budget has increased by 2% since fy2015 and costs for delivery service have increased by 39%, chiefly due to state mandated increases in minimum wages (a policy designed to boost incomes and the economy). Unfortunately, our budget was not boosted to allow for this and delivery now makes up 59% of our budget. It was 43% of the budget in fy2015. This disparity compels us to reduce spending because we can no longer provide level services with level funding.

If funding is not increased appropriately, we will be forced to:

1. Cut spending for statewide databases by \$600,000 or 60%. These trusted, vetted, scholarly resources are critical tools in building digital literacy and education (STEM and more) and used widely in k-12, higher education, and public libraries. Statewide access creates equity in every town and city in the Commonwealth. A procurement for this content is in progress. We are assuming that our buying power will be reduced with less funding for the new contract to begin July 1, 2017. MBLC and MLS jointly fund this service. MBLC plans to contribute \$1 million per year (as it has for five years) and MLS \$400,000 per year (less than the \$1 million per year for the past five years) due to the budget shortfall.
2. Eliminate 5,000 delivery stops per year (which will cause delayed delivery for about 800,000 patron requests over the year saving about \$200,000). This service is a partnership with each library, the shared online library systems, and MLS. This includes elimination of Saturday delivery at a small percentage of libraries that have received this service since the formation of MLS and a shift from providing delivery to very low volume libraries that can be served much more cost-effectively by USPS.
3. Cut back by 20% (about \$200,000) in training and consulting services for libraries. Very few libraries can fund these services. MLS is the go-to place for training and consulting. We are no longer video recording events, we've cut back on meal costs for day-long events, and fewer events will be scheduled.

Operations

- MLS has engaged a new QuickBooks Consultant, Laura Gannon who is very responsive to our needs. We should need a couple more training sessions with her and then she will be available by phone for any questions.
- We met with BFP Associates on November 21st to discuss our Fiduciary responsibilities regarding the 403B plan. The meeting was very informative and BFP gave us material to read and a short audit we can perform on the plan to ensure our compliance. We are contacting another broker as well to see what they have to say regarding the 403B responsibilities and will report back at the January meeting.
- Our Auditors will be here on December 12th to present the 2016 financials.

MLS Service News

Commonwealth eBook Collections - MLS continues to work with national colleagues on the SimplyE for Consortia grant. Through this grant, MLS hopes to deliver seamless discovery of eBooks for major eBook products via a single mobile app. Grant partners are currently reviewing survey results and setting development priorities.

- Participating libraries will now find links for Commonwealth eBook Collections in Gale Pages. MLS will keep these up to date working directly with Gale. Find your Gale Pages here: <http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/licenses/links/index.php>
- MLS has launched a regular eNewsletter for Commonwealth eBook Collections. It is posted to the site and shared via the eBook discussion list. You can view the latest newsletter here: <http://www.masslibsystem.org/blog/2016/12/07/cec-news-1272016/>

Consulting Services - Our fall CE program was a big success. We saw very good attendance numbers, as well as positive comments from people who enjoyed the sessions, locations, and options on attending one or two trainings in one day. Especially important was the release of our near completed calendar in advance of the season of classes. We plan to continue this next Spring.

Continuing Education

- MLS Consultant Kristi Chadwick co-published a Top 5 list of SF/Fantasy titles for Library Journal's Best Genre Fiction of the year. <http://lj.libraryjournal.com/bestbooks2016/genre.php?sc=gfs>
- The Summer Library Program, broke records again this past summer with over 430,000 people in attendance. <http://www.masslibsystem.org/blog/2016/11/15/2016-summer-library-program-press-release>
- Sue Kaler and three of her colleagues in the Rethinking Resource Sharing Initiative are doing a webinar for over one hundred libraries across Australia under the aegis of the National Library of Australia.

Delivery - Delivery survey is now closed. Thank you to all those who participated. We received over 400 responses. This information helps us determine how to allocate funding during our planning and budgeting process. In addition, the survey captures overall satisfaction with delivery service.

MassCat - MLS is working with Bywater Solutions on a major server move and upgrade as well as a Koha system upgrade that should be completed within the next two weeks.

Mediated Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery - Two new MLS members have begun to participate in Mediated Interlibrary Loan. They are:

- Pittsfield High School
- Pope Saint John National Seminary

Online Content- MLS is transitioning support for statewide database from MBLC. We are building a portal with key information and a ticketing system to facilitate troubleshooting. MLS is also assisting with the statewide database procurement. MBLC is the lead agency.

Small Libraries in Networks Grants - MLS is taking a fresh look at the SLIN program that provide telecommunications funding for small libraries. This program affects libraries that benefitted from the Mass Broadband Institute project to lay fiber in rural areas of Massachusetts. Moving ahead, MLS wants libraries to receive fair pricing from vendors and a smooth annual enrollment process.

Upcoming Events

- 1/3, 1/10 and 2/2 - Commonwealth eBook Collections live training sessions
- 1/5, 1/22 - Commonwealth eBook Collections webinar training sessions
- 2/23 - Academic ePublishing Symposium
- 6/13 - Diversity/Social Justice MLS Spring Meeting