

Member Update December 2018



Annual Meeting

145 MLS members and guests attended the MLS 2018 Annual Meeting at the College of the Holy Cross. Thank you for joining us!

At the Annual Meeting, the Council of Members approved our FY 2020 Budget and Plan of Service and elected the following new board members:

- Anne Meringolo, New England Historic Genealogical Society
- Joseph Rodio, South Hadley Public Library
- Kathryn Geoffrion Scannell, Merrimack College

Our keynote from Lisa Lucas, Executive Director of the National Book Foundation, remarks by Rep. Natalie Higgins (Library Caucus Co-Chair) and our Project SET presentations were very well received.

Selected comments from our event evaluation:

“HOORAY MLS! Lisa Lucas is a dynamo mover and shaker in the book world, and I was thrilled to hear from her. She is brilliant, witty, wonderfully opinionated and passionate about books. Thank you so much for bringing such a NAME to the Annual Meeting. I could have listened to her all day long.”

“[Natalie Higgins], the library co-chair legislator from Leominster, was terrific and inspiring.”

“This year's [Project SET] presentations were really excellent. They triggered all sort of good ideas for me to bring back to my library.”

Attendees also appreciated hearing from MBLC and MLA Legislative Committee.

Project SET participant information, presentations, and general program info is available on our [Resource Guide](#).

Outgoing MLS Board Members

The MLS staff and executive board extends our gratitude and best wishes to outgoing board members:

- Henry Toromoreno, Manuel Epstein Library Media Center, Haverhill High School (MLS Past President)

- Ellen MJ Keane, O’Leary Library, UMASS Lowell
- Jackie Rafferty, Paul Pratt Memorial Library, Cohasset

Membership News

MLS welcomed two new members, three returning members and four new library directors in October. No membership changes occurred in November:

New Members

Marathon Elementary School, Hopkinton
Swallow Union Elementary School, Dunstable

Returning Members

Florence Roche Elementary School, Groton
Lowell Community Charter Public School, Lowell
Point Webster Middle School, Quincy

New Directors

Jane Buchanan, Buckland Public Library, Buckland
Van Pervaiz, Charlestown High School, Charlestown
Jeanne McCullough, Friends Academy, North Dartmouth
Stephanie Maher, Palmer Public Library, Palmer

Advocacy Committee Activities

Committee members Will Adamczyk, Amy Lewontin and Stephen Spohn met with Representative Jonathan Hecht and his counsel in October and Senator John Keenan in December.

Emerging Online Products RFI Task Force Update

In October, the task force met to review submissions to (1) the Digital Library Products IFB released by MHEC and (2) the Emerging Online Products RFI released by MLS. The task force has completed its recommendations for the new MHEC contract awards, and MHEC plans to have the new contracts in place by January 2.

In addition, the task force brainstormed possible projects related to the RFI responses. MLS is following-up with the following vendors/products to discuss:

- Credo Reference
- Niche Academy
- Recorded Books (Hoonuit)
- Scholastic Library Publishing
- SimplyAnalytics

Commonwealth eBook Collections Content Transfer

MLS staff is following-up with publishers that either did not authorize transfer of content from Axis 360 to OverDrive or who failed to respond to OverDrive's initial outreach. 1,491 items did not transfer, roughly \$45,000 in value. So far, MLS has successfully restored access to 151 items through this effort, with an additional 58 in process.

So far, we have had two requests denied, from Capstone and Rosen. MLS has discontinued purchasing titles from those publishers as we will do for any publisher that denies content transfers.

There are many more publishers left to approach in this effort. Once completed, we will prepare a report for the board and share information nationally with other partners so they are aware of the outcomes of our efforts to reach out to publishers and especially aware of publishers that do not authorize content transfers.

MVLC Collection Development Project Plan

MLS Consultant Anna Popp worked with staff at the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) on a weeding project that served all MVLC libraries. This collaboration is a fine example of how MLS and the networks, operating independently and in parallel for the benefit of shared members, can combine forces to achieve goals that are beneficial to MLS, MVLC, and the library members of both organizations.

MLS Listening Tours

Join MLS and your colleagues for lively discussion and updates, and to lend your voice to MLS priorities at one of our listening tour stops this January. Participants will learn about MLS in this year's library legislative agenda and how to access materials that showcase the value of MLS to their libraries and their municipalities.

Full details, including dates and locations, can be found on our [event calendar](#).

Legislative Breakfasts

Legislative Breakfasts are once again being planned across the state. Check the [MLA calendar](#) for updated information. Thank you to the libraries, groups, and sponsors of this year's breakfasts!

Sarah Sogigian
Interim Executive Director