

Massachusetts Library System
Executive Board Meeting Minutes December 15, 2014

The meeting of the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) at the Marlborough office was called to order at approximately 1:20 p.m. by William Adamczyk, President.

Present: MLS Executive Board Members: William Adamczyk, Matthew Berube, Charlotte Canelli, Tim Gerolami, Millie Gonzalez, Betty Johnson, Ellen Keane, Amy Lewontin, Sharon Lux, Margot Malachowski, Patrick Marshall, Jacqueline Rafferty, Bert Saul, Henry Toromoreno, John Walsh (1:40pm)

Ex-officio: Greg Pronevitz, MLS Ex. Director; Dianne Carty, MBLC; Anna Fahey-Flynn, LFC

Guests: Catherine Utt; Carolyn Noah; Steve Spohn; Deb Hoadley

Minutes from October meeting approved. Motion- Patrick; Second-Ellen. Unanimous.

Fy2014 Audit Report

Motion to accept FY14 Audit Reports. Motion-Patrick; Second-Tim. Unanimous.

Training and Advisory Services Director Opening Update and Introduction to Deb Hoadley, Acting Training and Advisory Services Director

Deb Hoadley will take the interim Training and Advisory Services Director position beginning in January. She will work with advisors to put together training and advisory services until a permanent director is hired. Millie is on the Search Committee and has suggested language for the advertisement to encourage diversity in the applicant pool. December 23 will be a meeting of the Search Committee to set up an interview process plan.

Budget Revision for fy2015 and fy2016 forecast

9C cuts to the MBLC account will result in a \$148,252 cut to the MLS funding for FY15. This is a 2% reduction for MLS as the LFC is below the statutory level of funding so they did not receive a cut in funding.

The fact that Optima did not incur added expenses for Affordable Care Act compliance helped balance out the 9C cuts with a net \$140,000 decrease in the Contractual Services line. Resource Sharing Librarian will not be hired at this time; Resource Sharing and Account Clerk will only be hired as a temporary part time employee for now. IT position will be frozen. \$43,924 will be added to Online Content-Reference to be used to pay ahead for FY16.

MLS role in supporting services to diverse populations

“Government census data for 2012 shows that over 50% of the population of Illinois are immigrants. They work and pay taxes, and significantly contribute to the operation of our libraries. However, many immigrants do not use the services that libraries offer because of cultural and languages barriers which discourage them from coming to our libraries. Identifying ways to overcome these barriers and making library services and materials more appealing to immigrant communities are the goals of the World Languages Networking Group (WLNG). Each meeting is now devoted to a specific topic ranging from collection development for particular languages to promotion and programming. At each meeting there is a presentation by an expert in the designated subject, followed by a sharing of experiences and resources by the librarians present. To date, our meetings have focused on collecting materials in Polish, Russian, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, and Indian languages. They will discuss methods for reaching out to immigrant communities, multicultural and ESL programming, and developing ESL collections.”

Millie believes MLS could be a leader in this area. Some ideas on how MLS can support libraries in this area:

- Partner with other organizations to provide information on how diverse library patrons are in MA

and what are the implications for libraries

- Partner with other organizations to discuss developing a pipeline of diverse librarians
- Sponsor roundtable discussions or create a taskforce
- Develop training or LibGuides containing contact information on ethnic caucuses, information for events, etc.”

Research and Development in the Commonwealth eBook Collections

Steve presented a recommendation to allocate \$5,000 from the non-budgeted account to support an eBook discovery platform development. The goal is a seamless user experience. This would be a one-time expense which is half of the cost. This \$5000 would buy MLS a seat at the table and allow us to observe, learn from mistakes and gain experience. It is not usual to discuss and vote on items concerning money at the same meeting, but it is a time sensitive issue.

Motion to allocate \$5,000 from non-budgeted account to support Research and Development in the Commonwealth eBook Collections. Motion-Patrick; Second-Amy. Unanimous.

Upcoming meetings – Member Forums & Legislative Breakfasts

Greg encouraged Board attendance at forums and breakfasts. Let him know if planning to attend.

Member Forums

January 13– South Hadley discussion topics-eBook, MHEC

Location and Topics to be determined-March 19; May 21; July 16; September 17; November 19

March 19 forum could discuss “Serving Diverse Populations” with the possibility of a Worcester location.

Legislative Breakfasts (Scheduled as of 12/15/14)

January 9– Bigelow Free Library (Clinton)

January 23– Berkshire Comm. College (Pittsfield)

January 30– Worcester PL

February 6– Norton PL

February 6– Thomas Crane PL (Quincy)

February 6—Jacob Edwards Library (Southbridge)

February 13—Southborough (tentative)

February 20—Athol PL

February 27—Blackstone (tentative)

TBA – Auburn (tentative)

Reports

Executive Director’s Report-Greg Pronevitz- attached at end of minutes

CE and Advisory Report-Carolyn Noah- attached at end of minutes

Financial-Catherine Utt- attached at end of minutes

Resource Sharing Director-Steve Spohn-attached at end of minutes

MBLC –Dianne Carty-attached at end of minutes

Library for the Commonwealth (LFC) – Anna Fahey-Flynn

More LFC Road Shows are to be scheduled. Digitization is continuing. 7 site visits; 150,000 items available through the portal; 13 institutions’ collections added in the last month. Steve and Anna are working a procedure to access EBL-a pay per use collection. BiblioBoard Creator for local collections. Digital Commonwealth is searchable.

Other Business- Motion to recognize Carolyn Noah for all her work for MLS and Massachusetts libraries. Motion-Patrick; Second-Ellen. Unanimous.

MLS Executive Board Meetings

January 26, 2015 – Marlborough
February 23, 2015 – Marlborough
March 16, 2015 – Whately
April 13, 2015 – Marlborough
May 18, 2015 – Marlborough
June 15, 2015 – Whately

July 20, 2015 – Marlborough
August 17, 2015 – Marlborough
September 21, 2015 – Whately
October 19, 2015 – Marlborough
November 2, 2015 (Annual Meeting) – Holy Cross
December 14, 2015 (Orientation) – Marlborough

Motion to adjourn regular meeting at 3:00 p.m.
Motion-Patrick; Second-Ellen.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty P. Johnson, Clerk

Executive Director's Report – October 2014

Whately Facility-The Town of Deerfield is moving through the steps they need to take to make an offer. I reached out to them and requested a confirmation of their interest for our meeting.

Search Committee – Training and Advisory Services Director-We have scheduled our first meeting on December 23. We have finalized the position description and will post it right after the New Year with a closing date in 6 weeks. We are budgeting for interview travel and potential moving expenses in light of our national search to recruit diverse candidates.

Network Retreat Follow Up-In addition to the main discussions about MBLC support and funding for automated networks (not directly related to MLS), the group discussed other opportunities that relate to MLS, i.e., MBLC intends to fully fund the Commonwealth Catalog; placing a priority on mobile access to library services; discussion on MBLC possibly sponsoring visionary technology events; technology preparedness in libraries with EDGE benchmarks; opportunities for network collaborations with cooperative purchasing, joint projects, shared cataloging, hosting facilities, new service development; and a “Massachusetts Library Technology Center” to host services such as the Commonwealth Catalog, Discovery, Statewide Mobile Solution, Statewide Library Card/Authentication, Statewide eBook Platform, Digitization.

Next Step: MBLC Strategic Planning beginning spring 2015.

Small Public Libraries

- Diana Davis, MLS Technical Advisor has submitted a letter of intent to seek funding to begin a pilot project to building IT support collaboration among small public libraries.
- The Small Libraries in Networks (SLIN) Planning Group is discussing the future of programs and grants for these libraries. MLS is a partner is handling funds to support broadband access among libraries that do not belong to an automated network. We have asked for support for MassCat start up funds when the planning discussion touched on this area.

Letter of Support-I am preparing a letter of support and offering to partner on an exciting grant application by the New York Public Library who is partnering with the Digital Public Library of America to enhance the library eBook experience (see attached).

Digital Commonwealth-2015 Conference is being planned at College of the Holy Cross on 4/2/2015.

CE and Advisory Report-December 2014 (Reporting on October and November 2014)-Carolyn Noah

Customer Satisfaction Surveys-October was our customer satisfaction survey month. During the two-week advisory survey period, members who requested information were asked to help rate our service. Their average level of satisfaction with the service ranged from 4.6 to 4.7 of a possible 5. We also gathered evaluations from members who participated in CE. Their overall rating of our training was 4.5 of 5. The customer satisfaction ratings are comparable to those from the last two years.

Continuing Education-In October and November, we hosted 81 continuing education programs attended by 1,380 people. Included were:

- Annual meeting, attended by 160
- Trustee orientations
- Many Gale database trainings
- Eleven webinars on apps and tablets
- Reference, director and urban director roundtables
- Grant writing programs
- Launch of a four-part webinar series called “Crash Course in Survey Research”
- BiblioBoard and Axis 360 introductions
- Only Write It Once: Using Social Media to Simplify Marketing
- Fall Fling: Fresh new titles and a posy of social media
- Procurement: Chapter 30B and MHEC

We hosted two major conferences in addition to Annual Meeting: Teen Summit, attended by 140, and the Small Library Forum, co-hosted with the MBLC and attended by 117.

Advisory-Advisors made 206 contacts with members and conducted 21 site visits. 66 hours were spent in travel. Included were IT troubleshooting calls, strategic planning and new library director visits, questions about SLIN, school library planning processes, space planning, and membership inquiries.

Applications for Project SET have been rolling in. The application period will end after this report is filed, but it’s clear now that the selection process will be competitive.

A task force began planning the spring conference. We are pleased to announce that we have a date and location: Tuesday, June 9 at Devens Common, Devens. Our themes are innovation, opportunity, and failure. Valerie Young is our morning keynote. We’re still seeking an afternoon keynote. Ignite sessions and panels are under development.

Sarah and April co-presented on library and museum collaborations at the New England Museum Association’s conference.

In addition, planning for My College Freshman is Your High School Senior to be held in the late spring is underway.

BiblioTemps-BiblioTemps has 27 working temps at this writing. The service has completed two years of operation and Kelly and Catherine are working to evaluate its progress and review its business plan. Meantime, Kelly is conducting a new round of recruitment interviews across the state.

Transitions-April has taken responsibility for the library membership renewal process. She is working with Shirley and Rick on the project. Deb and I have been working together to insure a seamless transition to her interim appointment as Director of CE and Advisory Services.

This is my final report to the Board. I’ve been proud of all the advisory team has accomplished. It’s been a pleasure to work with you all and to see MLS mature and grow.

Resource Sharing Report-December 2014-Stephen Spohn

MassCat Membership Update- Total 67 libraries

3 Academic Libraries

17 Public Libraries-added Hamilton Memorial Library (Chester)

29 School Libraries-added West Boylston Middle High School; dropped Essex Agricultural Technical School and North Shore Technical School

18 Special Libraries-added Northeast Maritime Institute

Other News

- Chester Library is converting their collection for MassCat.
- Nora continues to work with Catalyst on NCIP testing in preparation to join the Commonwealth Catalog. (Commonwealth Catalog implementation is delayed due to technical problems identified in the software.)

Mediated Interlibrary Loan FY 2015 Q1 Statistics

Borrowing:

Total requests-8647

Total fills-79%=6802

Lending:

Total filled (returnables)-2085

Total filled (copies)-6

Top Requestors

Requesting Library	Requested	Filled
Newton Free	493	422
Wellesley Free	280	238
Cambridge	255	228
Pittsfield	206	170
Lexington (Cary Memorial)	197	167
Falmouth (includes East and North Falmouth)	149	111
Gordon College (Jenks Library)	139	130
Arlington (Robbins)	133	104
Andover (Memorial Hall)	131	96
Plymouth (includes Plymouth Manomet Branch)	131	96

Top Suppliers

Lending Library	Returnables Filled	Copies Filled
Newton Free	202	2
Brookline	151	1
Hingham	114	0
Quincy	92	0
Natick (Morse Institute)	78	0
Cambridge	74	0
Waltham	68	0
Wellesley Free	53	0
Arlington (Robbins)	52	0
Randolph	51	0

FY 2015 Q1 Member Support

Support Requests	Support Hours
434	133

Related Training

	July	August	September	October	November	Total
Programs	0	2	0	0	0	2
Attendees	0	48	0	0	0	48

Other News

- Lawrence Academy and Greenfield High School are now using MLS to fulfill their mediated ILL requests.
- The Resource Sharing Team put serious effort into the ILL MLSguide with much thanks due to Jenn. <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/ill>
- Sue has initiated dialog with OCLC and other partners on the transition to WorldCat Discovery and its implications for mediated ILL in the former MetroWest Region.

Vincent and Sue went to the OCLC Member Forum at Simmons College for updates on the progress and plans for WorldCat Discovery and to share continuing issues with WorldShare ILL.

- The Resource Sharing Team worked with OCLN and MLN member libraries to build cooperation with the ILL workflow.
- Sue is planning mediated ILL users groups meetings for the spring.
- Steve worked with OCLC, Old Colony Library Network and Minuteman Library Network to streamline billing for mediated interlibrary loan-related charges.

Online Content

Commonwealth eBook Collections

Participation and Funding Status

	Number of Participants	Funding	Budget	Gap
Academic Libraries	23	24,418		
Public Libraries	225	250,148		
School Libraries	40	10,330		
Special Libraries	0	0		
MLS and MBLC Contribution		500,000		
Total	288	\$784,896	\$935,000	\$150,104

Network Participation Status

	Number	Percent	Note
C/WMARS			Polling in progress
CLAMS	35	100%	Live
FLO	10	100%	Onboarding
MassCat			Polling in progress
MBLN			Planning in progress
MLN			Not joining as a group
MVLC	17	47%	Onboarding
NOBLE			Not joining as a group
OCLN	29	100%	Onboarding
SAILS	26	65%	Onboarding

Related Training

	July	August	September	October	November	Total
Programs	0	1	4	7	0	12
Attendees	0	10	125	70	0	205

Other Items

- CLAMS libraries are live on all three vendors. FLO and OCLN libraries are near completion.
- Nora, Shelah and Steve put serious efforts in the MLScuide for this program. <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/ebooks>
- Nora and Steve have set up bimonthly meetings with all three vendors. At this time, those conversations are devoted to bringing libraries online and providing training for participating libraries.
- Celeste Bruno (MBLC) is working with MLS, the MBLC PR Committee and Buyer Advertising on promotional materials.
- Steve is working with the vendors and the Tech Team to set up “tech support” training.

- FY 2015 goals for the program are now on the MLSguide.

Statewide Databases

Encyclopedia Britannica Document/Media Views and Corresponding Value

	FY 2014	Q1 #	Q1 \$	Q1 %
Academic Libraries	1%			
Public Libraries	6%			
School Libraries	91%			
Special Libraries	2%			
Total Views	2,460,865	1,451	\$57,500	
Cost Per Use	\$0.09		\$39.63	

Gale Full Text Retrievals and Corresponding Value

	FY 2014	Q1 #	Q1 \$	Q1 %
Academic Libraries	43%	187,553	165,746	41.4%
Public Libraries	13%	50,370	44,513	11.1%
School Libraries	42%	203,100	179,485	44.9%
Special Libraries	1%	11,260	9,951	2.5%
Total FT Retrievals	8,359,148	452,628	\$400,000	
Cost Per Use	\$0.19		\$0.88	

ProQuest Boston Globe Full Text Retrievals and Corresponding Value

	FY 2014	Q1 #	Q1 \$	Q1 %
Academic Libraries	33%			
Public Libraries	47%			
School Libraries	12%			
Special Libraries	4%			
Total FT Retrievals	177,739		\$	
Cost Per Use	\$1.01		\$	

Related Training

	July	August	September	October	November	Total
Programs	0	0	1	7	2	10
Attendees	0	0	12	68	27	107

Other Items

General

- Resource Sharing Team members met with the Academic Library Services Task Force in a meeting focused on resource sharing-related efforts. There was considerable interest in cooperative purchasing of electronic resources.

Resource Sharing Advisory Committee

- Chair: Dana Mastroianni, Needham Free Public Library
- Meetings this year:
 - September 11 – Focus on committee purpose
 - December 10 – Focus on program assessment
 - March TBD – Focus on cooperative purchasing
 - June TBD – Focus TBD

Regional Resource Sharing Symposium: Interstate Opportunities

- Catherine, Greg, Sue and Steve have been working on an event to explore interstate interlibrary loan and delivery in the Northeast.
- Save the Date: February 24 at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester
- For more information: <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/interstate>
- Sue is gathering statistics on interstate interlibrary loan traffic in preparation.

MLS Member Forum on Resource Sharing and Cooperative Purchasing

- MLS will be rekindling its member forums in 2015.
- Save the Date: January 13 at South Hadley Public Library

Other Special Projects

- Hansie is working on expanding options/access to unique collections. She attended a state meeting on digitizing library historical materials.
- Jenn is working on ILL process/workflow and is contributing to MLS Spring Meeting planning.
- Judy is working on ILL documentation.
- Kara will be assisting with resource sharing support functions.
- Laura is also working on expanding options/access to unique collections. She is creating a wiki of unusual items that libraries have in their lending collections, e.g. seeds, tools.
- Nora is focused on the eBook onboarding process and on MassCat's connection to the Commonwealth Catalog.
- Shelah is working with Steve to create a crosswalk between major data sources and MLS membership data so that we can better understand and serve our members.
- Steve will be working closely with MLS colleagues to look at assessment at MLS including data collection, analysis, use and reporting.
- Vincent will be working closely with Nora to transfer the Professional Collection to the Marlborough office. Vincent will handle the circulation of the collection after the move. He is also handling invoicing for ILL borrowing charges.

Financial Report-December 2014-Catherine Utt

Financial Report-See reports for ending balances in November 2014. The eBook line item is at 193%, however invoicing for access has not begun. Invoicing is to begin in December.

MHEC- In efforts to continue to advance the MHEC/Cooperative Purchasing service, MHEC and I have been working collaboratively:

1. Deb Hoadley and I joined second-round interviews of candidates for the Library Contract Manager position. A finalist has been identified and will be coming in for an additional interview and to provide a presentation for the hiring committee.
2. Stacey Wikar and I attended the Western Ma Tech Roundtable at South Hadley Public Library on Friday, December 5 as a follow up to our meeting with the group in June. The group was satisfied with progress and we hope to continue to join their meetings in order to provide regular updates.
3. Demco is absorbing the majority of Gaylord's catalog and Gaylord will be focusing on archival materials. This change will be effective January 1, 2015. We're discussing what impact this will have on the availability of products to the libraries and the effect on the contract discounts. Gaylord and Demco had separate contracts, so we're working to reconcile differences between the pricing models. Additional information that was provided to member libraries can be accessed on the Cooperative Purchasing Guide: <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/coopnews>

Delivery-The Delivery Survey has been evaluated. There were 269,472 items reported in delivery, which is on level with the approximately 14,000,000 items we estimate annually. Overall item and bin errors were under 1%. This is higher than we prefer, so we've identified particular areas where the majority of the problems are occurring and are working with Optima to correct these issues:

- MassCat – item errors 8.46% and bin errors 3.9%. We found these were related to one library in particular. We're working directly with that library.
- MBLN – item errors 1.56%. We found these were isolated entirely to Boston Public Library. An audit of these items is in process.
- Non-network – item errors 2.25% and bin errors 7.95%. Accuracy for non-networked libraries has been historically problematic.

- C/W MARS – item errors 1.17% and bin errors 2.15%. The facility was transitioning its supervisor, so we expect this higher than expected number to be related to that. However, we intend to continue to monitor to ensure accuracy is at the expected level.

Accuracy levels for the other networks (CLAMS, FLO, MLN, MVLC, NOBLE, OCLN and SAILS) were all well below 1% error rate.

Overall satisfaction results were relatively similar to the previous survey.

Bibliotemps-See financial data at end of report.

Massachusetts Library System		End Balance November 2014		
Fiscal Year 2015				
Line Item Budget				
	Budget	Actual	Percentage	Comments
I. PERSONNEL COSTS				
A. Salaries and Wages	1,551,199.00	640,469.66	41.29%	
B. Applicable Benefits	482,851.00	174,665.56	36.17%	
SUBTOTAL	2,034,050.00	815,135.22	40.07%	
II. OPERATING EXPENSES				
A. Books and Other Library Materials				
1. Online Content - Reference	809,549.00	0.00	0.00%	
2. Online Content - eBook	250,000.00	483,831.29	193.53%	Invoicing for eBook services to begin in December
3. Professional Collection	5,000.00	1,891.50	37.83%	
B. Equipment				
1. Computer Hardware and Software	65,000.00	9,273.29	14.27%	
2. Office Equipment and Furnishings	20,000.00	8,612.30	43.06%	
3. Vehicles	0.00	0.00		
C. Office Expenses				
1. Supplies	30,000.00	13,438.17	44.79%	
2. Postage	17,000.00	5,196.03	30.56%	
3. Telephone	15,000.00	6,892.21	45.95%	
4. Printing	5,000.00	904.98	18.10%	
5. Travel				
a) In-state	55,000.00	26,263.54	47.75%	

b) Out-of-state	35,000.00	13,377.03	38.22%	
6. Equipment Maintenance and Repair	4,500.00	2,758.44	61.30%	
7. Space Rental/Electricity	215,000.00	79,773.98	37.10%	
8. Audit	25,000.00	17,340.00	69.36%	
9. Other	128,000.00	48,042.94	37.53%	
D. Regional Vehicle Expenses	0.00	0.00		
E. Contractual Services (Excludes Online Content)	3,568,500.00	1,187,728.04	33.28%	
SUBTOTAL	5,247,549.00	1,905,323.74	36.31%	
TOTAL	7,281,599.00	2,720,458.96	37.36%	
III. SUB-CONTRACTED SERVICES	100,000.00	0.00	0.00%	
TOTAL	7,381,599.00	2,720,458.96	36.85%	

Bibliotemps Fiscal Year 2015			
Line Item Budget			
	Nov-14	YTD	Comments
I. REVENUE			
A. Bibliotemps Revenue	70,566.92	355,534.69	
B. Bibliotemps Costs	57,062.16	287,540.91	
NET INCOME SUBTOTAL	13,504.76	67,993.78	
I. PERSONNEL COSTS			
A. Salaries and Wages	4,240.00	17,407.82	
B. Applicable Benefits	746.24	2,434.52	
SUBTOTAL	4,986.24	19,842.34	
II. OPERATING EXPENSES			
A. Equipment			
1. Computer Hardware and Software	0.00	2,790.66	
2. Office Equipment and Furnishings	0.00	0.00	
A. Equipment Subtotal	0.00	2,790.66	
C. Office Expenses			
1. Supplies	474.87	474.87	
2. Postage	0.00	0.00	
3. Telephone	0.00	0.00	
4. Printing	0.00	0.00	
5. Travel			
a) In-state	100.24	241.58	
b) Out-of-state	0.00	0.00	
6. Equipment Maintenance and Repair	0.00	0.00	
7. Other	0.00	0.00	
A. Office Expenses Subtotal	575.11	716.45	
SUBTOTAL	5,561.35	23,349.45	
INCOME AFTER EXPENSES	7,943.41	44,644.33	

MBLC-December 12, 2014-Dianne Carty

I begin by reviewing the 9C cuts that were authorized by the Governor last month. All of the agency lines were reduced by 1 ½ %, a total of \$387,317. It was particularly difficult because we had just enjoyed some increases.

Richard Kobayashi and Jim Sutton interviewed librarians across the state for the State Aid White Paper. They also had a session with the executive board and Commissioner Murphy. They are anticipating an interview with Kate Hogan soon. Mary Rose Quinn, Liz Babbitt and I met with Richard and Jim to

review the draft of the State Aid to Public Libraries White Paper. We have since received the revised draft to check and have sent it back to Dick and Jim. I have asked that they present the final White Paper to the Board at our January meeting. On December 16th the State Aid Advisory Committee, appointed by the Board, will meet for the first time and should have a copy of the White Paper to begin their deliberations

I have been attending the regular meeting of the Performance Management group of ANF. I attended the first meeting of the Performance Advisory Council. The Council, established through Governor Patrick's Executive Order 540, will support the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (ANF) in developing nation-leading strategic planning and performance management framework for the Commonwealth. The Council will share and disseminate best practices in performance management and consider innovative proposals and policy ideas to support all Secretariats in achieving their program goals and implementing strategic plans.

The Council will also work in collaboration with ANF's Office of Commonwealth Performance, Accountability, and Transparency (CPAT). Established by statute in 2012, CPAT has worked to create a performance-driven culture across state government through the training of over 1,000 managers, and the establishment of a comprehensive strategic planning process for all eight cabinet secretariats. The Performance Advisory Council is made up of 28 members who represent the academic, business, and labor communities, as well as senior officials from each Secretariat, legislators, and municipal officials. The Secretary of Administration and Finance chairs the Council. Members include: Glen Shor, Chairman Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office for Administration and Finance; Jo Blum, Director of Government Relations Massachusetts Teachers Association; JD Chesloff, Executive Director Massachusetts Business Roundtable; Chris Condon, Legislative and Political Director Service Employees International Union; Trudy Coxe, Executive Officer and Executive Director Preservation Society of Newport County; Kenneth Donnelly, State Senator Massachusetts State Senate, 4th Middlesex District; Mark Fine, Director of Municipal Collaboration Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC); Jay Gonzalez, President and Chief Executive Officer Celticare Health and New Hampshire Healthy Families; Matthew Gorzkowicz, Associate Vice President for Administration and Finance University of Massachusetts; John Grossman, Managing Partner and General Counsel Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc.; Ira Jackson, Dean John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston; Tripp Jones Most recently Co-Managing Director at New Profit; Elaine Kamarck, Lecturer in Public Policy; Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government; Thatcher Kezer, Former Mayor City of Amesbury; Michael Knapik, Executive Director of University Advancement Westfield State University; Peter Kocot, State Representative Massachusetts House of Representatives, First Hampshire District; Gloria Cordes Larson, President Bentley University; Shelley Metzenbaum, Founding President Volcker Alliance; Tracy Palandjian, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder Social Finance, Inc.; Ayanna Pressley, City Councilor City of Boston; Daniel Rivera, Mayor City of Lawrence; Daniel Rizzo, Mayor City of Revere ; Setti Warren, Mayor City of Newton.

I attended the annual meeting of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies in Wyoming during the Week of October 19th. It was a beautiful setting for the days of updates and presentations. Stephanie Vance of Advocacy Associates led us through the tricky path of advocacy for state libraries. I have attended her sessions before and she is very informative and entertaining. You can find more about her and see her in action at <http://advocacyguru.com>. The highlight for me was the presentation by Amy Garmer from the Aspen Institute about the recently released report 'Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries.' This report has strategies and action steps for the successful reinvention of libraries. You can find a link to the report at <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/publications/rising-challenge-re-envisioning-public-libraries>

There will be national level discussion about operationalizing the strategies. I have come back from this meeting with many ideas borrowed from other state library directors. One is to issue a director's report to the library community each month. Details have to be worked but I expect to act on this soon.

I attended the Network Retreat follow-up that was ably led by Paul Kissman and Cindy Roach. There was much discussion and many ideas that flowed that day. The networks were presented with the plan to shift some SLIN funding from LSTA grants to 9506.

The Small Libraries Forum in Sturbridge on October 29th was a great event that brought small libraries together to hear presentations and to connect. The keynote speaker, Jessamyn West, spoke about future-proofing libraries. Her easy going manner bring her experiences from a small Vermont library help the attendees feel that the future full of technology is not so frightening. You can learn more about Jessamyn at <http://www.jessamyn.com/> I was able to bring my newly gained knowledge from the Aspen Institute report to my remarks for the group. I relayed the four specific strategies that the report presents for small and rural libraries: EXPLORING REGIONAL MODELS to create economies of scale; MAXIMIZING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES from foundations and funders to meet program and service needs that are specific to the rural and small library context; CREATING CONNECTIONS among librarians to share models, lessons learned and resources; BECOMING PART OF LARGER LIBRARY PLATFORMS that provide access to larger bodies of content. In addition I spoke about the funding requests for the Legislative Agenda. I would like to see this become an annual event. Certainly those librarians I spoke with are eager to see this happen.

On November 1st I attended the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Trustees Association in Northborough. It was another great time and a way for people to connect. Cindy Roach has worked hard to help MLTA and MFOL be better organizations. They are very appreciative of all that she does. The keynote speaker was A.C. Gaughen, an author of YA books. Most recently she has been working on a trilogy about the Robin Hood legend. A.C. spent some time talking about her books but primarily focused on her journey to becoming an author. I must say that we all were smitten with her. You can find out more about A.C., her books and see her in action at <http://www.acgaughen.com/>

On Monday, I, along with several staff and Commissioners, attended the MLS annual meeting. Again, it was another venue for connections. Librarians connected with MLS, MBLC and BPL staff and with each other. The keynote speaker was another unbelievable presenter, Michael Margolis. His company, Get Storied, is an advisory and training company devoted to transformational storytelling. From his website: 'We believe storytelling is a basic human birthright. Everyone has a story worth telling. When people own the story of their lives and their organizations, they become empowered to make big change. For more than a decade, we've worked as storytelling architects, advising clients like Audubon, Adventist Health Systems, Bloomberg, Bonnaroo, Flavorpill, Greenpeace, Points of Light and Zappos. We work closely with CEOs, CMOs, and leaders to enliven their organizations with a narrative that aligns and accelerates their strategy, brand, innovation and/or culture. Whether you're dealing with issues of perception, relevance or idea adoption, your *story* determines your future. They have worked with state libraries in California, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. You can learn more about the work with libraries at: <http://www.getstoried.com/our-work-with-libraries/>

A meeting of representatives from the MBLC, Library for the Commonwealth and MLS was held on November 17th. This is the second time we have met as a group to discuss statewide services. It is a beginning and it is my intention that these meetings continue and that the stakeholders in statewide services will share concerns and issues as we move ahead with funding for statewide services.

The website editorial team of the agency is moving ahead with an RFR for the redesign of the agency website. It is long overdue. We are currently looking at the agency's other web properties and how they integrate and provide information for the library community.

We are preparing to print stationery and note cards with the new MBLC design for January. Our Branding Guidelines will be posted on the Newsroom for the organizations and libraries that receive funding from the MBLC. We hope to have items for you to see at the January Board meeting.

Construction Program Update-A letter was sent from the MBLC to confirm the final approval by the state's Administration and Finance of the Webster Library's increase in the Library's MPLCP

provisional grant award from \$5,366,489 to \$7,567,412 or 75.00% of total eligible costs. Their town meeting has approved the project and a debt exclusion vote is scheduled for January 21st. The Shrewsbury PL held its ground breaking on November 6th. The Everett PL System's dedication of the Shute Memorial Branch Library is tentatively scheduled for January 24. The date will be confirmed and a time set.

Pictures of the new MPLCP libraries funded that were completed in FY13 are included in the Library Journal's The Year in Architecture, November 15th issue. Those libraries were in East Boston and Holyoke and the towns of Westwood, Foxborough, W. Tisbury, and Millis.

On December 5th, Library Journal's Design Institute at the BPL was held. Lauren Starra moderated one of the two panel discussions on future trends in public libraries. The Institute featured five design challenges, and the three Massachusetts public libraries chosen as case studies for breakout sessions are

- Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free PL
- Kingston PL
- Springfield City Library, E. Forest Park Branch

Kudos for Lauren Starra for initiating the effort to bring this national event to New England!

Cindy Roach and Erin Williams-Hart just completed the fall series of Trustee Orientations (with Deb Hoadley and Kristi Chadwick from MLS). There were seven sessions around the state, as close as Brookline and as far as Pittsfield, between September and November. There were nearly 150 attendees in total (mostly Trustees, but a few Directors as well). The directors of Foxborough and Athol gave very informative and well-attended tours of their new buildings as well. Overall Cindy and Erin felt this was a very successful round of Orientations, and they look forward to a little hiatus before setting up another round in the spring.

The LSTA team of Marlene, Shelley and Gregor are working on creating LSTA grant writing webinars that libraries considering grants can access anytime to improve their grant-writing for the LSTA FY2016 grant round.