



BAY STATE LIBRARIES

Newsletter of the Massachusetts Library Association

www.masslib.org

Summer 2010

MLA Newsletter: Volume 97 Issue #3

Year in Review, *Susan McAlister Outgoing MLA President*

It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I was inducted as President of the Massachusetts Library Association. My tenure as President has been one of the most rewarding and challenging experiences of my professional career. It is the relationships and friendships that I have formed over this past year that I value the most.

The Association was very busy this year. I am pleased that we were able to complete a strategic plan that will provide a roadmap for MLA for the next five years. Highlights of the plan include a continued focus on legislative advocacy, strengthening our infrastructure to better meet our members' needs and exploration of partnerships with like organizations.

We have already started forming new partnerships with the Massachusetts Center for the Book and the Digital Commonwealth. The Center for the Book brought its annual Book Awards to the MLA Annual Conference in Hyannis and beginning July 1, MLA will become the fiscal agent for the Digital Commonwealth. We anticipate future conference collaborations with both organizations.

The Youth Services Section (YSS), chaired by Maureen Ambrosino, revised the standards for library service to young adults in Massachusetts. The standards are comprehensive and practical and are posted on the MLA website. YSS also sponsored terrific programming at the Annual Conference including sessions from Linda Braun and Cory Doctorow.

The Paralibrarian Section, chaired by Gael Nappa, worked this year to expand the PARA Award from three levels to four. The PARA is a voluntary program to recognize paralibrarians who go above and beyond their regular duties. The Section also sponsored great programming at the conference including a wonderful demonstration on how to put together a Book Cart Drill

Team performance. I hope we see a lot of teams at next year's conference!

The Public Relations Committee, chaired by Laurie Lessner and Greg Pronevitz, worked with MLA Executive Manager, Elizabeth Hacala, to launch the new MLA website. Congratulations! The Committee also coordinated the promotion and judging of the Public Relations awards. This year's recipients are, Tamson Ely, Springfield Technical Community College (retired), Corinne Fisher, Reading Public Library, James Sutton, Memorial Hall Library, Andover (retired), and Bonnie O'Brien, Shrewsbury Public Library (retired). Congratulations to you all and thank you for your contributions to librarianship in Massachusetts.

It has been a challenging year for the Membership Committee, chaired by Kimberly Lynn. Due to the economy, the Committee has focused on developing promotions to increase membership. Kim will continue as Membership chair in FY11 and will focus on creative ways to increase our numbers and highlight the value of membership. Please renew your memberships and encourage your colleagues to do the same!

One of the greatest values of membership is the advocacy that MLA provides at the State House through the Legislative Committee. Krista McLeod and Jackie Rafferty provided outstanding leadership as co-chairs of the committee and have guided us through some incredibly complex budget issues this year. The Committee organized MLA's first ever rally at the State House in November and another as part of Legislative Day in March. Between our grassroots efforts and our lobbyist, Maryanne Lewis, we have gotten our message out. But our work isn't over. We need all of you to continue your advocacy at the state and local level.

The Technical Services Section chaired by Jennifer Forgit, put together a full track of programming at the An-

Year in Review (cont)

nual Conference that was very timely including the Future of Publishing Digital vs Print and Improving Communication between Technical and Public Services.

And speaking of Annual Conference, WOW, the Conference Committee did it again! Chairs Michael Colford, Ellen Keane and Gianna Gifford and everyone on the Committee, succeeded once again in bringing us an incredible amount of programming in a 2 ½ day format. They were very cognizant of keeping expenses down and promoting the event to get attendance up. They succeeded on both fronts. The trivia and auction made close to \$6,000, while profit for the conference itself totaled \$17,000. Nice work!! The Committee will soon announce a location and theme for next year's conference.

Thank you to all the Committees and Sections for all of

the work that you do on behalf of the Association. As we transition to new officers, I want to recognize Richard Callaghan who is stepping down as Past President and Margaret Cardello who is stepping down as Secretary. On behalf of the Association, we thank you for your time and energy in moving the Association forward. I also want to welcome our new Vice President/President elect, Ruth Urell, and our new Secretary, Nancy Siegel. Our incoming President Jackie Rafferty, who will also continue as ALA Councilor, will provide strong leadership in the coming year. I look forward to working with all the new officers and chairs in my upcoming role as Past President. A special thanks to Elizabeth Hacala, MLA's Executive Manager, for all you do to support us. Thank you to all the members for the honor of serving as your President this past year.

Public Relations Committee Seeks Members

Do you enjoy promoting your library? Would you like an inside peek into what other libraries in MA are doing? Join the PR Committee and get a bird's eye view! This is the year the PR Committee will be organizing the PR Awards. We need committee members to assist in running the awards, from helping to recruit judges, plan and run the judging days, set up the awards, and assist at the ceremony.

For those not interested in only the PR awards, the PR committee also lends its voice to the MLA website and newsletter, and every other year we run the Hall of Fame Awards. We really have a lot of fun! So if you enjoy lots of laughing and being creative, send your name and contact information to: Laurie Lessner (llessner@sailsinc.org)



Thank you for your support!

2010 Conference Sponsors



from Meek to Mighty
Reinventing Libraries in Challenging Times

YSS launches Teen Choice Book Award

The Youth Services Section and the Massachusetts School Library Association have launched the first-ever Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award. This is not a typical book award – teens will nominate the titles, then vote on the short list of their favorite favorites.

Nominations opened June 1, 2010 and teens may nominate their favorite books published in 2010 through December 31. Fiction, nonfiction, manga – it all counts! If they liked it and it was published this year, they can nominate it! There's no limit to nominations, either. If a student wants to nominate many new books, they can do so.

In January 2011, the 5 books for middle school readers and the 5 for high school readers with the most nominations will be announced. Teens will then have until March 15 to vote for their favorites.



The winning book will be announced on Support Teen Literature Day - April 14, 2011.

Any student aged 12-18 who lives or attends school in Massachusetts may participate; however, students under 13 must nominate and vote using paper ballots. Students 13-18 may nominate and vote online or via paper ballot.

Visit the Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Award website at <http://www.readsinma.org/tcba> for more information, links to lists of 2010 books, and a printable brochure, or contact Sue-Ellen Szymanski at sszymans@cwmars.org.



MLA Salutes Maureen Killoran

On June 4, 2010 the MLA Legislative Committee celebrated the service of long-time member and MBLC liaison, Maureen Killoran. Maureen is retiring from her position as the Head of the Public Library Advisory Unit at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners this summer. In this position, Maureen has worked closely with MLA and particularly with the Legislative Committee. Her knowledge of legislative affairs, and her advice and assistance with the programs and activities of the Legislative Committee has been invaluable. Maureen served on the MLA Legislative Committee for 30 years, and has also served on many other MLA Committees. She represented the MBLC at MLA Executive Committee meetings for many years. Thank you, Maureen, and we wish you many happy, healthy and productive years of retirement!



Thank You!

Susan R. McAlister, Minuteman Library Network
MLA President

Jacqueline Rafferty, Paul Pratt Memorial Library
MLA Vice President
Legislative Committee Co-Chair
ALA Councilor

Margaret Cardello, Central MA Reg Lib Sys
Secretary

Bernadette D. Rivard, Bellingham Public Library
Treasurer

Richard Callaghan, Bedford Free Public Library
MLA Past President
Education Committee Chair

Michael Colford, Boston Public Library
Conference Committee Co-Chair

Gianna Gifford, Simmons College Libraries
Conference Committee Co-Chair

Ellen Keane, UMASS Lowell
Conference Committee Co-Chair

Theresa Parise, Boston Public Library
Intellectual Freedom Chair

Daryl Mark, Cambridge Public Library
Jordan Miller Chair

Krista McLeod, Nevins Memorial Library
Legislative Committee Co-Chair

Kimberly Lynn, Memorial Hall Library
Membership Chair

Greg Pronevitz, NMRLS
Public Relations Co-Chairs

Laurie Lessner, SAILS Library Network
Public Relations Co-Chairs

Maureen Ambrosino, Central MA Reg Lib Sys
Youth Services

Kirsten Underwood, Nevins Memorial Library
Personnel Issues

Gael Nappa, Haverhill Public Library
Paralibrarian Section Chair

Jennifer Forgit, Pembroke Public Library
Tech Services

Sunny Vandermark, Metrowest
Archivist

Deborah Abraham, Everett Public Library
Financial Committee

Clare Curran-Ball, Memorial Hall Library
NELA Representative

Robert Maier
MBLC Liaison

Kathy Lowe and Sandy Kelly
MSLA Liaison

*Thank you to the entire
2010 MLA Executive
Board for your
dedicated service to
MLA and librarians
across the
Commonwealth!*

MLA Conference Evaluation

If you have not had a chance to complete the 2010 MLA Annual Conference evaluation there is still time! The evaluation can be found at:
<http://tiny.cc/cnycn>

On behalf of the Conference Committee, thank you for making your voice heard and helping us shape future MLA Conferences.

MSLA News, Gerri Fegan, MSLA President

New members will join Valerie Diggs on the MSLA Executive Board as she begins her term as President-Elect. New faces on the board include Julie Farrell from the Overlook Middle School in Ashburnham, Legislation Chair; Dolores Krasner, Massachusetts Reading Association liaison; Mary Rose Quinn, Director of the Stevens Memorial Library in North Andover, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners liaison; Margaret Phoenix from Notre Dame Academy in Worcester, Awards Co-Chair with Carrie Tucker; Kathleen Porter from Foxborough High School, Southeast Area Co-Director with Lynn Weeks; and Kathleen Ross from Brighton High School, Boston Area Co-Director with Jen Varney.

President Gerri Fegan and Valerie Diggs met with Senator Donnelly's Chief of Staff to discuss the particulars about our request for oversight at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. We are proposing a long-range plan to integrate the school library responsibilities with a current administrator that will eventually evolve into a fulltime supervising position. We will meet with the Commissioner to discuss this plan this summer.

Plans for MSLA's annual conference on October 3-4 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center are complete and registration is now open at www.regonline.com/msla2010. MSLA is offering a 25% discount off 2010-11 dues for those who register before September 1. The Sunday program has been redesigned into a Symposium format featuring library futurist Stephen Abram and author/illustrator Christopher Bing. The Sunday dinner program includes the MSLA awards and speaker Linda Nathan, Director of Boston Arts Academy and author of *The Hardest Questions Aren't on the Test: Lessons From an Innovative Urban School*. The popular Author Fest, featuring several local authors, has been expanded to both

days of the conference. Monday's keynote speaker is Michael Dahl, Editorial Director and Acquisitions at Stone Arch Books. Visit www.maschoolibraries.org for more information about the conference program and a list of authors participating in the Author Fest.

As schools wind down for summer vacation, MSLA has begun collecting data for the creation of a database that accounts for all school librarians in Massachusetts. This database will include information about public, private, parochial, and other categories of schools. It is our hope to tie in reading scores, teacher status, and employment facts to provide evidence that prove the value of school libraries.

2010-11 will be an exciting and productive year as we work with the new Massachusetts Library System leaders. Our first interview for the fall issue MSLA Forum will be with Executive Director Greg Pronevitz, and we will present him to the membership at our fall conference.

From the Executive Manager:

During this time of year a lot of people are making changes, new jobs, moves, retirements etc. This year we are witness to a particularly large shuffling of our library community.

MLA members like you are our the single most valuable resource. We want to make sure we do not lose track of anyone during this time of transition.

If you have new contact information, you can submit that information at: <http://www.masslib.net/MemUpdateForm.htm>

I wish you a safe and happy summer.

*Elizabeth Hacala
Executive Manager*