

**MLA Legislative Advisory Panel  
Minutes  
November 4, 2011, 10:00 a.m.  
Anne Arundel County Library Headquarters  
Annapolis, MD 21401**

Attending: Skip Auld, Mary Baykan (Chair), Jay Bansbach, Darryll Batson, Joan Bellistri, Alan Bogage, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Mark de Jong, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Ann Gilligan, Mary Hastler, Sharan Marshall, Irene Padilla, Glennor Shirley, Mary Somers and Evelyn Tchiyuka. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

Minutes

Denise moved to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2011 meeting as amended. Darryll seconded the motion. The minutes were approved and after corrections will be posted on the MLA LAP Blog @ (<http://mdliblegislative.wordpress.com>)

Mary Baykan introduced Mark de Jong, the MLA LAP's new intern. Mark is a Document Management Librarian at the University of Maryland University College.

Federal Legislative Report

Natalie reported that National Library Legislative Day will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 23 and 24, 2012. The Liaison Hotel will serve as the hub, but no other details are available at this time.

Natalie provided the following information about the status of appropriations for FY12:

**General**

Appropriations has a continuing resolution for FY 2012 through 11/18  
The Super Committee is not meeting this week  
There is a push for cuts to entitlement funding  
They are considering another continuing resolution  
The House is on break next week  
There will be more rushed activity leading up to Thanksgiving

**LSTA (Library Services & Technology Act) funding for FY 2012**

9/22 Senate Appropriations Committee passed Education Appropriations bill (S1599) and includes level funding for LSTA - \$189 million – pretty good, considering  
Thanks to everyone who contacted Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Please send thanks to Mikulski for voting for this  
Moves to full Senate for vote, not yet scheduled – will probably need advocacy

**School libraries funding for FY 2012**

9/22 Appropriations Committee passed bill that includes funding for school libraries - \$15 million  
Thanks to all who contacted Senator Barbara Mikulski  
Please send thanks to Senator Mikulski for voting for this  
Moves to full Senate for vote, not yet scheduled – will probably need advocacy

**GPO (Government Printing Office)**

Funding for FY 2012 Senate's Legislative Branch Appropriations bill passed in September with \$116.8 million, more than the House bill's \$108.1 million  
Thank you for contacting Senators to ask for the higher amount

## **ESEA (Elementary & Secondary Education Act)**

Passed out of HELP Committee without amendment in support of school libraries

SKILLS Act, S 1328 – no progress

Whitehouse/Murray amendment – withdrawn due to lack of support, but may be re-introduced on Senate floor

Many thanks to all who contacted Senator Barbara Mikulski asking for her support

In preparation, ALA Washington Office is collecting stories about the state of school libraries to illustrate the consequences of poorly funded programs; see Legislative Panel Blog for details @ <http://mdliblegislative.wordpress.com>)

## **American Jobs Act of 2011 – S1549, HR12**

Includes funds for K-12 education allocated for teacher jobs (including school librarians) and building renovation projects (including school libraries)

Allocates funds for community college building renovation projects (including libraries)

Because of library funding, ALA Washington Office to ask Congress to support

Senate bill – no progress

House bill Co-Sponsors: Cummings, Hoyer, Ruppersberger, Van Hollen

House bill referred to multiple committees on 9/21; no further progress

## **Congressional District Map**

Lines redrawn

Concern: 6<sup>th</sup> District (Bartlett) now reduced conservative voice b/c includes parts of more Democratic Montgomery Co

Concern: no minority voice b/c split into different districts

Being challenged in court

Tried to keep BRAC affected areas together

Howard Co – now will be in District 2, as well as 3 and 7

4<sup>th</sup> District – now includes large part of AA Co; Former PG State's Attorney Glenn Ivey will challenge Edwards, likely to be most competitive Democratic primary; AA Co Council member Jamie Benoit formed exploratory committee to look into running

## **Copyright**

Mark de John reported that he has been following the *Protect IP Act*. This bill would enable methods to make suspected piratical Web sites virtually disappear from the Internet. Those with concern about censorship issues say this approach violates the First Amendment. Mark noted that academic libraries are following this closely because of distance learning implications. UCLA and Georgia State are both currently involved in legal cases related to these issues. The bill is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## **State Legislative Report**

Mary noted that there is no legislation pending yet at the state level. She provided a handout of the General Assembly's dates of interest for its 90 day 2012 session.

Mary noted that the biggest impact from recent redistricting is in the 6<sup>th</sup> District, which is traditionally rural, Republican and loyal to Senator Roscoe Bartlett. The redistricting process added population from Montgomery County, which is largely Democratic. This could swing the district over to its minority party. Senator Roscoe could be challenged by his own party. Senator Bartlett is not raising campaign funds, which may be an indication that he will not run. The redistricting faces legal

challenges with charges of gerrymandering, which will have to be defended. A citizen has also filed a discrimination suit of bias in urban vs. rural interests.

Mary noted that the state's budget cycle will be moved by the Senate this year. This power is traded back and forth between the House and Senate each year. Mary then reviewed the budget cycle.

Mary reported that the Spending Affordability Report, which is 70 pages long, states that Maryland will have a one billion dollar deficit. There is concern that current budget year's revenue projections have fallen. If there is not enough funding to break even, draconian final quarter cuts may happen. Tax increases are almost guaranteed, especially a new gas tax to help pay for Maryland's infrastructure problems.

The Legislative session runs from January 11 to April 9, 2012. Our Legislative Reception will be held on January 25, 2012. Requests for support for the event and invitations will be sent soon. Biddle Street will again cater the event. We have taken in \$5,050 so far and are still in the process of asking supporters to underwrite the event. We will ask Senator Miller to declare the date *Maryland Library Day*.

Mary and Parker met with Senator Richard Madaleno to discuss how to preserve our \$5 million in capital grant funding. The Senator told them capital budget funds are finite and all capital projects must be funded from this amount, including pet projects like the new state complex in Baltimore. When legislators see a pot of money they try to "steal it" and move it to their pet projects. Mary and Parker explained to the Senator the thorough vetting and grant process we undergo to implement our capital grants.

Mary asked if, when he mandates our funding - the Governor sees a list of all the projects that will benefit from the \$5M? Irene explained the process we go through, noting that we have a new analyst for the capital funds. Because preserving this mandate is paramount, we will prepare material in advance to fight off baseless complaints such as "only wealthy counties get the funding." The scope of how the money is spread around needs to be continually shown and we must keep beating back those determined to take this funding. Another early argument they used against us is that the capital funding is too "diluted." Denise noted that the Governor use our capital grants as a model of effectiveness. Irene suggested putting together a fact sheet on the capital projects for everyone's use during their legislative visits. This could also show, besides the total cost of the projects, what the state has leveraged *locally* for the projects.

Denise noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared libraries an *essential service* based on what happened after Hurricane Katrina, because libraries proved instrumental in communication services. Materials provided by libraries saved the day in many instances. Thus, there is feasibility for soliciting this at the state level, asking the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to declare libraries an essential service. We will discuss this with our consultants and perhaps the head of MEMA. Mark Thomas is researching this idea and we will follow up with him.

## DLDS

Irene thanked everyone involved in the recent and successful Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) annual meeting. The program generated many compliments. Mary remarked it was among the most substantive meetings she has attended in years. Over 70 people attended and they were a good representation of library trustees and other supporters from across the state. A program presented at

MACO last summer on *21<sup>st</sup> Century Libraries* was repeated for the CML meeting. The participants were impressed with its review of the extraordinary things going on around the state and they received the full scope of what libraries are doing.

Irene reported that she recently attended the annual meeting of state librarians in Santa Fe, NM. The Gates Foundation gave a presentation there and Irene is planning to share our workforce development outcome measures as a model for Gates.

Irene said the *Plan Maryland* program, the Governor's initiative for promoting development cohesively, is facing issues. Public libraries were given a presentation about the program over the summer. However, a dispute has arisen between a library board which purchased land for a library in one area vs. Plan Maryland which wants it built somewhere else.

There will be a vacancy at DLDS with the retirement of Stephanie Shaik at the end of December. Stephanie oversees youth services in public libraries and LATI.

Irene will attend another state librarian conference sponsored by the Gates Foundation and focusing on information technology, broadband, etc. She will report back.

#### MLA Executive Director

Margaret provided copies of Verizon's *Directory of Maryland Elected Officials*, the preferred directory of the Maryland Legislative Library.

Margaret reported the following:

- Invitations to the Legislative Reception on January 25 will be printed in early December for mailing in early January. MLA will provide public libraries enough copies for their board members.
- The half-day legislative preview sponsored by Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations (MANO) will be at 8:30 a.m. on January 9 at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis. Maryland's political leadership will give their perspectives. Let Margaret know you want to attend by November 10 to take advantage of the early bird ticket price.
- The MLA/DLA Annual Conference will be held May 9-11, 2012 in Ocean City. Of note: eleven pre-conference programs. More information will be online in December. The Delaware Library Association, our partner, is providing \$10,000 toward the conference expenses.
- Please let Margaret know about those you would like MLA to send a holiday card to.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Friday, January 6, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Denny, Executive Assistant, AACPL.