

**Minutes**  
**MLA Legislative Advisory Panel**  
**January 4, 2013**  
**Anne Arundel County Public Library Headquarters**  
**Annapolis, MD 21401**

Attending: Mary Hastler (Acting Chair), Joan Bellistri, Kay Bowman, Denise Davis, Mark deJong, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Ann Gilligan, Sharan Marshall, Carrie Willson-Plymire, Mary Somers, Chuck Steadman, Evelyn Tchiyuka, Lynn Wheeler and Linda Williams. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

Minutes

Jim moved to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2012 meeting. Carrie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Federal Legislation

Natalie reported the following:

- Federal legislators are currently focusing on the fiscal cliff and debt ceiling.
- Republican Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, who represented Maryland's 6th District for nearly two decades, lost his bid for an 11th term Tuesday to a Democratic businessman. John Delaney, a Potomac financier, will become the seventh Democrat to represent the state in the House of Representatives in January. The rest of Maryland's delegation to Washington won re-election.
- Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski has become the first woman to chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, a position left open by the death of Hawaii Sen. Daniel Inouye. A Democrat, Mikulski was first elected to the Senate in 1986 after serving ten years in the House. Last year, she became the longest-serving woman in Senate history. The Panel agreed to acknowledge her accomplishment with a congratulatory note.
- There are no new details on National Library Legislative Day, scheduled for May 7 and 8, 2013 in Washington, D.C.

State Report

*Capital Grant Funding Formula Revision*

Mary reported that a letter was sent to Senator Edward Kasemeyer, Chairman of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and Norman Conway, Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, on September 14 from Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools, to report on the Cost Sharing Formula for the County Library Capital Project Grant Program. The report was made due to concerns about the previous

allocation of funds in this program (FY2008 - FY2013). The General Assembly included language in the FY2013 budget to require MSDE to work with MAPLA to study the 50% local match requirement for the existing grant program, to ensure greater geographic diversity, consistent with statutory intent, by reducing the local match requirement for counties with less wealth. There is no update on the results of the report to date, but Irene Padilla has been asked many questions related to it. Overall, the legislators seem pleased with it, and a meeting was held with Chairman Conway about how it will benefit the Eastern Shore.

### *Library Road Signs – Restoration Project*

A letter was sent to Acting Secretary Darrell B. Mobley at the Maryland Department of Transportation, signed by Senator Raskin and Delegate Hixson, to ask that the State Highway Administration (SHA) take action to reinstate public library directional signs on highways. This will make the people of Maryland safer by helping people to be able to obtain essential information and resources during emergencies, as well as to effectively access public educational services and resources. Mary said there has been no feedback yet, but there is hope that since the letter cannot be ignored, it will produce results.

### *Union Activity*

Howard County's County Executive Ken Ulman has offered his support for legislation that would grant collective bargaining rights to library workers in Howard County. Mr. Ulman is a potential candidate in the 2014 Maryland gubernatorial race. The legislation would enable the Montgomery County Affiliate of The United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) to approach Howard County library employees. While this legislation will probably have support of the Howard County delegation and may pass, it does not necessarily mean that employees will choose to join. The UFCW tried a statewide approach to unionize library employees in 2010, which Mr. Ulman also supported, but this attempt failed. Now, UFCW's strategy seems to be to focus on counties adjacent to Montgomery County which have already expressed support. This legislation will be observed closely.

### Other

Governor Martin O'Malley recently announced the appointment of Commissioner W. Kevin Hughes as chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission (MPSC). Sharan noted that Mr. Hughes was once an aide to Sheila Hixson and is very familiar with the library community. She added that we do not often deal with the MPSC, but it is nice to know we have a friend there. The panel will send him congratulations and invite him to the next legislative reception.

Mary noted that gun control issues and police officers in schools may have an effect on school librarians. Linda provided information about Anne Arundel County Public Schools and armed officers. A discussion ensued on security guards and police officers in public libraries. This issue should be on the agenda at the next MAPLA meeting.

Carrie announced that Jim Fish will receive MLA's Outstanding Member Award. Mary announced that Audra Caplan, retired former Director of Harford County Public Library, will be awarded honorary membership in MLA.

Maryland Nonprofits is holding its *2013 Legislative Preview* at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis Monday morning, January 7. Registration is available online.

Maryland Library Day, Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Mary reminded everyone to get their inserts for the briefing packets that will be distributed on Maryland Library Day. White lapel pins will be available. Invitations to the evening reception have been mailed to all legislators. The agenda for the day is as follows:

8:00 a.m. - Continental breakfast (compliments of the Law Library Association of Maryland), briefing packets and MLA coffee packets to give away will be available for pickup in the Anne Arundel Circuit Court Library (enter from Church Circle). The MLA Legislative Advisory Panel will provide general talking points for participants to keep in mind when making visits to legislators later in the day.

9:15 a.m. - Proceed to State House for Senate and Hours presentations.

*The following individuals will be present on floor of Senate and House:*

Lynn Wheeler, President, MLA

Irene Padilla, State Librarian

Jessame Ferguson, President, CALD

Jay Bansbach, MSDE School Libraries or Mary Jo Richmond, President, MASL

Maureen Sullivan, President of ALA

At conclusion, participants are free to go to lunch and make delegation visits.

5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Legislative Reception in the President's Reception room in the Senate Office Building. This is an opportunity to mix and mingle with legislators and other officials. Be on the lookout for elected officials from your district and extend greetings to them. When you make your visits to their offices, make a point of encouraging them to come to the reception.

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2013.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Denny, Executive Assistant, AACPL.