

**Minutes**  
**MLA Legislative Advisory Panel**  
**April 5, 2013**  
**Anne Arundel County Public Library Headquarters**  
**Annapolis, MD**

In Attendance: Skip Auld, Darrell Batson, Mary Baykan (Chair), Joan Bellistri, Alan Bogage, Kay Bowman, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Mark de Jong, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Ann Gilligan, Mary Hastler, Carla Hayden, Dennis Nangle, Carrie Plymire, Lynn Wheeler and Linda Williams. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Minutes of the March 1, 2013 meeting were read and approved with corrections.

Federal Legislation

Natalie reported the following:

- The automatic federal budget cuts that kicked in March 1, known as the sequester, are in place thru September, the end of the government's fiscal year. No details have emerged as to how libraries will be affected by state cuts in federal support, such as LSTA funding. Immediate impacts are being felt by civilian and contractual government employees. President Obama will release his budget next week. It will eliminate sequestration but replace it with other reductions and changes.
- Natalie recently sent out a *Dear Colleague* email asking recipients to contact their U.S. Representative by Wednesday, April 10 and ask them to sign two separate letters in support of libraries: support funding for LSTA in FY 2014; and support funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Competitive Grant (for childhood literacy). Please see the Legislative Panel's blog (<http://wp.me/pG0FJ-tt>) for talking points and instructions on how the Representatives can sign onto the *Dear Colleague* letters.
- The Workforce Investment Act passed in the House of Representatives, but was not supported by House Democrats. ALA does not believe the bill will pass through the Senate. ALA supports the bill because it includes libraries.
- The Supreme Court recently ruled that copyrighted goods made abroad can lawfully be resold in the United States without obtaining permission from the copyright holder first. The court rejected a copyright infringement suit that book publisher John Wiley & Sons brought against a Thai college student studying in the United States. ALA had raised concerns that it would threaten libraries if the court ruled in favour of Wiley.

- National Library Legislative Day will be held next month on May 7 & 8. Our legislative visits will take place on the 7th in order to enable travel to Ocean City in time for the MLA/DLA Annual Conference which begins on the night of the 7th.

Mary asked who among the Panel was in Rep. John Delaney's 6th Congressional District. She noted that this year's NLLD will include the first visit to Rep. Delaney, an office formerly held by Roscoe G. Bartlett.

### State Legislation

#### *The Session in Review - Capital Grant Funding Formula Revision – update*

Mary noted that Monday April 8 is *Sine Die* for the General Assembly. Some budget items were not agreed upon by both houses, but these do not affect libraries. We did not have any of our issues go into committees this year. The Senate version of our bill for the Capital Grant Formula Revision has been passed in both houses and will go to the Governor for signature.

Mary reported that the initial capital subcommittee, on a recommendation from the Department of Legislative Services, voted to allow the Capital Budget to provide only \$2.3 million this year in capital funding instead of the full \$5 million. However, the Senate rejected the recommendation and the full \$5 million has been restored. This means there is the potential for those who receive a grant this year, to get a bit of additional funding. Mary was pleased to add that capital funding for the Pratt Library sailed through legislative approvals.

Mary noted that Delegate Melony G. Griffith deserves thanks from the library community for her support. Del. Griffith has indicated that she would like to provide more assistance to libraries next year. Del. Griffith has remarked that she and other legislators remember our being team players in past legislative sessions.

Mary said we need to think about what we want to do next year. We should consider the feasibility of getting our per capita increase reinstated. This will depend on how well we survive the sequester, yet the economy seems to be getting better. MAPLA will discuss some issues, including the fact that SLRC was cut \$1 million three years ago. Panel members should continue to bring in their delegations for opportunities for "show and tell" and not wait until the session starts again. We should all reinforce our friendships and take a shot at getting more funding.

Denise asked if there is a way to make our capital grant funding less vulnerable. Mary said that at a hearing of the Budget and Tax Committee, Senator Kasemeyer asked her how our capital grant funding process works. Mary explained to him that our funding has opportunities to get chopped "all the way up the food chain." He asked why we did not get our funding in the same manner it is provided to community colleges. We plan to sit down with him to review our tenuous process.

A discussion of the capital grant funding process for community colleges ensued. Currently, a lot of buildings are going up at Community colleges. The Governor has set the goal of becoming the first state in the country with 55% of its population achieving a degree beyond high school by 2025. This "Completion Agenda" it is one of his key strategies for Maryland's economic development and why funding to community colleges has increased. Some counties are even paying tuition for students that commit to, and complete this goal.

The legislature needs to transition away from thinking of libraries like hospitals in a competitive grant process. They should let the money stop at MSDE and not require our justification to the Department of Budget and Management each year.

### DLDS

Dennis reported the following:

- DLDS is making preparations for the sequestration.
- Currently, LSTA is undergoing its annual audit. With approval, they will advertise for a LSTA coordinator.
- There will be a new division of social media policy which will become a "signal boost" for legislative matters and help make people quickly aware of pending issues.
- DLDS also just approved SMUG, its Social Media Users Group, to explore uses of social media and their applicability to library services and to provide a venue for sharing experiences, ideas, and best practices pertaining to social media.

As Mary noted in a recent email, the library community has always been told that if a county's wealth decreases, you get more state aid - not less, especially if your population goes up. Since some library systems *lost* money this year, we need to look closely at the formulation. There will information about this at the June MAPLA meeting.

### MLA President

Lynn reported the following:

- The MLA Executive Board passed a recommendation put forth by the External Relations Task Force to encourage all committees to take turns sending out press releases on activities going on in libraries. The press releases will not be limited to public libraries, and the goal is have one press release a month to be carried by the media. Library organizations around the state are encouraged to share their good news. Channels for doing this will be discussed at the next MAPLA meeting.

- Many thanks to MAPLA, MLA and CML for placing an ad in the *Daily Record's Maryland's Top 100 Women* program. The celebration will be held May 6, 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. Margaret Carty and Mary Hastler are among the honorees.
- MLA will be giving out a new award at its Annual Conference, the *President's Privilege Award for Outstanding Community Service*.
- Kendal Hopkins of Carroll County Public Library will lead a program at the MLA Conference about staff associations.

### MLA Executive Director

Margaret reported the following:

- Lynn sent a letter to Senator Barbara Mikulski to congratulate her for becoming the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Sen. Mikulski wrote a letter in return, which Margaret read aloud. Mary noted that Senator Mikulski's presentation on the federal budget is one of the most easily understandable she has ever heard, and it would be great if more elected officials could communicate so clearly.
- MLA Annual Conference registration is strong. The Delaware Library Association is responsible for 1/3 of the attendees. There is a need for more academic librarians, so Alan said he will send a reminder to CALD. Attendance will be huge for the Radical Customer Service program. There remains a need for more participants to sign up for the preconference program on How to Win a John Cotton Dana Award.
- There will be a training session on Friday, June 7 for MLA Booth participants for the MACO Conference. This training will provide better grounding in the legislative environment and how to approach legislators to win their hearts and minds for libraries. The conference will be held in Ocean City August 14-17 and there are 20 slots for participants to be assigned time working the booth. For the first time, participants are also invited to attend any programs of the conference when they are free. MACO is an opportunity to meet elected officials from the state, county, and local level. Lillian M. Lowery, Ed.D., Maryland State Superintendent of Schools will be joining us there for the first time.

### State Road Signs for Public Libraries Update

Margaret announced that a meeting will take place at 2:30 p.m., April 16 at 7491 Connolly Drive, Hanover, with Cedric Ward of the MD State Highway Administration's Office of Traffic and Safety. We need to send the administration a list of where we want the highway signs and which way the arrow should point. We have Jeffrey Smith, formerly of SHA, to thank for his help in our progress on this matter.

## Other

Darryll was pleased to announce that, as part of Kosovo's celebration of Library Week, the U.S. Embassy in Pristina is sponsoring the visit of Ms. Elizabeth Cromwell. Ms. Cromwell is a libraries expert who has worked as the Corporate and Community Partnership Director at the Frederick County Public Library System in Frederick, Maryland since 2002. This year's Library Week theme is: "Libraries and the Vision for the Future," and Ms. Cromwell will join librarians from Kosovo in meetings and events from April 14 to April 21.

Mary noted that the next meeting, on May 3, will be the Panel's last official meeting until September.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.