

Minutes
MLA Legislative Advisory Panel
September 6, 2013
Anne Arundel County Public Library Headquarters
Annapolis, MD

In Attendance: Mary Hastler (Chair), Jay Bansbach, Darrell Batson, Mary Baykan, Joan Bellistri, Alan Bogage, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Mark de Jong, Ann Gilligan, Carla Hayden, Irene Padilla, Carrie Plymire, Glennor Shirley, John Sondheim, Chuck Steadman, John Venditta and Linda Williams. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. The minutes of the April 5, 2013 meeting were approved as corrected.

Mary Hastler noted that the updated agenda which provided important upcoming dates, including: Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly, January 8 thru April 7, 2014; and National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C., May 5 and 6, 2014.

Mary H. asked if there were any additions or changes needed to the minutes of the previous meeting held on April 5, 2013. Mary Baykan moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Carrie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Federal Legislation

Glennor said she had previously sent out an email about the following topics:

- ALA submitted its comments to the FCC on the current E-rate proceedings that scrutinize aspects of the E-rate program. The proceeding is a significant opportunity to review the program, acknowledging the firm foundation the program has provided for libraries, and more importantly, creating a vision for the program that moves library connectivity beyond basic and toward the broadband required for today, and the next 15 years. The last legislation in this area occurred in 1997.
- The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), concerning access to electronic information, is nearly ten years old and is also being reviewed. Experts are looking at the legal, ethical, and political implications of how the CIPA requirements have been implemented in the past ten years. Did CIPA meet its intended goals, and have there been unintended consequences?

Glennor said that other than these items, there is not a lot of current activity at the federal level. She added that as she takes on Natalie's former role, she hopes to do as fine a job as Natalie did in covering federal legislation for the Panel.

Review Work Plan for 2013-2014

Mary H. provided copies of the Panel's draft work plan for 2013-2014, along with the final report summarizing accomplishments of last year. She asked all to review the work plan for approval. The Panel approved the plan as presented. The plan will be submitted to MLA.

Planning for State Issues and Impact on Libraries for the Upcoming Year

Per Capita Funding

Mary Baykan suggested that the Panel determine whether or not to try to increase Maryland's per capita funding for public libraries. MAPLA should also consider whether or not to pursue this as its legislative agenda. She added that if the attempt is successful, it would take approximately two years to implement.

Mary B. noted that last year, the General Assembly ruled to change the period of time during which county "snapshots" are taken to determine their wealth formula for school funding. The snapshot was moved from August to October in order to provide a better indication of a county's wealth because it would be after tax filing extensions had expired. This will mean more money for schools. The General Assembly neglected to shift the snapshot timing for libraries. Mary asked if perhaps it would be a better strategy for the library community to pursue moving its snapshot, instead of asking for an increase.

Mary B. reported that she spoke with a lobbyist at the Maryland Association of Counties Conference (MACO) who said the state faces a possible revenue shortage of \$200 million. Mary noted that this amount is not an extreme and the gap may close by November.

County Library Capital Grant Program

A discussion centered on the renovation of the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) and that it will be up to the library community to keep the money for this project within the budget for construction to begin. Carla suggested that the architect involved in the project be invited to present information about it at the next MLA LAP meeting, and perhaps also at the upcoming annual meeting of the Citizens for Maryland Libraries. The project was promised to the library community twenty years ago, in 1993. Carla provided a timeline history of the project from when she first arrived at SLRC in 1988.

Denise suggested the Panel renew the discussion it began last year on how to keep the capital grants from being targeted for defunding each year. Perhaps the funding process for community colleges could be adopted for libraries via legislation. A discussion of the current method and possible strategy ensued. It was suggested that Senator Kasemeyer might be helpful with this matter.

Irene said we the Panel deserves kudos for making changes to the capital grant program's formula that will be implemented this fiscal year. DLDS now has more requests than it can fund, but this is a good problem to have.

Selling eBooks to Public Libraries

Montgomery County is joining many other local groups in asking state and federal lawmakers to take on publishers that sell eBooks for higher prices to libraries than to individual consumers. The Montgomery County Council approved a resolution to ask the Maryland General Assembly, U.S. Congress, Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission to examine the issue. The American Library Association started a public campaign last

September to get the “Big Six” publishers (Hachette, Macmillan, Penguin Group, HarperCollins, Random House and Simon & Schuster) to lower e-book prices to libraries and make e-books more available. Glennor said she will email more information on this topic.

Library Highway Signage

Denise said attempts last year to work with the state highway administration to provide highway signs for library locations failed. However, she noted that Jim Smith is the new head of transportation and knowledgeable about libraries. He may be able to take on this issue during his tenure.

Mary Baykan recalled the meeting with highway officials, noting that their minds were made up and not open to change. They made the decision years ago to clean up signs on state highways, and the outcome was that wineries get signs and libraries do not. They seem to believe “everybody knows where the library is” and the essential status of libraries in disaster recovery did not resonate with them. While their letter confirmed their opinion, we can continue to push for change. Library Directors should be proactive at the county level on this issue.

DLDS

Irene was pleased to announce the newest member of the Public Libraries and State Networking Branch: Rocco DeBonis, the new LSTA Grants Coordinator. She added that Rocco is eager to begin working with everyone as he administrates the grant process and provides support and guidance with additional grants, partnership, and other collaborative opportunities throughout the state. Rocco will be attending the MAPLA meetings, so everyone will have a chance to meet him. Irene added that DLDS is at full staff now, so there is more strategic planning to organize.

DLDS is currently strategizing about *Ask Us Now* and how to move the program forward. Although much has been spent toward the program, its statistics are dropping. Gail Griffith will help create the strategy and they are looking for a geographical balance for members of the group. Focus groups and phone calls are planned.

Maryland’s Public Library Laws have not been updated in a while and DLDS is working with Lexis-Nexis to perhaps create an electronic version.

Because there have been many questions about the state aid formula, Irene suggests that Steve Brooks be invited to attend the January MAPLA meeting.

Irene is setting up visits to Howard County for new MSDE staff members Jack Smith and Cindy Hasselbring. She is also providing them with a report on what each county library is doing with STEM.

Irene attended a meeting with those who assist with people with disabilities from the Maryland Municipal League (MML). This group’s annual conference is also held in Ocean City, and attending it might be more useful to MLA members than attending MACO. Lynn

added that they are a good group who care about their communities. They develop and put on programs at their conferences, so perhaps we could do a presentation with them.

MLA President

Carrie reported that division revisions are in process and a report was sent to MLA's Executive Committee last week concerning new ideas for organizing the association.

MLA is looking at eLearning as a revenue source. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCS) are the latest trend in higher education.

MLA Executive Director

Margaret reported the following:

Programs for the coming months are being put together and more information will be available soon.

One program will be *Libraries and Autism: We're Connected*, on Thursday, November 14, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Howard County Library Miller Branch. The program will facilitate the inclusion of individuals with autism and their families within the library system and connect families to resources that will enhance life outcomes.

The Baltimore Book Festival will run September 27-29. Please let Margaret know if you want to volunteer.

MLA's Baltic Cruise will be May 26 thru June 7. Twenty-four people have already registered and there is still room available.

Margaret was invited to be a plenary speaker at the Maryland Oral Health Learning Alliances December Summit. The organization is funded by the DentaQuest Foundation and is an initiative designed to build a cadre of partners from across Maryland that share a vision of and commitment to improved oral health throughout the state. Mary B. noted that a few years ago, a Maryland child died due to lack of dental care and this coalition was formed to help educate parents and families about oral health and how to get help.

Other Business

Mark asked the Panel to consider and approve MLA becoming a signatory of the StopWatchingUs open letter to Congress, which is the recommended action for state library associations to take by ALA's Office of Intellectual Freedom. Mark serves as Chair of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Advisory Panel (IFAP). He had sent background information to the Panel earlier in an email.

The IFAP proposes that MLA express concern regarding the execution of section 215 of the PATRIOT Act and 702 of FISA in that information-seekers' 1st and 4th Amendment rights may be habitually violated by federal security agencies and commercial vendors.

At its last meeting, IFAP voted to call MLA to action as an organization and add its signature to the open letter. IFAP recommended to the Executive Board of MLA to add MLA to the <https://optin.stopwatching.us/> list of signatories to this open letter to Congress.

MLA's Executive Steering Committee voted no confidence on this proposal on August 21. Mark provided the reasons cited in outline form. In light of this, IFAP held another vote regarding what action it should take, i.e., move forward with current proposal, change the proposal, or rescind the proposal. IFAP voting members cast votes to continue to move forward with the proposal in its current form.

Mark said the Steering Committee, and perhaps the Executive Committee, would like the benefit of MLA's Legislative Advisory Panel's deliberation on the IFAP proposal before the Executive Committee comes together and votes on the proposal, which will be on September 18.

A discussion ensued during which the following points and/or concerns were made:

- Since ALA is asking for *prosecution* in the letter, perhaps MLA should look at what ALA's other state chapters are doing regarding it.
- Recommendation for a forum where questions are could be asked and answered, or a webinar to provide education on the topic.
- Why does ALA not write its own letter?
- The letter does contain many issues with which libraries struggle. Libraries used to be the only ones to notice and complain about these issues, like a canary in a coal mine, since they are often the first casualties. Indeed, we have a unique perspective and raised questions about the Patriot Act before anyone else.
- Why would we sign on to a statement we are not comfortable with?
- Librarians enjoy their status as trusted professionals, but the letter currently does not speak from our perspective.
- If MLA wanted to affirm principles of privacy that would be fine, but signing on to the letter as currently drafted because ALA signed it is not. It has language in it that would take a constitutional lawyer to understand.

Mary B. moved that MLA not sign the letter as presented. Darryll seconded the motion. The question was called by Mary H. and after a vote, a decision to not sign the letter was passed.

Mark suggested that MLA create its own letter. Carrie moved that Mark and his committee draft a new letter. Denise agreed to review it and seconded the motion. The motion carried that a letter be drafted to lodge an organizational concern on the part of MLA, in lieu of MLA becoming a signatory of the StopWatchingUs open letter to Congress.

Mary H. asked if there was any other business or announcements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned 11:45 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 4, 2013.