

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

Attending: Jay Bansbach, Mary Baykan, Joan Bellistri, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Mary Hastler (Chair), Pat Hofman, Darnice Jasper, Mary Jo Lazun, Sharan Marshall, John Sondheim, Irene Padilla, Carrie Plymire, Evelyn Tchiyuka, and John Venditta. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

Guests: Sandra Vicchio, Architect for the State Library Resource Center(SLRC) renovation and Maribel Ibrahim, Facilities and Capital Projects Manager, AACPL.

Ms. Vicchio gave a PowerPoint presentation about the renovation of the State Library Resource Center.

Minutes

Mary B. moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2013 meeting. Jim seconded the motion. the minutes were approved.

Federal Legislation

Natalie noted that she was temporarily filling-in for Glennor, and reported the following:

- A new bill, The Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science and Technology Act of 2013 (FIRST), has been introduced in Congress. The current language of Section 302 would restrict public access to articles reporting on federally-funded research for up to three years after the initial publication. The American Library Association (ALA) opposes this language because it limits public access.
- ALA supports reform of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act (ECPA), the law that says the government can access your email and documents in the cloud without a warrant. ECPA is one of the Internet's most outdated laws; it was enacted in 1986, before most people had access to a home computer or email. The law flies directly in the face of Fourth Amendment values. Bills to reform ECPA have gained support in recent months from both parties in Congress. However, legislation is now being blocked by a power grab from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), which is pushing for a special carve-out for regulatory agencies to get documents from online providers without a warrant. The SEC carve-out would neuter ECPA reform.
- Effective November 19, 2013, when accessing Thomas.gov, you will be redirected to Congress.gov. Congress.gov has grown since its beta release in fall 2012 through a collaborative effort between the Library of Congress, U.S. Senate, U.S. Representatives, and Government Printing Office (GPO). The new site includes bill status, texts and summaries, direct links from bills to cost estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, Congressional Record, committee reports, legislative process videos and committee profile pages going as far back as the 103rd Congress. The Library of Congress will offer webinar classes on

Congress.gov on January 16th, March 11th, and May 15th. To register, complete the seminar form at <http://beta.congress.gov/help>. Basic help information is also available through this link.

- ALA is making a few changes in the social media world. To make sure that social library supporters receive ALA news from the entire organization, ALA leaders are going to share news items and updates from two main social media profiles. The ALA Washington Office will begin to share social posts on the flagship ALA Twitter (@ALALibrary) and Facebook accounts.
- A new preliminary report by EveryLibrary, a political action organization focused on local library ballot measures, found that nationwide, at least \$230,000,000 in tax revenue and bonds was at stake for libraries since January 2013. In all, over 530,000 Americans cast a vote for, or against, libraries in elections all across the county. Full report is available via this link: <http://everylibrary.org/2013-library-elections-deep-dive/>
- Legislative Day in Washington, DC will take place over May 5 and 6, 2014.

State Issues

Mary B. said she has learned in talks with delegates that the state has a substantial budget deficit.

MAPLA is working with government affairs advisors Alexander and Cleaver to propose a \$1.00 per capita increase for public libraries in the coming legislative session. Mary B. provided the recent history of the state's per capita increases and postponements. MAPLA will watch the bill's progress and will not pursue the legislation if there is not enough support.

Denise said she had visited the websites of the gubernatorial candidates and saw that one candidate's site promotes ideas for services that are already provided by libraries. While Denise had provided this particular candidate with information about the work of libraries, she suggested that this would be a good time to inform all the candidates about the work of libraries. Mary B. noted that, in past election years, Citizens for Maryland Libraries (CML) sent out a questionnaire to all candidates related to their thoughts about libraries. We might ask CML to do this again. Denise said support for school libraries should be part of the letter sent to candidates.

Jim noted that, since the budget process will begin in the Senate this year, it would be a good idea to meet with Senator Kasemeyer. Mary B. said she would ask for an appointment with him soon.

Denise reported that Jeff Smith of CML mentioned moving forward with library highway signs and seemed to suggest he had a legislative plan. The panel should reach out to him to learn of his plans so that we do not "bump into each other" with our legislative efforts.

Joanie asked if the MLA's newsletter, *The Crab*, could publish an article about the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). She was encouraged to send the article to the newsletter's editor. Joanie noted that they are still looking for a senator to co-sponsor this bill.

DLDS

Irene Padilla reported the following:

- Governance of *Ask Us Now* is transitioning from Baltimore County Public Library to SLRC.
- When the Governor's budget comes out in mid-January, we will know about the capital funding for libraries.
- There are new people on staff at the division.
- The 2012 DLDS Annual Report has been sent to the Governor.
- DLDS is currently working on its strategic plan. A survey may be sent out to gather information from the library community served by DLDS.
- During the upcoming legislative session, DLDS will be told when to show up for hearings in the Senate and House. While the library community does not usually get a chance to testify, Mary B. was able to speak at a past hearing because her senator was on the committee.
- Irene believes seeking additional funding from the legislature is a good idea. Even if it is not provided, it will raise awareness of the needs of libraries.
- The MLA LAP has never testified during MSDE hearings, but Irene will let the panel know when it would be helpful for this to occur.

MLA President

Carrie reported the following:

- Revisions to MLA's divisions are still ongoing. They will be kicking off their new strategic plan with Deborah Bennett as incoming President.
- MLA's Executive Board approved MLA's open letter on privacy. She has signed the letter and it will be mailed to the Maryland delegation and legislative leaders. An electronic copy has been provided to Mary H.
- MLA award nominations are now due, but those who need more time to get them in can let the office know. Carrie described the award categories.

MLA Executive Director

Margaret Carty reported the following:

- Regarding MLA award nominations, an understanding of award criteria is important. Generally, membership in MLA is a prerequisite for awards. Exceptions would be for distinguished service awards to elected officials, volunteers, etc.

- *Maryland Library Day* and its evening Legislative Reception (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.) will be held on Wednesday, February 19, 2014. The contract has been signed with Biddle Street caterers and contributions toward the event to date total \$5,000. have been set for Wednesday, February 19, 2014
- MLA's Technology Committee is doing a fantastic job updating the MLA office with new technology. Improvements include new membership software, new phones and better conferencing abilities. These advancements should be in place by the end of January and as a result, MLA's operating costs should come down as its capacities increase.
- Margaret added that a graphic artist has been hired to create the program for the next annual conference. Support for the conference has reached \$20,325 and there are still sponsorship opportunities available.

Jay reported the following:

- ALA has a new advocacy initiative for school libraries. It is related to Common Core achievement and the organization will be coming out with a set of related briefs.
- A new friends group, Alliance for Excellence in Education, is providing critical support for school libraries.
- The state's school library consultants are preparing for Digital Learning Day, to be held in early February, with a paper on the role of the library media specialist.

It was noted that this would be Evelyn Tchiyuka's last meeting with the panel. Panel members thanked her for all her contributions over the years. Mary B. noted that Evelyn never turned her down when asked to testify before the General Assembly on behalf of libraries.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting will be held on February 7, 2014.