

Minutes
Maryland Library Association
Legislative Advisory Panel
February 7, 2014

The MLA Legislative Advisory Panel meets the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. at Anne Arundel County Public Library Headquarters, 5 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD.

Attending: Skip Auld, Jay Bansbach, Darrell Batson, Joan Bellistri, Kay Bowman, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Natalie Edington, Jim Fish, Ann Gilligan, Mary Hastler (Chair), Pat Hofmann, Darnice Jasper, Mary Jo Lazun, Dana Newman, Irene Padilla, Glennor Shirley, John Sondheim, Kathleen Teaze, John Venditta and Lynn Wheeler. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

Minutes

Mary welcomed all and asked for approval of the minutes of the December 6, 2013 meeting. The minutes were approved.

Federal Legislation

Glennor Shirley thanked Natalie for her work in tracking and reporting current federal legislative developments. Glennor and Natalie will continue to co-share the role of monitoring federal legislation.

Natalie reported that the appropriations bill passed and LSTA now has partial restoration of its funds. She thanked those who contacted their representatives toward this effort.

National Library Legislative Day is May 5 and 6. You can register by April 25 and see Glennor's recent email for further details. The ALA Washington office provides a video on how to conduct productive congressional visits.

State Legislation

Mary Hastler reviewed current state legislation, noting that it has been a much more active year than expected. The bills discussed were as follows:

- a. **MSDE Headquarters and Early Childhood Development Operating Budget 2015** - A hearing on this bill was held yesterday in the House and will be held in the Senate today. Irene noted that we were not provided a chance to speak on this bill. We were signed up, but our names got crossed off. We will sign up to speak again today. She noted that written testimony will be accepted and panel members can give theirs to her.
- b. **Senate Bill 171 and House Bill 161 – Public Library Capital Grant Program.** Continue to provide grants to acquire land, design, construct, and equip public library facilities, statewide. \$5 million. Hearings for SB 171 on March 11 and HB 161 on March 18. Recent grant recipients will be asked to testify.

- c. **Senate Bill 171 and House Bill 161 – Provide funds to design and construct the State Library Resource Center at the Central Branch of Baltimore City’s Enoch Pratt Free Library System.** \$12,095,000. Hearings on March 11 (HB) and March 18th (SB) Carla has been working hard to meet with the chairs and vice chairs of both capital subcommittees and will see President Miller later today. We hope to address the project during the reception on Maryland Library Legislative Day.
- d. **Senate Bill 275 (Senator Kelley) and HB 46 Delegate Arora – UELMA – Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act.** An Act relating to electronic legal material that ensures state legal material deemed official will be preserved and made permanently available to the public in unaltered form. Hearing in the House on January 23 and in the Senate on February 13. MLA has sent a letter of support and is pleased this legislation is moving forward. Joanie and her team have taken the lead on it. A summary of the Act will be in the information packets provided on Maryland Library Legislative Day.
- e. **Senate Bill 430 (Senator Nancy King and Senator Thomas Miller) and HB 1063 (Delegate Hixson, et al.) – Libraries – Regional Resource Centers and County Public Libraries Funding – Reinstates scheduled per capita funding in 2016 for public libraries and regionals in 2016.** Public library per capita funding increases for county and regional libraries were pushed back three times and now scheduled for 2017. By removing the pushback and reinstating the originally scheduled funding in 2016, public libraries and regionals will be better equipped to continue to provide essential services and resources supporting a healthy economy, nurturing pre-and early literacy programs to ensure school readiness; and ensure that all Marylanders have access to computers and high-speed internet. The Senate Hearing will be held on February 19. This is a multi-year bill. Mary will email information and everyone should send their written testimony to her.
- f. **SB 419 (Senator Manno, et al.) and HB 1242 (Delegate Hixson) – Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped – Funding – Authorizes the State Department of Education to include operating funds for the Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in its budget.** Senate Hearing February 19. This bill has a fiscal note. Parker Hamilton might be willing to testify, and anyone else who is willing to testify or submit testimony should let Irene know. A letter of support from Dr. Lowry would also be helpful.
- g. **HB 430 eBook Sales – Requiring a person who offers to license or sell an electronic book to consumers in Maryland to also offer to license to sell the electronic book to libraries in the State.** House hearing scheduled for 1/29 and cross filed with SB 776. The Legislative Panel has recommended that this bill to go to summer study

DLDS

Irene Padilla said DLDS will be providing information as requested on many of the bills just discussed.

MLA President

John reported for Carrie Wilson-Plymire that the *Declaration for the Right to Libraries* will be brought to Annapolis for display and signatures on Maryland Library Day.

MLA Executive Director

Preparations for Maryland Library Legislative Day

Margaret provided the schedule for February 19 in Annapolis as follows:

- 8:00 a.m. – Breakfast and briefing at the Law Library Association of Maryland.
- 9:15 a.m. - State House for Senate presentation
- 10:00 a.m. - House presentation.
- Delegation visits, have lunch, enjoy the day in Annapolis. Many library staff and friends will be in Annapolis all day to promote library issues with their elected officials.
- 5:30 p.m. – Legislative Reception in Senate President’s Reception Room in Senate Office Building. Large copies of the *Declaration for the Right to Libraries* will be posted during the reception. Please sign the Declaration and encourage others to do so.
- 7:30 p.m. – Legislative Reception ends.

Margaret provided additional information about the day as follows:

- We will give out “Declaration” bookmarks which we received from ALA.
- CML has distributed a questionnaire to governor candidates related to their thoughts about libraries.
- Directions to the Law Library were provided and it was noted that the Annapolis “Circulator” is free transportation.
- 300 distribution packets will be provided. One half of each packet will contain state information and the other is to fill with your own library materials.
- MLA coffee and CML pens will be giveaways.
- More reception invitations are available if needed.

Margaret reported that the brochures MLA/DLA Annual Conference May 7-9 are in the mail and displayed a copy

Denise noted that CML has provided a brief insert about the Pew study concerning libraries. She passed around a graphic presentation of the study results and provided details about how it can be downloaded and reused for different topics. It was created by the staff of the Cecil County Public Library. It was agreed to finalize it for addition to the packets.

Darnice researched date/time changes to the legislative hearings discussed earlier and noted one change.

The meeting concluded at 11:05 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2014.