

MLA Legislative Advisory Panel
Friday, March 7, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 12 Noon
Anne Arundel County Library Headquarters
Annapolis, MD 21401

Skip Auld, Darrell Batson, Mary Baykan (Acting Chair), Joan Bellistri, Kay Bowman, Margaret Carty, Denise Davis, Natalie Edington, Ann Gilligan, Darnice Jasper, Mary Jo Lazur, Sharan Marshall, Irene Padilla, Glennor Shirley, Kathleen Teaze and John Venditta. Donna Denny was the recording secretary.

Mary Baykan was Acting Chair for Mary Hastler who was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict.

Minutes

Mary asked for any changes or edits before approval of the minutes of the February 7, 2014 meeting. Sharan moved to approve the minutes. Kathleen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Federal Legislation

Glennor reported jointly with Natalie the following:

- A new program written into President Obama's 2015 budget request includes professional development funding for school librarians, teachers and leaders who provide high-speed internet access to students. The Obama Administration requested that \$200 million dollars be allocated to ConnectEDucators, a new initiative that will ensure that school professionals are well-prepared to use high-speed internet resources in a way that improves classroom instruction and student learning. The ConnectEDucators program is an extension of the Administration's ConnectED initiative.
- The ALA Office of Information Technology is accepting nominations for two awards: the Patterson copyright award; and the Robert Oakley Memorial Scholarship Fund. Details are on the ALA website.
- Also see the ALA website for detailed information about National Library Legislative Day (NLLD), May 5-6, 2014.
- Net neutrality was struck down in court and the FCC Chairman is coming up with a new plan.

State Legislation

Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA), HB 46 and SB 275, House hearing was on 1/23 and Senate on 2/13. MLA wrote a letter of support for this bill, but it failed to pass. Though disappointed, Joan and her colleagues will continue to work on it over the summer.

MSDE Headquarters and Early Childhood Development Operating Budget 2015, House hearing 2/6, Senate 2/7. Written testimony was submitted, and the hearings went well.

Libraries Capital Grant Program, SB 171 3/11 and HB 0161 3/18. This bill is moving forward and we have not learned of any problems, so far. Only one question has been asked of DLDS about the change in the match formula, though Irene expects more. Mary noted that there have been many new library building openings and the legislators may be impressed by how grateful citizens are to have them. She added that it may be time to consider asking for an increase in funding from the existing \$5 million budget.

State Library Resource Center (SLRC) Funds to Design and Construct, 3/11 HB 0161 and 3/18 SB 171. Sharan read aloud a recent positive news article about the bill, but the needed legislation is not final yet. Carla Hayden is working with the delegates to help its passage. A discussion included historic portraits at SLRC which may be moved to Annapolis for restoration and display.

Per Capita for Regionals and County Public Libraries, SB 430 2/19, HB 1063 3/5. The Senate hearing went well, with many testifying in favor of the increase in per capita funding. Everyone did a great job and it passed the House. It is now in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. We are waiting to see how it fares coming out of Committee. It will have a technical hearing. No oral testimony will be allowed, only written. It looks very promising with no negative or abstaining votes. Both sides of the aisle were asked to be co-sponsors. It is a modest request to restore previous promises.

Maryland Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Funding, SB 419 2/19, House 3/5. This looks as if it may pass, but it does not define where DLDS will get the funds to support it. Per capita funds cannot be raised for it, and DLDS just lost half of its LSTA funding. If it is unsustainable, it sets up a bad dynamic. The greater library community was not consulted in the drafting of this bill and it is recommended that it go to summer study.

eBook Sales, HB 430 hearing 1/29, The Panel recommends that this bill go to summer study. It does not look like it is going forward as no Senate hearing has been scheduled.

House Bill, HB1110, Libraries - Access to Obscene Materials and Child Pornography Prohibited. House Ways and Means Committee 3/5. Mary provided materials related to this bill, including written testimony to the Committee from Darrell and Carrie, on behalf of MAPLA and MLA respectively, stating that the bill is redundant. Libraries and schools are already subject to a comprehensive set of state, local, and federal law and regulation prohibiting improper internet usage. It is likely that this bill will die as it would be a waste of taxpayer money.

HB653 Deaf Cultural Digital Library. This bill is for a physical edifice to represent their culture. There is no fiscal note and it is unknown how DLDS will support it. They want physical space, databases, and staff. They feel like there is no place that supports deaf culture. They see it as a way of life not a disability. They may feel that because the blind and physically handicapped have their own library, they want one too. It may be difficult to get funds for this and it is unknown how much space would be required.

Denise said during the legislative visits she had many of interesting interactions. Delegate Mary-Dulany James is one of the sponsors for HB 1060, a bill about 3D printers involving

schools and community colleges. Denise asked her why public libraries were not included, and so Del. James will add public libraries to the authority list, allowing libraries to play a greater role in this economic development initiative. Mary Hastler testified on the bill's behalf.

Skip drew attention to HB 1291, altering the definition of "smoking" for purposes of the Clean Indoor Air Act to include the use of electronic smoking devices. He added that the bill bears watching for how it may affect libraries, noting that the issue has already come up for AACPL.

DLDS

Irene Padilla reported that since the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) will receive less funding, they will use their discretion to determine how much they give out. The head of IMLS is sensitive to what is going on at the state level as she is a former librarian. Mary said they are looking at drastically redesigning their programming. Natalie noted that library employee training needed for earning CEUs will be affected.

MLA President

Library Highway Signs

John reported for Carrie that she and Sharan talked with Wilson Parran, the Deputy Secretary of Administration & Operations for Maryland's Department of Transportation (MDOT), at the Southern Maryland legislative reception. Mr. Parran was receptive to seeing a letter requesting that the issue of library highway signs be revisited. Sharan will follow up with Jim Fish, Mary Hastler, Pat Hoffmann, and any others interested in working on this issue. We have good leadership contacts in Mr. Parran and Mr. Smith, and will attempt to get the issue revisited with open minds.

MLA Executive Director

Margaret reported the following:

- MLA Legislative Day was held on February 19. The reception was successful, with a total attendance of 136, including 42 delegates and senators who seemed to linger well past the end of the event.
- Registration is open for the DLA/MLA Annual Conference. Everyone is encouraged to register early, as they are coming in steadily.
- 32 applications were received for the Maryland Library Leadership Institute (MLLI), and the selection of 24 from these is underway with a new voting format.

Mary congratulated Margaret on the successful reception and thanked Joanie for hosting the beginning of the day at her library. She noted that there was a lot more representation and engagement this year from special and academic librarians. Senator Miller's comments from the podium were wonderful and full of accolades to both individuals and libraries in general. A copy of the videotaped proceedings would be good to have for future use.

The meeting concluded at 11:20 a.m. The next meeting will be held Friday, April 4, 2014.