

**MSLA Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 18, 2008**  
**Concord Carlisle High School**

The MSLA Executive Board meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm. There were 18 members present including: Barbara Andrews, Leigh Barnes, Robin Cicchetti, Valerie Diggs, Patsy Divver, Kathy Dubrovsky, Gerri Fegan, Pat Fontes, Linda Friel, Cecily Houston, Sandy Kelly, Carol Klatt, Diane Libbey, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, and Sue Ellen Szymanski. Guest, Mary Ann Rogers was also present.

Kathy opened the meeting by stating she was still making significant deposits into our account from the conference and estimated that net profit is anticipated to be good this year. She said that current membership is 701 and we still have 231 that have not renewed. Kathy reminded the board members that she sent out the volunteer spreadsheet and that we should make sure to contact these people to get them involved.

**Consent Agenda - VOTE**

A motion was made and accepted to approve the consent agenda for the October Minutes, Treasurer's Report, and Executive Director's Report.

**New Business**

**Conference refunds - review current policy**

Sandy opened up a discussion about how we might adjust our policy for conference cancellation refunds. Currently, we do not allow any refunds within 5 days of the conference for any reason. After discussion, it was suggested that only a partial refund should be made minus dues. This is a policy change and requires 2 votes. The suggested wording for the policy is:

*Any member who requests reimbursement for not being able to attend the conference will first be directed to our stated policies about refunds. If the member wishes to pursue reimbursement due to medical or other reasons, they must submit such request in writing. This request must include payment information and, in the case of medical emergencies, documentation from a physician or medical facility that demonstrates the reason for absence. If the refund is to be paid to the member's district, that information must be provided. The request will be presented to the MSLA Board who will then take into consideration a partial refund (fees minus membership and 50% cancellation fee). The Board will then notify the member of its decision.*

A motion was made and approved to accept the first vote on the policy. There were two votes opposed.

**Addressing requests for assistance at unstaffed school libraries**

The board received a letter from a concerned grandmother of a grandchild in a public school that did not have a certified school librarian requesting our assistance with training volunteers to run the library. Judi Paradis presented us with a draft of a letter to send as a response. Judi and Pat will start working on an advocacy packet to send to this person and other citizens with similar concerns. At this time, Kathy will send her the current advocacy packet and Sandy will call her this week.

### **MSLA-MLA Book Awards- Mary Ann Rogers**

Sue Ellen Szymanski, MLA Book Awards committee, provided a report of the current status of the joint MSLA-MLA Book Awards idea we approved last year. They are ready to move forward with it and hope to have an official committee and bylaws settled in the near future with the first award being present in 2010. Currently, Sue Ellen will be soliciting members from both MLA and MSLA. First, MSLA Executive Board members will be contacted via the Board only listserv. These initial members will be responsible for setting up the award criteria. Subsequently, she will use the listserv to find 2 or 3 MSLA members at large to serve on the committee as well. She anticipates the award to be for a fiction book which can include graphic novels as well.

Mary Ann Rogers described how the Rhode Island Teen Book Award is decided and reported.

Details of the award can be found at:

[http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya\\_webpage/ritba/ritba09/ritba09.htm](http://www.yourlibrary.ws/ya_webpage/ritba/ritba09/ritba09.htm)

Sue Ellen announced that the MLA youth services section wants an MSLA representative. Sandy Kelly appointed Mary Ann Rogers to be on the committee and thus will serve as a liaison to our Executive Board.

MLA is looking forward to a spring program on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and the upcoming conference at Holy Cross this spring from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>. They are hoping Mo Willems will attend and other conference topics will include gaming night, special needs programming in a public setting and book talking.

### **Pat Fontes - Intellectual Freedom**

Pat Fontes announced that she is MSLA's contact with AASL concerning issues with intellectual freedom. She stated that AASL wants to know if any of us are aware of any challenges made to intellectual freedom and if so she needs the information. She will be looking over the existing documents on our website. Ann Perham has posted a copy of the AASL brochure "Intellectual Freedom" on the MSLA website.

### **NESLA Leadership Conference - Lowe**

The New England School Library Association (NESLA) renamed from NEEMA is planning their leadership conference. The purpose of the conference is to bring leadership of the boards from all the New England states to share ideas and leadership training. They are planning an overnight "retreat" for the last Friday in March (3/27) or the first week of April 2009. They are hoping for a lot of discussion. We are all encouraged to become members of the organization.

### **Media Forum - Diver**

Ann Perham will write up something promoting membership in NESLA for the next issue of the Media Forum which is coming out in December. Valerie Diggs will write about the grand opening of Chelmsford High School in December 5<sup>th</sup> as well.

### **MSLA Awards discussion - possibility of new awards/revision of existing**

There was some discussion about our existing awards and the possibility of MSLA presenting some new awards to stimulate and reward our members. Some suggestions made were:

- President's Award - to help us validate ourselves by honoring our own members such as retirees, newbies, good programs and good leaders
- Years of Service Awards - might find this information from our old membership records
- Years of Membership in MSLA
- Lifetime Achievement Award - inactive members that mentor others
- Annual School Library Media Program or Annual School Library Media Specialist Award - nominated by Principals or through ballot in the MTA publications, perhaps with a suggested monetary award for winning school
- Intellectual Freedom Award - for librarians who face challenges, are beacons of hope or address social issues
- Award for Outstanding Paraprofessional - honor hard working paras in hopes of cultivating new library teachers
- Volunteer Award - someone who got overrides passed or advocated for their school library

Other concerns revolved around the current economy and the mission of the organization. It was suggested that we use the eBoard listserv for suggestions and input.

### **One Minute Updates**

- Thinkfinity - Kathy Dubrovsky is offering a free Thinkfinity training on Tuesday and Thursday during February vacation. She will post a notice on the website and send out the information on the listserv.
- SLJ Summit - Steven Trailer from Needham spoke about Gaming and Sandy thought maybe we could get him for our conference next year. Sandy reported that there are so many free tools out there for us to use that it is hard to know how to harness all this information. There were also discussions about digital versus print and what happens to your reference collection in such rapid change.
- Standards revision - People were supposed to email comments to Gerri about standards and she didn't receive any. Kathy will ask AASL for help editing the document. We will be adding our joint statement with MassCUE.
- Area Directors - regional upcoming events; Dec. 10, meet and greet @ Westborough HS, 3:30 pm 5:30 pm; Dec. 4 NE Region - Board Games and AASL standards with Beth Galway at Chelmsford HS
- Regional Library System Databases - Kathy Lowe reported the MBLC has decided to change database access to geographical IP recognition. She stated that the biggest obstacle to using the databases was reported to be having to log in. Now we can get any database from anywhere in the state. In the past school districts were required to employ a certified library media specialist but not any more.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carol Klatt*