

Attending: Hugh Ahearn, Amy Bloom, Nancy Boutet, Kim Cochrane, Michael Deschenes, Valerie Diggs, Cindy Erle, Julie Farrell, Gerri Fegan, Linda Friel, Rochelle Garfinkle, Susanna Hall, Sharon Hamer, Laura Hibler, Sandy Kelly, Kathy Lowe, Judi Paradis, Ann Perham, Kathleen Porter, Amy Short

New Member: Michel Deschenes is now replacing Liz Vezina from St. Sebastian Academy as our liaison to independent schools.

Reports and Updates:

Membership: There was a significant drop in membership reported in the Executive Director's report. This is primarily due to the change in schedule for our conference, affecting when people renew their membership. We expect that members will renew as the conference approaches, and a post card will be sent in early February to members who have not yet renewed.

Conference: Conference registration is going very well and we are excited about the number and quality of speakers and authors who will be participating. Final planning meeting is scheduled for the end of January.

Legislative Committee: Representative Sean Garballey intends to file our legislation creating a commission to assess the state of school library programs in Massachusetts and make recommendations. We will be in touch with the Legislative Library Caucus to ensure support for this bill. In addition, we are planning to create talking points for legislative breakfasts and Legislation Day on April 30.

MSLA Forum: The next *MSLA Forum* is expected to come out online soon. It includes a good variety of articles and the Board will encourage members to read it!

ACRL: Laura Hibler and Valerie Diggs are working on an official MSLA-ACRL joint statement.

Awards: Carrie Tucker and Eleanor Rogers are in the process of notifying those people who received awards. Awards will be officially presented at our conference in March.

Snapshot Day Update: Library Snapshot Day is April 12

Area Director Job Description: Valerie Diggs thanked Area Directors for the excellent work they do making our presence felt throughout the state. We voted to accept a job description for this position.

Nominations for next year: A nominating committee was formed to solicit nominations for the MSLA president-elect. This person will serve as incoming president in June and will then serve as president for the following 2 academic years.

Professional Development Through MLS: The staff at the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) would like to work with Area Directors to plan professional development for school libraries.

In addition, the MLS website has a link to their strategic planning survey and update. We will ask members to participate in this process.

AASL Petition: Carl Harvey at AASL posted a petition on the White House website requesting support and recognition by including school library programs in the reauthorization of the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) expected this year. We discussed how we could increase the circulation of this petition and encourage members to ask those outside the library profession to sign this.

Updating Standards and Rubrics: Our MSLA 2003 Program Standards and our 2002 School Rubrics are dated. The rubrics in particular are very popular and we get many requests to use these. In order to provide support to our membership, we need to update these documents to reflect changes in technology, AASL standards etc. We will reach out to a number of individuals and groups to form a committee to work on updates. We agreed that it is important to include non-librarians in this effort, and we discussed possible resources for use in this process.

MLS/MLA meeting: Valerie Diggs and Kathy Lowe met with leadership at MLS in November to discuss information of mutual interest, including library certification, staffing requirements, upcoming advocacy meetings, and professional development.

Area Listserv: We discussed the best way for Area Directors to stay in touch with their members and recommended using the MSLA members Listserv and Google Groups to keep in touch.

WGEE: Through our work with the Working Group for Education Excellence, we have been asked to provide advice about setting up Learning Commons in schools that receive Race to the Top Funding. We agreed that this presents an opportunity to begin developing a database of excellent programs and librarians that can be called upon to help describe and model exemplary programs.