

**MLTA**  
**Board Meeting**  
**February 24, 2021**  
**5 – 6 PM**  
(via Zoom)

Called to order at 5:05pm

**In attendance:** Ann Conant, Jessica Hufnagle, MaryEllen Cocks, Nancy Rea, Ruth Sullivan, Rob Favini, Kathy Dubrovsky, Julia O’Keefe, Martina Arndt, Maura Deedy

**Reports:**

- Chair
  - Bank paperwork has been processed so Nancy and Julia are now on the bank paperwork
  - Would like to update contact list with phone numbers (will update over email)
- Secretary
  - nothing to report
- Treasurer
  - emailed in advance of the meeting, \$100 membership added
- Membership
  - Point of clarification; memberships come due in January
  - Notes that we had an additional membership come in yesterday
  - Review of membership past renewal practices (something that is not currently done)--our biggest membership drive tends to be the annual meeting
    - Question about whether or not we could post on the trustee listserv
    - Should we reach out to “unrepresented” districts and libraries (Ann clarifies out that the majority of libraries are not represented)
    - Nancy asks that this continue to be a discussion
    - Ann clarifies that the new trustee workshops created a big increase in membership

**MLBC updates:**

- Rob shared the new legislative agenda initiative and website:  
<http://mblclegislativeagenda.com/>
- No in-person legislative day, it will be online again this year, registration is live  
<https://mla.wildapricot.org/event-4169013>

- Maura is working on a trustee deep dive series, the first one was about space planning, the next one will be about recruitment
- There will be new trustee orientations again and they will be virtual
- Maura is updating a guide for a director search process

#### **Plans for 2021 Annual Meeting:**

- November 13th in Shrewsbury
- Discussion of possible topics
  - Perhaps something from the deep dive topics
  - Opportunity to send a survey out to the members
  - A presentation on patron stories
  - Rely on us- we are here for you
  - Post pandemic - the stress, the hesitancy to return to normal
  - availability of digital resources and balancing with physical collections
    - awareness of the licensing and cost of electronic resources as compared to physical

(Jessica needed to leave meeting, minutes taken by Julia O'Keefe)

#### Proposed Annual Meeting topics (continued)

- Julia proposed that we seek out a speaker to address the challenges and opportunities for libraries in the Post-Pandemic Year (a new phrase that she had heard Rob use earlier in the meeting).
- Ruth suggested that a psychologist or other expert might discuss the stresses on staff during the pandemic, which will potentially continue on as a type of PTSD once things return to "normal."
- Ruth also suggested that in relation to the Post-Pandemic Year, we hear about the surge in borrowing of digital media, including how to make the case that this does not mean that libraries and library staff are no longer needed. Reminder on the substantial additional costs to the library for yearly access to books and periodicals.
- Mary Ellen had attended a United for Libraries presentation by Lori Fisher from New Hampshire, and suggested that she would be a dynamic speaker on a variety of topics. Maura concurred that Lori would be a good choice for speaker.

#### New business

- Nancy suggested that the board schedule regular monthly meetings to keep in touch and address new business. The board agreed, and we will now plan to meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 pm.
- Next meeting will be March 24, 2021 at 5 pm via Zoom.
- The meeting adjourned at 6 pm.