



MLA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
MassMutual Center, Springfield
Friday, May 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Richard Callaghan, President, at 12:45 p.m.

A motion to accept the minutes of the last annual meeting on Friday, May 9, 2008 was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report:

Richard Callaghan reported on a busy year. He thanked all the people who helped defeat Question 1, the referendum on the state ballot to eliminate the state income tax.

Richard acknowledged the challenges of the FY2009 and FY2010 state budgets and thanked the Legislative Committee Co-Chairs, Krista McLeod and Jackie Rafferty, for all their hard work. He also urged people to attend events such as Legislative Day at the state house and local legislative breakfasts.

Richard also thanked MLA's Executive Manager, Elizabeth Hacala, for her contributions to MLA. He also thanked the Conference Committee for a wonderful conference. Richard acknowledged the auction and trivia MC, Keith Fiels.

Richard ended his report saying what an honor it has been to be MLA President for the past year.

Treasurer's Report:

Nora Blake reported that the FY2010 budget is balanced, even with some needed office improvements that are included in the budget.

Nora acknowledged the incoming Treasurer, Bernadette Rivard.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

Richard reported for Kimberly Lynn who was unable to attend the meeting. Richard urged members to become more involved in MLA by serving as officers.

Incoming officers include Jackie Rafferty, Vice President/President Elect and Bernadette, Rivard, Treasurer

Unfinished Business

Legislative Report:

Jackie Rafferty, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, said that the committee is awaiting the final FY2010 state budget.

She said that we all need to become aggressive advocates for libraries and tell stories about why they are so essential. The advocacy preconference reinforced the need to do this. We need to continue to tell stories about how libraries transform lives.

Jackie thanked the Legislative Committee and MLA for their support.

New Business

Paralibrarian Awards:

Gerry Deyermond, Chair of the Paralibrarian Section, announced that there were two Level 1 PARA awards and 1 Level 2 PARA award issued this year.

Gerry said that the Paralibrarian section plans to work more closely with ALA this year.

Betty Emery of the Merrimac Public Library was voted outstanding Paralibrarian. Susan Babb, NMRLS, was voted Paralibrarian Advocate of the Year.

Gerry said that the Bookcart Drill Team winners were Plymouth in first place, Andover in second and Methuen in third place. She also thanked Mo Willems for being a wonderful MC.

The Paralibrarian program on Managing Up was well attended

State of the State:

Rob Maier, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), gave his State of the State remarks. Rob recognized Commissioner Vicki Kaufman who was in the audience. Rob also acknowledged the work of the Regions and their work with school, academic, special and public libraries across the Commonwealth. Rob also thanked MLA for support throughout the year.

Rob said that we all need to pull together and continue to talk about how important libraries are in difficult times and of the important work that libraries do to understand the needs of their constituencies.

Public Relations Awards

Richard congratulated all the winners of the 2009 PR Awards. He specifically acknowledged the Edgartown Public Library who won the PR for Pennies award for their logo and the Groton Public Library who won Best in Show for their community reads program.

Richard then passed the gavel to incoming President, Susan McAlister.

Susan reported that she has been working with a Strategic Planning Committee on an update to our plan. The next step will be a member survey. She asked all members to respond to it.

The new MLA website will be unveiled soon.

Susan ended by saying the MLA Executive Board wants to hear from members. If they have any input to offer please do it. The next Executive Board meeting will be on June 12, 2009 at 10:00 at the Worcester Public Library.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 1:14.

Margaret Cardello
MLA Secretary