

## MLS Member Update July 2017



### Be a Part of MLS!

Thanks to you who have already responded! All volunteer responses have been acknowledged.

Let us know your areas of interest. Would you like to be part of a focus group or listening tour; or to host an event, member forum, or discussion? We need active members to remain member driven. We invite all members and library stakeholders to respond. We will use this list on an ongoing basis to identify candidates to provide input for our decision-making; there is no deadline to respond. We have volunteers from all areas of the Massachusetts library community including library staff at all levels, trustees, friends, network staff, and other library supporters.

[CLICK to volunteer for Active Membership](#)

Are you able to make a strong commitment to MLS and run for a three-year Executive Board term? The Board meets monthly in Marlborough or Northampton. **Deadline August 21, 2017.** All members are eligible to volunteer for the two current vacancies. If possible, we are seeking representation from public, school, and special libraries in the Metrowest and/or Central Mass. areas for this November's election to fill anticipated vacancies and maintain a representative Board. The Nominating Committee will make recommendations to the Board on the best representative slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting election.

Executive Board membership is limited to MLS member library staff. We encourage volunteers from all types of libraries and you do not need to be a library director to serve. The Nominations Committee will review responses in late August.

Thanks to those of you who have responded! All volunteer responses have been acknowledged.

[CLICK to volunteer for the Executive Board](#)

## July Executive Board Action

### Personnel Committee recommendations were approved:

- Two revised job descriptions (see more info below)
  - Electronic Services Coordinator
  - Office Support Generalist
- Employee Handbook Revision
- Performance Appraisal Tools

### Annual Meeting Planning for November 6, 2017 at the College of the Holy Cross

- Keynote speaker recommendations were discussed. (Announcement coming soon.)
- MLS Business Meeting
- Project SET
- MBLC Report
- MLA Legislative Committee Update

## Budget Update

Due to a budget shortfall in fy2018 we were compelled to make a number of cutbacks, i.e., 116 delivery stops were eliminated, including all 75 Saturday stops; our investment in statewide databases has been reduced by 60% reducing the overall MBLC/MLS investment by 30% to \$1.4 million/year ([click for details](#)); and we continue to leave a vacant Consultant position open, thereby reducing capacity for training and consulting.

We eliminated 36 delivery stops based on level of shipping; compliance with MLS policies; and network membership.

To look at the upside, we hope members and patrons continue to appreciate the ongoing delivery service that delivers more than 14 million items per year to 550 libraries throughout the Commonwealth with quick reliable turnaround. While several database titles were lost due to the budgetary issues, much of the content included in the previous contract is still available ([more info](#)); and our consulting staff is always at your service providing hundreds of training events online and in-person and we are available to take your questions by phone and email ([more info](#)).

The budget for fy2018 is still in final negotiations and things look positive for a small boost to MLS funding and the Executive Board will be reviewing options for allocating future funds at their August meeting.

## **eBook Request for Information in Preparation**

The Commonwealth eBook Collections has been providing content from the same providers since the launch of the pilot project in November 2013. Steve Spohn, Resource Sharing Director, is working with the Steering Committee and interested parties, e.g., networks and MBLC, to issue an RFI to explore alternatives for future content providers and technology for the statewide eBook platform. Participation in the project now includes 283 school libraries; 240 public libraries; and 35 academic libraries.

**Mark your Calendar for November 6, 2017 - MLS Annual Meeting at Holy Cross** in Worcester.

## **New Roles for MLS Staff**

Please join us in congratulating Tressa Santillo and Jeff Wolfson on their new job positions at MLS. Tressa has been promoted to **Electronic Resources Coordinator**. Her job duties in the last year have grown and the new position is a reflection of all these responsibilities. Jeff was initially hired as Bibliotemps/Accounting Assistant but over the last year has been taking on other job duties for other departments. He will split his time between BT/Acct and will work half time in ILL as a Resource Sharing Assistant as **Office Support Generalist**. This new title gives Jeff more flexibility to help out in all departments at MLS. Congratulations and thank you both for your hard work and dedication.

## **Word of Mouth Marketing**

The Word of Mouth Marketing Program is progressing. The Somerville Public Library recently took to their local Market Basket to ask shoppers what they think about the library. What began as surveys ended up becoming conversations with community members. While the team admitted it was stressful to approach strangers, they were happy to report that the community was supportive and very complimentary. They plan to do it again, and encourage other libraries to, as well. Other libraries have produced high quality videos and invented (wicked adorable) mascots. Those will be shared after their libraries officially release them.

## **5 in 15 Readers' Advisory Series**

We have released a July episode in the 5 in 15 Readers' Advisory series. 5 in 15 is Massachusetts Library System members, reviewing five titles on a given topic, in fifteen minutes or less. This episode presented by Laura Barkema of the Boston Public Library. You or your staff can do a 5 in 15, for more information go to <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/RA/5in15>

## **Strategic Planning**

In support of the strategic planning services MLS offers, several staff members participated in a webinar hosted by the Aspen Institute last week. The webinar presented process and tips from Aspen, as well as case studies from libraries. Of a particular focus of the Aspen Model is the integration of the library's strategic plan into the community's master or strategic plan. Much can be gained from connecting library plans to the community. Additionally, Aspen supports the shift from thinking about the library as the people rather than the building. The Transylvania County Library System in North Carolina presented their experiences following the Aspen Institute Model. To access Aspen Institute publications on Planning, visit our Resource Guide: <http://guides.masslibsystem.org/strategicplanning> . For more information, see <http://www.libraryvision.org/resources>

***Stronger Together***