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The **MBLC FY2003 Annual Report** is inserted between pages 4 & 5.



The Board of Library Commissioners is the agency of state government with the statutory authority and responsibility to organize, develop, coordinate and improve library services throughout the Commonwealth. The Board advises municipalities and library trustees on the operation and maintenance of public libraries, including construction and renovation. It administers state and federal grant programs for libraries and promotes cooperation among all types of libraries through regional library systems and automated resource sharing. It also works to ensure that all residents of the Commonwealth, regardless of their geographic location, social or economic status, age, level of physical or intellectual ability or cultural background, have access to essential new electronic information technologies and significant electronic databases.

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Robert F. Mooney, *Nantucket*

Robert C. Maier
Director

Board Adopts 2004 Legislative Agenda

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) adopted a two-plank legislative agenda for 2004 at its November 6, 2003 Board Meeting.

The first plank asks that there be “no further cuts in state funds for libraries” and the second, to fund the items from the “Restore the Core” bond bill.

“The first plank recognizes the impact of losing 26 percent of state funding for libraries over the last three years,” says **Robert Maier**, MBLC Director, “and it anticipates further potential cuts as the state’s economy is only beginning to show signs of recovery. The administration has predicted a \$2 billion shortfall in the FY2005 budget, so it is likely that cuts will be proposed.”

The second plank continues the focus of last year’s legislative agenda for the core services that have been cut in the last three years. The Board has determined that these are core services because they form the infrastructure that is essential for libraries to provide equity of access to information for all residents statewide. “For 2004 the intention is to pursue funding for these core services in a more strategic manner,” continued Maier. “The bond bill continues to serve as the focus of the legislative agenda. That bill, H1199, is now in the joint House and Senate Committee on Local Affairs and Regional Government. While we will continue to support the bond bill, we will seek opportunities to gain funding for these programs through whatever mechanisms may be available.”

These programs are:

Specialized Databases. Available to anyone with a Massachusetts library card and Internet access, on-line full text magazines, newspapers and reference works give library users instant access to accurate information on health, business - just about anything. Approximately 8.5 million uses were recorded last year. These resources are not available on Internet search engines like Google. Most publishers do not make the complete text of their magazines, newspapers and reference works available for free on the Internet. (\$1,000,000)

Regional Delivery. Last year the six regional library systems transported almost 8 million books and other materials from one library to another within 24 hours. A fully functioning delivery system is essential because no library can meet the needs of its customers acting alone. (\$600,000)

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Construction Grants Awarded to 21 Libraries

Twenty-one public libraries were awarded provisional General Construction Grants totaling \$38,249,194 from the 2000-2001 Grant Round by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners at its January 15, 2004 Board Meeting. The Board set May 15, 2005 as the date by which municipalities must accept their awards. Funding for these projects was authorized in August of 2002 in an omnibus bond bill (S2271) that allowed for the expenditure of up to \$75 million for public library construction. The Romney

Administration has committed funds in its five-year capital plan for these projects.

Since the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program was first funded in 1990, a total of \$246 million has been awarded to public libraries in 213 cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth. The grants help fund construction of new library buildings, addition/ renovations, special projects and the preliminary planning activities essential to building projects.



Several Commissioners, along with MBLC Director Robert Maier and MBLC Public Library Advisory & Government Liaison Maureen Killoran, met with Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey on December 8, 2003 to thank the Administration for its support and to discuss future library funding. Pictured from left to right, (Back Row) Robert Maier and Commissioner John Arnold. Front row, Maureen Killoran, Commissioner Elia Marnik, Commissioner Joseph Hopkins, MBLC Chair, Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey, Commissioner Dr. Em Claire Knowles, Commissioner Deborah Hill Bornheimer and Commissioner Edward Bertorelli.

“Following the awarding of these grants on January 15, 2004, 249 grants have been awarded: 51 for planning and design and 198 for construction, addition/renovation or special projects,” said **Anne Larson**, MBLC Associate Library Building Consultant. Funding for a construction/renovation project is based on eligible costs and awarded on a sliding scale. The state share ranges from 35 percent of a larger project to 60 percent of projects under \$1.2 million.

(The projects are listed in alphabetical order on page 3.)

Board Meeting Highlights



The **November 6th** meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) was held at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown where **Steven Rothstein**, President, thanked the Board for its continued support of the Braille & Talking Book Library as a part of the MBLC.

MBLC Chairman **Joseph Hopkins** reported he had attended the New England Library Association Annual Conference in Worcester. He also mentioned two bills H.2891, "An Act Relative to the Library Records of Minors," and Senate Bill No. 2092, "An Act Relative to Installing Internet Filters in Public Libraries," that would impact libraries and invited the Commissioners to submit comments to him on these bills.

Dianne Carty, MBLC Head of State Aid & Data Coordination, reviewed the requirements for the FY2004 State Aid to Public Libraries program, and then brought before the Board the first 151 "municipalities meeting the requirements for FY2004 State Aid to Public Libraries." She informed the Commissioners that more municipalities would be presented at the December Board Meeting, and municipalities applying for waivers would be presented in January. The Board then "approved \$2,176,249.27 in State Aid grants for the 151 municipalities."

Beth Wade, MBLC Grants Manager, brought before the board the name of **Francis Murphy** of Arlington to fill an opening on the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) as a public library representative. His appointment was approved "for a three-year term expiring on September 30, 2006."

Ms. Wade then presented the FY2005 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) preliminary overall budget, grant round program calendar and grant round program & budget. She noted that this preliminary budget is based on level funding for the LSTA program by Congress in FY2004. "It provides for the internal operations of the Agency at the FY2004 level, new grants to libraries and networks totaling \$1,547,500, and special projects totaling \$380,000," she said. The Commissioners then approved the overall budget, grant round program calendar and grant round program & budget.

Paul Kissman, MBLC Library Information Systems Specialist, presented the FY2004 Network Connections Grant Program that will help offset a portion of the cost for maintaining and upgrading telecommunications-related hardware and software for the nine automated resource sharing networks. He reported that there is a total of \$200,000 available. The Board then "approved the Network Connections for Libraries grant program."

MBLC Director **Robert Maier** introduced the proposed Legislative Agenda for 2004 that includes two planks. First, make no further cuts in state funds for libraries, and second, fund "Restore the Core." He relayed that the first plank is obvious and the second plank continues the focus on the

core services that have been cut in the last three years. The intention this year is to pursue funding for these core services in a more strategic manner, he said. In a unanimous vote, the Board approved the Legislative Agenda for FY2004 (See story on page 1).

Following a detailed report by **Peter Homer**, Trustee of the Ashby Free Public Library, the Board also approved "an extension of the time to confirm local funding to the Town of Ashby for the public library construction project for the Ashby Public Library to April 1, 2004."

Director Maier in his report announced that four Trustee Orientations in the Central, Southeast and Northeastern Regions had been held during the past month. He reported that he had delivered a State of the State report at the New England Library Association Annual Conference in Worcester, and the keynote address at the joint Massachusetts Library Trustees Association/Massachusetts Friends of Libraries Annual Conference. He also mentioned that he attended the Massachusetts School Library Media Association (MSLMA) Annual Conference in Sturbridge.

Maureen Killoran, Head of Public Library Advisory and Government Liaison, reported that the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association will sponsor an Advocacy Workshop on Saturday, May 1, 2004 at the Worcester Public Library. She relayed that the Massachusetts Library Association and the Regional Library Systems plan to sponsor Advocacy Workshops during January, February and March. She announced that a Trustee Symposium will be held in Boxborough on Saturday, March 20, 2004.

Other reports given at the meeting were

- An overview of the activities of the Braille and Talking Book Library Program by **Kim Charlson**, Regional Librarian.
- An update on the Springfield City Library by **Patrick Markey**, Chairman of the Springfield City Library Commission, and **Emily Bader**, Director of the Springfield City Library.



The **December 4th** Board Meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners was at the Agency.

Commissioner **Joseph Hopkins**, Chairman, mentioned that the Legislative Breakfasts would be in February and March, and that each of the Regional Library Systems had held their annual meetings.

Robert Maier, Director, gave an update on the reauthorization of the Institute of Museums and Library Services and an expected increase in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding for FY2004. He also reported on a statewide Legislative Strategy Meeting on November 13, 2003 to discuss the MBLC 2004 Legislative Agenda. Other meetings he reported on were with the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts School and Library Media Association to discuss future possible database licensing, and with officials from

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Programs and Services

Certification of Library Personnel
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Data Coordination and Analysis
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Library Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
Massachusetts Library and Information Network/Library Technology
Preservation and Collection Management
Public Library Advisory and Technical Assistance
Public Library Construction
Public Library Emergency Assistance
Regional Library Systems and Library of Last Recourse
State Aid to Public Libraries
Statewide Services to Libraries and Library Users

Publication Information

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Legislative Agenda continued from page 1

Automated Networks. Library users depend on computers and computer networks to check out books, consult catalogs, request books, CDs and videos from other libraries, and for Internet access. The nine automated networks provide the essential infrastructure for resource sharing among libraries whose users total 4.9 million residents. (\$1,000,000)

Small Libraries in Networks. Sixty-three public libraries in the smallest towns in Massachusetts require ongoing support to offer automated services to their residents. This program provides equity of access to the holdings of Massachusetts libraries and automated services to residents of communities that could not otherwise afford these services. (\$140,000)

Virtual Catalog. With a Massachusetts library card and Internet access, library users can search once and find needed materials among the 30 million holdings of libraries all across the state. Building on the automated networks and regional delivery, these materials may be requested and delivered to the borrower's library within days. (\$200,000)

MassCat. Makes accessible the catalogs of 140 school and special libraries and permits those libraries to share their resources through an online request form. More than 1.2 million items are currently listed in this joint catalog. (\$125,000)

Journal Articles. Two years ago, Massachusetts students and researchers requested and received 14,000 journal articles not available at local libraries from the Boston Public Library's Journal Article Clearinghouse. (\$210,000)

Construction Grants continued from page 1

MUNICIPALITY	LIBRARY	AWARD
Amesbury	Amesbury Public Library	\$2,494,352
Barnstable	Marstons Mills Public Library	\$1,733,557
Boxborough	Sargent Memorial Library	\$1,588,634
Braintree	Thayer Public Library	\$200,000
Charlton	Charlton Public Library	\$2,413,314
Douglas	Simon Fairfield Public Library	\$1,778,970
Framingham	Framingham Public Library	\$1,654,493
Georgetown	Georgetown Peabody Library	\$1,644,694
Great Barrington	Mason Library	\$1,407,052
Harvard	Harvard Public Library	\$2,492,232
Mattapoissett	Mattapoissett Free Public Library	\$1,575,662
Middleton	Flint Public Library	\$2,390,053
Montague	Montague Public Libraries/Carnegie Public Library	\$1,810,018
Needham	Needham Free Public Library	\$3,043,503
New Salem	New Salem Public Library	\$286,530
North Brookfield	Haston Free Public Library	\$1,257,173
Northampton	Lilly Library	\$1,104,000
Northborough	Northborough Free Library	\$2,171,949
Oak Bluffs	Oak Bluffs Public Library	\$1,590,646
Revere	Revere Public Library	\$2,581,232
Seekonk	Seekonk Public Library	\$3,031,130
	TOTAL	\$38,249,194

Collaboration Urged Between Libraries and Career Centers

In Massachusetts, 32 One-Stop Career Centers, overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development, form the foundation of the Commonwealth's delivery system for employment and job training. These centers, a cooperative effort between state and local agencies, businesses and nonprofit organizations, provide access to unemployment benefits, career counselors, job listings, assistance with resumes and cover letters, job searching, basic skills training, information on education and training opportunities, as well as opportunities for employers to meet with potential workers.

"In today's economy we need to take every opportunity to collaborate in order to serve those who are seeking jobs," said **Robert Maier**, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. "And, since most public libraries identify persons seeking employment as a distinct user group, many have responded to their needs with materials that cover every aspect of the job

search, resume writing, interviewing and related matters," he continued.

In a joint letter to public libraries and career centers, both Maier and **Jane C. Edmunds**, Director of the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development, encouraged them to start looking for ways to work together. Among their suggestions were:

- Become knowledgeable about each other's services
- Make referrals between Career Centers and libraries
- Libraries offer access to PCs and the Internet, often longer hours than career centers
- Career Centers offer resources on career development
- Libraries support all kinds of education and training with relevant book, video and Internet materials

To find out more about the Massachusetts One-Stop Career Centers, go to www.mass.gov/det/careercenters.

Spotlight on LSTA

Early Childhood Learning

Libraries have an important role to play in the intellectual development of very young children, especially language skills. Preschool programming and educational activities can help establish the foundation on which language skills are built. Another role for libraries is that of educating parents and caregivers to the importance of these early language experiences.

Because children who interact with books, stories and words early on have a greater chance of success in reading, schoolwork and life, it is important for home, school and libraries to provide the richest possible language experiences. Finally, it is vital that an outreach program be developed in places where the children and their families are found, e.g., Head Start and daycare centers, clinics, well-baby stations and shelters.



Children enjoy the songs of Lui Collins at the LSTA funded "Read to Me" event.

With these goals in mind, the Arms Library in Shelburne Falls planned and implemented a project for infant-toddler-preschool children and their parents and caregivers. Planned with the help of an advisory group, it involved the cooperation of appropriate agencies and organizations in the community. Components included: a series of programs for children and their parents/caregivers; family programs for parents and young children together; multi-format collection development aimed at young children and the adults who care for them; packets of information about the importance of reading with young children; development of public relations materials, and outreach activities.

"This LSTA grant helped improve the library's preschool and parenting collections, as well as hold programs for parents and caregivers, a workshop for grandparents and grandchildren, reaching almost 200 children and caregivers in our small town," said **Louis Battalen**, Library Director.

In addition to visits by staff to daycare providers and preschools, these groups also visited the library. "This program was exemplary for a number of reasons," says **Beth Wade**, MBLC Grants Manager, not the least of which was "its establishment of a stronger collaboration with the Franklin County Family Network." Although the network's funding for library story hours throughout county was cut during the project's course, Arms Library was one of only two sites proposed to continue a working relationship to provide the services of a professional story programmer.

Historic Church Begins Transformation



Provincetown Library Trustees, Staff and Provincetown town officials dig sand at the groundbreaking on November 13, 2003 for the new Provincetown Public Library in front of the tower cupola that will be restored and reinstalled on the historic building.

Built in 1860 on Commercial Street in Provincetown as the Center Methodist Episcopal Church it is one of the most prominent and defining landmarks on the skyline. Having served for more than 100 years as a church and then as a museum, this National Historic Landmark is now beginning its new life as the future Provincetown Public Library.

Library supporters, town officials and other dignitaries, gathered on November 13, 2003 to mark the start of the \$4 million renovation project. **James Cole**, President of the Library Board of Trustees, urged those present to continue their support for this "public project with exceptional historic value to our community."

Others who took part

included **Mary Jo Avellar**, Chair of the Board of Selectman, and **Betty Steele Jeffers**, Town Moderator, as well as MBLC Commissioner **Edward Bertorelli**, who reminisced about once living behind the building and the crowded conditions of the current library.

Plans call for selective restoration of the exterior, with the interior of the building gutted, reconstructed and restored to its original design inasmuch as is possible. Complete building and landscape restoration will be addressed progressively as funds are available. Plans also call for complying with the Massachusetts Historical Commission requirements to maintain the grand staircases and restore the vaulted ceiling.



MBLC Commissioner Edward Bertorelli speaking at the groundbreaking for the new Provincetown Public Library.

Lawrence South Branch Library Reopens

The Lawrence Public Library has a lot to celebrate. At a time when libraries in Massachusetts are facing budget reductions and reducing hours of service to the public, the Lawrence Public Library looked for ways to enhance library service to its patrons through remodeling and upgrading not only its buildings, but its book and material collections as well.

Recently, the South Lawrence Branch, located at 135 Parker Street, underwent a complete in and out facelift renovation.

Reopening on October 24, 2003, the renovations included a new roof, boiler, façade upgrading, interior painting, carpeting, lights and new ADA compliant rest rooms.

The new interior design allows for both children and adult services to be located on the same level that renders more efficient service. New foreign language collections in Spanish, Vietnamese and Cambodian were added, and the Hibernian (Irish) collection was moved to the basement, where lovers of Irish literature, history and other Irish subject areas will find the new space ample and comfortable.

In addition, the library installed 10 new computers; six of which were received under the Gates Foundation Grant. Patrons have on-line access to library materials available not only in Lawrence, but through the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium the entire Merrimack Valley and beyond. The City of Lawrence Management and Information System Department, working in partnership with the Lawrence Public Library, installed a satellite digital dish at the South Branch to provide Internet access.

This Library project was accomplished thanks to efforts of many individuals and agencies that dedicated or contributed funds, time and dedication.

Massachusetts Librarian Receives NY Times Award



Louis Battalen, director of the Arms Library Association in Shelburne Falls, was one of 27 winners of the 2003 *New York Times* Librarian Awards.

Nominated by library patron **J. Rob Riggan**, "I was not only surprised, but felt I didn't need to win," said Battalen. "Having a patron think of me and the library in those ways was satisfaction enough."

Riggan said he got the idea to propose Battalen's name while in an airplane. He called Battalen a "driving intellectual force in the community who has dusted off the shelves of the library both literally and figuratively."

For more information about the Librarian Awards, go to www.nytimes-community.com.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Building Bricks Set the Stage for Dracut Library



MBLC Building Consultant Patience Jackson, left, and State Senator Susan Tucker, right, affixing their symbolic brick to the foundation of the new Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library.

Groundbreakings in the winter are never easy, so the staff and trustees of the Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library in Dracut decided hold a mock brick-laying ceremony on Saturday, January 3, 2004 instead.

In opening the ceremony inside the 1970s addition that will be torn down to make way for a new \$7.3 million facility, Dracut Town Manager **Dennis Piendak** said, "This is a very auspicious day for

Dracut going from the depths of closure 11 years ago to our 'groundbreaking' today."

Other dignitaries taking part included State Senator **Susan Tucker** (D-Andover), State Representative **Colleen Garry** (D-Dracut), **Jack DiTillio**, Chairman of the Dracut Board of Selectman, **John**

Katin, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, and MBLC Building Consultant **Patience Jackson**.

In her remarks, Sen. Tucker thanked the people of Dracut and reminded them that "libraries are places to learn and grow." Rep. Garry regaled the audience with her memories of the library, and said she was honored to be a part of "building a living legacy for Dracut."

In concluding the ceremony, the Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees John Katin invited representatives of the community to come forward and place a symbolic brick to build the foundation for the new library. He also then invited all to write farewell messages on the walls of the old building to the delight of the children and longtime library patrons present.



Library Director Susan Schwarz writing her farewell 'Thank You' message on a wall of the old Moses Greeley Parker Memorial Library.

Family Day & Dedication in Canton

November 16, 2003 was the big day that more than 3,000 residents of Canton had been waiting for. Packing the newly renovated and expanded library were local and state officials, library friends and supporters, storybook characters and residents of the town who came to see how their century-old library had been transformed for the next century.



The new colonnaded entrance to the Canton Public Library.

"We meet today because dreams do come true. Let us celebrate your library and the opportunities it provides for education, enrichment, and recreation," said **Betty Chelmow**, Chair of the Canton Public Library Board of Trustees, in welcoming the crowd. "I hope the community will receive this library and recognize the effort that has brought us to this day."

Trustee Building Committee Chairman, **George Comeau**, in his remarks said, "We believe in the future. We have created a space for future generations to gather and promote their ideas in a setting that is both beautiful and useful. Here is a building that firmly stands for the capacity of its own people. The people of Canton by their support for this project, by their patience for its completion and by their steadfast determination to have a new library have produced perhaps one of the finest libraries in the Commonwealth."

State Senator **Paul Joyce** (D-Milton) and State Representative **Bill Galvin** (D-Canton) read a proclamation from the Senate and House, and MBLC Commissioner Deborah Hill Bornheimer also congratulated everyone on the partnership of public and private sectors to make this project such a success.

Lunenburg Wins \$27,100 Book

Following a huge turnout of citizens who voted two-to-one to approve funding for a new Ritter Memorial Library in Lunenburg, **Debra Chapdelaine**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, got word that the library had won something else.

Earlier in the year, Chapdelaine had entered a random drawing for NBC's Today Show 2002 *Green Room Book*. The giant scrapbook contains hundreds of signatures, sketches and souvenirs from every guest appearing on the popular morning television program in 2002. The Today Show auctioned the coveted Green Room Book on eBay with the proceeds going to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Top bidder at \$27,100 was Nashville philanthropist **Ruth Ann Harnisch**.



Dr. Bob Kenney, Executive Director of More Than Money, left, with Debra Chapdelaine, Chair of the Ritter Memorial Library Board of Trustees, center, and former Trustee chair Marguerite Soroka, right, looking at NBC's Today Show 2002 Green Book at the hand-over ceremony in Lunenburg.

When Harnisch appeared on the show to present her check, she surprised **Katie Couric**, **Matt Lauer**, **Al Roker** and **Ann Curry** by announcing that she wasn't going to keep the book, but wanted the book to raise even more money for charity. She turned the book over to More Than Money, a national nonprofit headquartered in Cambridge, that offered every nonprofit in America a chance to win the book in a random drawing. "Thousands registered for the drawing," said **Dr. Bob Kenny**, executive director of More Than Money. "More than Money urges individuals to ask themselves, *What is my passion? What needs to be done?*"

"We're so excited to get the book," says Chapdelaine, who received it on Saturday, January 3, 2004. "Of course, we're going to put it on display for a while. Then we'll decide how we'll use it to raise money. We'll break ground for the new library this August. It will be an environmentally sensitive building, so we think the Green Room Book is a perfect tie-in to our 'green' building."



Canton Public Library Director Mark Lague, left, Betty Chelmow, Chair of the Canton Public Library Board of Trustees, and George Comeau, Canton Public Library Trustee Building Committee Chairman, cut a ribbon to officially open the library on Sunday, November 16, 2003.



Sen. Paul Joyce and Rep. Bill Galvin reading congratulations from the State Senate and House Chambers at the dedication of the Canton Public Library on November 16, 2003.

Virtual Catalog Project Undergoes Changes

The statewide virtual catalog project is undergoing some changes this winter. Longtime project partner and project administrator, the Boston Library Consortium, announced on October 1, 2003, it would be leaving the statewide project to establish its own, separate virtual catalog. Several members of the consortium, however, will continue to participate in both virtual catalogs.

The statewide virtual catalog has been under development since the summer of 1998. An initial grant established a new "alliance" between the Boston Library Consortium, a group of 16 academic and research libraries, and the nine automated resource sharing networks in Massachusetts. The virtual catalog allows users to search all participating library catalogs simultaneously and locate books, audio, video and other returnable material throughout the state. Once the item has been identified, the user can request that it be delivered to their home library. The requesting process is entirely automated.

Over the course of five years and four state-funded grants, the virtual catalog grew to include 19 participants, most of whom had reached the point where they were allowing direct patron requests on the system. About 30 million library holdings were available.

The Split

The virtual catalog was given an extremely favorable evaluation last winter by an outside evaluator. Users who had requested and received material through the virtual catalog were very happy with the simplicity and speed of the process. Nevertheless, the Boston Library Consortium concerned about the lack of support for serials requesting, a perceived imbalance in the lending that was being done, and their continued growth outside the borders of Massachusetts, elected to cease participation in the program as of December 31, 2003. See www.blc.org/news/vc_letter.html.

Happily, several Consortium members will continue to share materials on the statewide virtual catalog, including the Boston Public Library (through MBLN), the State Library (through C/W MARS), and three of the University of Massachusetts Libraries: Boston, Dartmouth and Lowell.

What it means for users

After the move is complete, users will not be able to search the Consortium catalog and the statewide catalog at once. Massachusetts public libraries will still be able to request titles from Consortium libraries and vice versa through more traditional means, such as interlibrary loan via OCLC. It is hoped that within a few years the two virtual catalogs will be able to communicate with each other machine-to-machine so that trading partnerships can be re-established.

The statewide virtual catalog will continue to grow. C/W MARS should be a full participant by the time of publication of this

(continued on page 6)

Board Highlights (continued from page 2)

Administration and Finance to discuss the release of FY2005 & FY2006 Public Library Construction funds. Maier also announced that he and **Jane Edmunds**, Director of the Department of Workforce Development, had sent a letter encouraging libraries to collaborate with the One-Stop Career Centers. (See **Collaboration Urged** on page 3).

In her Legislative Report, **Maureen Killoran**, Head, Public Library Advisory & Government Liaison, said that House Bill 1199, "Restore the Core", had been reported favorably out of the House Committee on Science and Technology, and was now before the joint House and Senate Committee on Local Affairs and Regional Government.

In the first action, **Dianne Carty**, Head of State Aid and Data Coordination, presented an additional 107 municipalities that have met the minimum standards of free public library service. The Board voted to authorize \$1,514,769.69 for these state aid grants. She indicated that as of the deadline 65 requests for waivers had been received. Following the vote, she presented seven proposed policies for the FY2005 State Aid to Public Libraries Program.

Next, **Paul Kissman**, MBLC Library Information Systems Specialist, brought before the Board five recommended Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant awards for Network Connections for Libraries totaling \$200,000. He said that these proposals would provide direct support to 111 public, 16 academic, 3 special and one school library. The Board voted to approve "a grant of \$90,552 to Central/Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing, \$30,339 to Merrimack Valley Library Consortium, \$42,400 to North of Boston Library Exchange, \$25,476 to Old Colony Library Network, and \$11,233 to SAILS."

Presentations of the FY2005 Plans of Service and Programs, along with the budgets for the Regional Library Systems were then given by Assistant Boston Administrator **Susan Glover Godlewski**, Central Administrator **Carolyn Noah**, Metrowest Administrator **Sunny Vandermark**, Northeast Administrator **Gregory Pronevitz**, Southeastern Administrator **Cindy Roach** and Western Administrator **John Ramsey**. Each administrator said these plans and budgets reflected level funding and what their members considered basic as services.

Director Maier then presented a *Massachusetts Library Data Report* on "Automated Resource Sharing Networks" that covered FY2003. He thanked Ms. Carty and Mr. Kissman for their work with network administrators to collect this data, and to **Ann Downey**, MBLC EDP Systems Administrator, and **Uechi Ng**, MBLC Administrative Assistant to the State Aid & Data Analysis Unit, for their work in preparing this "first of its kind" report.

Concluding the meeting, a presentation by **Carol Caro**, Executive Director of the Minuteman Library Network, was given on the history of the network, what networks do, how they do it, and how members pay for it. She noted that the network is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year.

Minuteman Library Network Celebrates 20 Years

The Minuteman Library Network (MLN) marked its 20-year anniversary in December, celebrating its growth from a shared circulation system of 14 libraries to a fully-automated consortium of 41 public and academic members.

Minuteman's story began in 1982 when a group of suburban public library directors met in Lexington to discuss the possibility of automating their libraries and sharing resources. At the same time, the Framingham Public Library and Somerville Public Library, the first libraries in Massachusetts to be automated, were interested in upgrading their systems. Joining with the group meeting in Lexington, they agreed to write a grant proposal for Federal funds, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), to combine and upgrade the two stand-alone systems and to form a network.

On December 1, 1983 the Minuteman Library Network was incorporated and the combined databases of Somerville and Framingham became the core of the MARC database in use today. Among the original members were: Bedford, Belmont, Concord, Framingham, Lincoln, Medford, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston and Winchester public libraries, Goodnow Public Library in Sudbury and the Robbins Library in Arlington. **Robert Maier**, now Director of the MBLC, was the first President.

During its 20 years the mission of the Minuteman Library Network has remained the same, says **Carol Caro**, Executive Director, "to share technology, resources and expertise to enable member libraries to provide their users with innovative, efficient and cost effective library services."

In FY2003, after a rigorous evaluation of the top contenders, MLN chose Innovative Interfaces' Millennium, a Web- and Java™-based catalog system. A \$750,000 Library Services & Technology Act federal grant



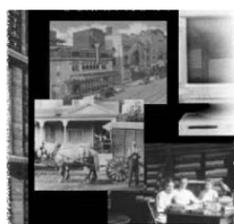
Robert Maier, the first President of Minuteman and now Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, with Meredith McCulloch, Director of the Bedford Public Library, wearing their original MLN hats with the no catalog card symbol at the 20th Anniversary Celebration.

administered by the MBLC went toward the \$1.2 million cost of hardware and software needed to run the new system that was in place as June 2003.

MLN's previous system was 10 years old and did not take advantage of new technologies. The new catalog allows more precise searching and lets users distinguish easily between various formats, such as video versus DVD, or book-on-tape versus book-on-CD.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary of its founding, current and former Minuteman librarians gathered in Natick at the current headquarters of MLN on December 17, 2003 to mark the occasion.

Northeast Region Launches Digital Library



The Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System (NMRLS) is pleased to announce its new "Northeast Massachusetts Digital Library"

Web site: www.nmrls.org/nmdl. This is the next phase of the NMRLS Digital Library Initiative that will expand over the next two years under Library Services and Technology Act federal grant funding to add some 4,000 images from member library collections.

The project has been working with member libraries, museums and historical societies to digitize, index and post about 100 items on the site. "Initial efforts are on digitizing, indexing and/or linking to digital items of regional historical interest that are housed in libraries, museums or historical societies located within Northeast Region," says **Gregory Pronevitz**, NMRLS Administrator. "Our vision is to become a part of a future Massachusetts Digital Library that is currently in the planning stages."

Funding for the project began with a matching grant from the Essex National Heritage Commission and NMRLS state funding. An additional three-year matching

grant is in progress from the Essex National Heritage Commission to expand the collection and have received a LSTA federal grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to outsource processing of collections from eight member libraries.

Virtual Catalog continued from page 5

article. The Board has sufficient funds to bring the remaining two networks, FLO (Fenway Libraries Online) and CLAMS (Cape Libraries Automated Materials Sharing) into full participation. The six Regions' MassCAT Union catalog (www.masscat.org) and other library systems will be added in future years.

Meanwhile the Board will be working with all current statewide virtual catalog participants to establish a new administrative office and a revamped membership structure.

The statewide virtual catalog can be reached at www.mlin.org/vc.html

Paul Kissman
Library Information Systems Specialist

From Teletype to Multitype: CMRLS Celebrates 40 Years

2003 marked the 40th anniversary of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS), "Your Library's Library." During its first 25 years, membership grew to 72 public libraries. In 1997, with the passage of the Commonwealth's *Strategic Plan for Future of Libraries in Massachusetts*, CMRLS moved to a multitype library system and membership grew nearly fourfold.

Though it took nearly 35 years for CMRLS to add academic, school and special libraries to its member mix, there was an early model for collaboration. In 1898, the Bay Path Library Club was formed and created an opportunity for librarians from all types of libraries to mix and learn from one another. By 1964, library directors from the area's academic and public libraries began to discuss collaborations. CMRLS has a history of innovation and leadership.

Technology was also a constant theme. In 1963, a program in which "you make the call – we pay the charges" provided credit card phone access to Reference Centers in Worcester and Fitchburg. Teletype was tested as an ILL tool in 1967. In 1972, five Technicolor 1000-B Super 8 mm Optical Sound Cartridge Projectors were purchased for loan. Next (circa 1974) came the microcomputer, and a proud announcement that Worcester librarian Fritz Maiser "...correctly typed in a simple author-title code and within seconds watched the catalog data appear on the TV-like screen."

With the advent of a toll-free phone number shortly thereafter, support for libraries by the Reference Centers was more valued than ever. The age of computers was upon us, though in 1981 a survey discovered that "...the automation feasibility study was useful for large libraries." As well as providing computer training for staff, CMRLS soon helped libraries to purchase PCs, enabling even the smallest of libraries to enter the electronic age.

In 1989, CMRLS implemented a CD-ROM demonstration project and an effort to connect all libraries by telefax. Librarian Marge Fischer in Lancaster calculated she "...cut the delivery of a photocopied encyclopedia article from Fitchburg from 1 week to a day by their use of the fax." By 1995, CMRLS was leading classes in HTML and unveiling its first Web site.

Today CMRLS is a community of 256 libraries of all types. Membership includes the new Academic and Research Collaborative, a lively Public Library Directors Forum, school library media planning groups, and facilitated collaborations of all sorts. Our shared goal is to improve the quality of life for those who live, work or study in central Massachusetts. CMRLS members value its history and look with anticipation toward the future.

Carolyn Noah
CMRLS Administrator

Agency News

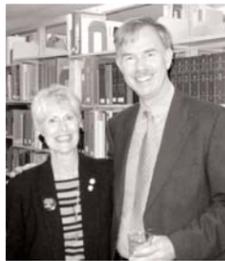
Staff Epitomizes Spirit of the Season

For the second year in a row, the MBLC staff decided to adopt a charity for the holidays, rather than exchange presents amongst themselves. Once again the staff chose to partner with the Boston Family Shelter. **Maria Martin**, the Boston Family Shelter's Volunteer Coordinator, worked with **Marlene Sue Heroux**, Reference Systems Information Specialist and coordinator for the project, to identify residents' wishes. Shelter residents range from 3 months old to 23 years old. Their wish lists contained mostly practical needs, with a smattering of fun yearnings.

In 2002, the Boston Family Shelter, a part of Shelter, Inc., assisted 27 families, including 40 children. The average length of stay was 8.2 months with 64 percent of the residents obtaining housing, 68 percent increasing their income and 100 percent receiving medical, mental health or substance abuse services.

Mary Litterst Retires

Mary Litterst, Planning & Research Specialist in the MBLC State Aid & Data Coordination Unit, (shown left with MBLC Director **Robert Maier**) being feted at her retirement party on November 12, 2003.



Present and past staff, Commissioners and librarians from across the state came to wish her well after 32 years with the Agency. Holding several positions during her time there, Litterst was most recently involved with the annual ARIS survey that is used by the Board to generate its many reports.

Rachel Devin & Sean Walley Recognized

Rachel Devin, Administrative Coordinator in the Library Development Unit, left, and **Sean Walley**, Print & Operations Specialist, right, being congratulated by MBLC Director **Robert Maier** at a reception on December 8, 2003. Receiving a "Citation for Outstanding Performance," from the Commonwealth, "We are delighted to honor these two talented and dedicated staff members who put in countless hours behind the scenes to help to make sure our publications, workshops and communications run smoothly," said Maier.



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Lonergan Joins MBLC Staff



James Lonergan joined the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in January of 2004 as the new State Aid Specialist. In addition, he will also be assuming some of the responsibilities of the Planning and Research

Specialist position that became vacant with the retirement of **Mary Litterst**. Most recently Lonergan was the Associate Director of the ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) Clearing House on Urban Education at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. Prior to his work at ERIC, he worked for the New York Public Library as an Adult/Reference Librarian and as an Assistant Branch Manager. A graduate of UMass-Amherst and Columbia, he earned his MS in Library Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996.

New Construction E-mail Distribution List

Embarking on a major library construction or renovation project is a complex multi-year process. In order to facilitate communication between "old hands," novices and peers, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has started an e-mail distribution list for Massachusetts public library directors to discuss library construction and renovation issues. The list is for peer to peer communication about topics ranging from the pre-planning to the post-occupancy stages of a construction project. Some typical issues might include:

- Determining whether your facility meets community needs
- Working with trustees to jointly determine to do a library construction project
- Establishing a library building committee
- Writing a library building program
- Public outreach and building community support
- Effectively working with town officials
- Running a successful town initiative campaign
- Fundraising for a building project
- Selecting, hiring and working with an architect and other consultants
- Bid process for public construction projects

- Moving and temporary quarters
- Managing the construction process
- Post-occupancy evaluation

Open to only public library directors, and former public library directors, directors can subscribe by sending a message to: construction-request@mmln.lib.ma.us

The body of the message should consist of one line, with the word "subscribe" followed by the e-mail address. Directors may add their name in parentheses if it is not clear from the e-mail address. Example: subscribe_jdirector235@aol.com (Jane Director)

Although the MBLC library building consultants will occasionally participate in the forum, this e-mail list is not a vehicle for MBLC announcements or policy statements. Questions for MBLC staff should not be sent to the list. Staff questions from directors in towns with a population over 10,000 should go directly to Patience Jackson at patience.jackson@state.ma.us and in towns with a population under 10,000 to Anne Larsen at anne.larsen@state.ma.us.

Calendar of Events

Board Meetings

MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2004, 10 am
MBLC, 648 Beacon Street, Boston

MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2004, 10 am
Wellesley Free Library, 530 Washington Street

MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, April 1, 2004, 10 am
Location to be announced

MBLC Board Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2004, 10 am
Rowley Public Library, 141 Main Street

Legislative Breakfasts

Central Region

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004, 8:30 AM
Northborough Free Library, 34 Main Street

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004, 8 AM
Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004, 8:30 AM
Townsend Public Library, 276 Main Street

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2004, 8:30 AM
Pearle Crawford Memorial Library,
1 Village Street, Dudley

Richard Sugden Public Library,
8 Pleasant Street, Spencer

Metrowest Region

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2004, 8 AM
Lincoln Public Library, Bedford Road
Westwood Public Library, 668 High Street

Northeast Region

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004, 8 AM
Beverly Public Library, 32 Essex Street
(communities served by NOBLE and its
ILL Center)

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004, 8 AM
Haverhill Public Library, 99 Main Street
(communities served by Andover's ILL
Center and MVLC)

Southeastern Region

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004, 7:30 AM
Fireside Grill, 30 Bedford St., Middleborough

Western Region

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2004, 8 AM
Berkshire Community College,
1350 West Street, Pittsfield

East Longmeadow Public Library,
60 Centre Square

Southwick Public Library,
95 Feeding Hills Road

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2004, 7:30 AM
Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

Palmer High School, 4105 Main St.

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 7:30 AM
Pelham Library, 2 South Valley Road

Mass. Legislative Days

MLA Ways & Means Day

Wednesday, February 3, 2004, 10 am
The State House, Boston
Registration: www.masslib.org

MLA Library Legislative Day

Wednesday, April 7, 2004, 11 am
The State House, Boston
Registration: www.masslib.org

Workshops

Trustee Symposium

Saturday, March 20, 2004, 9 am - 3 pm
Holiday Inn, 242 Adams Place
(I-495, Exit 28), Boxborough
Registration: Contact Sharon Zitser at
800-952-7403

7th Annual Museum & Library Archives Institute

Friday & Saturday, June 25 & 26, 2004
Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Wilbraham
Sponsors: Monson Free Library & Reading
Room Assoc., Massachusetts Board of
Library Commissioners, Museum of Fine
Arts Boston Archives, New England
Archivists and New England Museum Assoc.
Registration: Contact Hope Bodwell at
413-267-3866 or hbodwell@cwmares.org

LSTA Schedule for FY2005 Grant Round

For those libraries that filed Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Letters of Intent in December 2003 and attended grant writing workshops in late January and early February 2004, full applications are due on Thursday, March 18, 2004. Please send an original and seven (7) copies—because of the volume of applications, no faxes can be accepted. Applications must arrive at the MBLC offices by 4:00 p.m.

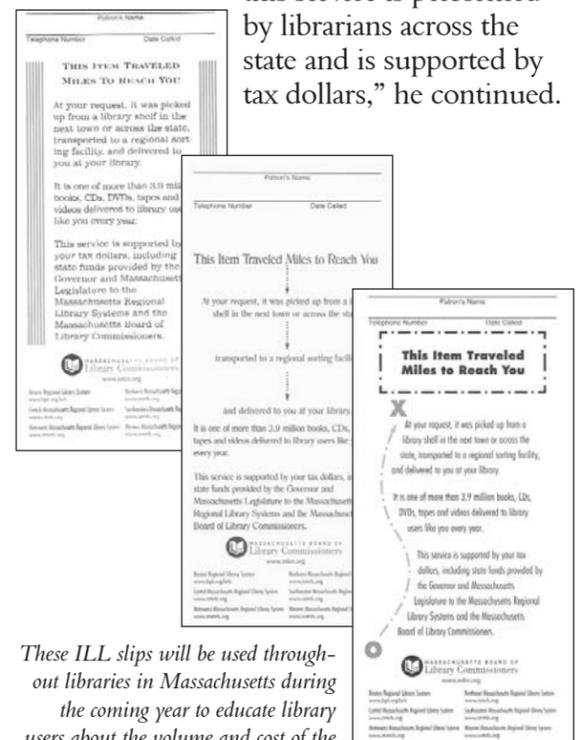
After applications are received, they are reviewed by the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL) at their April 7, 2004 meeting. Libraries from whom SACL needs additional information will have until May 13, 2004 to submit that information. SACL will make its final recommendations to the Board at its June 7, 2004 meeting.

Public Education Campaign to Educate ILL Borrowers

Last year more than 3.9 million books, LCDs, DVDs, tapes and videos were requested by library patrons, and went through the statewide delivery system. This volume of items continues to rise as technology makes it easier for patrons to request books, DVDs and videos anytime, anywhere. Although managing this delivery puts tremendous pressure on the Regional Library Systems and local libraries that provide it, library patrons love the service. Borrowers, however, have no inkling of the process or the added value they receive each time they borrow material from a library that is not their own.

Given the choice between trying to reduce delivery volume or educate the public about the value of the service, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Regional Library Systems decided to educate users. "This project aims to put a little information about the value of Inter Library Loan and delivery into the hands of users," says **David Gray**, MBLC Director of Communication and Public Information.

"With each book, DVD or video, a specially-designed ILL slip stating *This Item Traveled Miles to Reach You*, will be made available to all libraries using ILL that lists a place for the patron's name, telephone number and date called. By inserting the slip into the item, it is our goal is to help patrons understand that this service is performed by librarians across the state and is supported by tax dollars," he continued.



These ILL slips will be used throughout libraries in Massachusetts during the coming year to educate library users about the volume and cost of the Regional Delivery System.



MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF
Library Commissioners

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617-267-9400 617-421-9833 (fax)
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