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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 networks. 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 C. Maier
Director

Library Funding Inadequate to Meet Residents Needs According to Testimony

At a public hearing on Thursday, October 4, 2007 to review the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) fiscal year 2009 budget submission and preliminary legislative agenda, Commissioners heard that the 1.5 percent budget cap given to the MBLC by the Patrick Administration for its FY2009 budget request is inadequate to meet the needs of Massachusetts residents for library services.



Commissioner Dr. Em Claire Knowles, MBLC Chairman, welcomes attendees to the FY2009 Budget Hearing in Worcester.

Held at the Patrick / Murray Administration's request, more than 100 individuals from across the state praised the Administration for opening up the budget process, but stated that library funding has not kept pace nor even recovered from the devastating cuts of FY2003.

"State funds provide for the equity of access to library holdings and programs that all residents of the Commonwealth want and deserve," said **Dr. Em Claire Knowles**, MBLC Chairman. "Strong libraries build strong communities. Strong libraries are the centers of civic engagement that we expect and need them to be. Strong libraries depend on state funds, programs and support from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to be successful."

Cindy Schatz, a trustee of the Wakefield Public Library, and former President of the Massachusetts Library Trustees Association, in her testimony said, "Due to its anticipated impact on my library and others in the Commonwealth, I must strongly object to the MBLC's FY2009 budget request within cap, which lists a bottom line of \$32,975,780. The MBLC has struggled to serve the people of Massachusetts with inadequate funding since the turn of the millennium."

A total of 183 people submitted written comments with most from users of library services (95), with the next greatest number from representatives of public libraries (47). Other groups represented were academic libraries, school libraries, special libraries, (continued on page 3)

Deficiency Budget Provides Additional Funds

On October 11, 2007 the State Legislature passed a Deficiency Budget Bill for fiscal year 2008 (HB 4282) that provided an additional \$385,710 in funds for the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems. These funds will be made available to the regions according to the regional funding formula.

"The additional funding was badly needed," stated **Robert Maier**, Director of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). "Regions can use the funds to help sustain their delivery programs into 2008." Central Massachusetts Regional Library System (CMRLS)

Administrator **Carolyn Noah**, says that's just what they plan to do, "This will help us maintain our delivery to 93 locations. Regional delivery volume has increased 25 percent each year during the period of 2000-2006, with a 15 percent increase in fiscal year 2007. Many of our readers rely on delivery to get what they need."

Maier said he appreciates the additional funding for this fiscal year but adds, "Additional increases are needed in fiscal year 2009 to restore delivery services to fiscal year 2001 levels." Noah also shares these concerns, and adds "We definitely appreciate the support; but delivery is difficult to sustain. Costs of delivery service continue to rise while budgets remain flat."

State Aid to Regional Library Systems FY 2008 with Increase from Deficiency Budget Bill

Region	FY 2008 Total	Previous FY 2008 Total	Resulting Increase
Boston	\$881,551	\$845,935	\$35,616
Central	\$1,548,071	\$1,485,526	\$62,545
Metrowest	\$1,428,233	\$1,370,966	\$57,222
Northeast	\$1,686,947	\$1,630,307	\$68,640
Southeastern	\$2,431,931	\$2,333,677	\$98,254
Western	\$1,557,681	\$1,494,748	\$62,933
Regional Totals	\$9,546,869	\$9,161,159	\$385,710
Library of Last Recourse	\$7,069,202	\$7,069,202	\$0
TOTALS	\$16,616,071	\$16,230,361	\$385,710

Board Meeting Highlights



The September 6, 2007 meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) took place at the newly renovated and expanded Greeley Parker Memorial Library in Dracut. MBLC Chairman **Dr. Em Claire Knowles** opened the meeting and recognized **Susan Schwarz**, Director, who welcomed the Board to Dracut. Schwarz reminded those present that in 1992 the library was closed for six months because of state budget cuts and because the town voted to not raise taxes. However, ten years later, Dracut residents approved a tax increase to expand and renovate the library.

In her report to the Board, Chairman Knowles said she attended the 6th National Conference of African American Librarians in August in Forth Worth, Texas, that was hosted by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA). She noted that she was the 2007 recipient of BCALA's Distinguished Service to the Library Profession Award. In addition, as a member of the Black Caucus of the ALA, she was a delegate to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institution's (IFLA) 73rd General Conference in Durban, South Africa, from August 19 to 23, 2007.

Locally, she said that she, along with MBLC Commissioner **Katherine Dibble**, MBLC Director **Robert Maier**, and **Maureen Killoran**, MBLC Head of the Public Advisory Unit and Government Liaison, had met with Lieutenant Governor **Tim Murray** to discuss library funding issues.

MBLC Director Maier in his report to the Board noted that the meeting with Lt. Gov. Murray was productive and that he was receptive to the issues discussed, particularly under-funding of the Regional Library account. He also announced that he had met with Administration and Finance Budget Analyst **Tom Ryan** to discuss funding for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Waiting List when a bond bill is passed.

He also said that a delegation of librarians from Oman who were conducting research on establishing the first children's library in Oman came to the Agency in August, and that **David Gray**, MBLC Director of Communications & Public Information, and he had met with WGBH outreach staff at their new facility to discuss a possible collaborative effort between the MBLC, libraries and WGBH.

Finally, he announced that MBLC Commissioner **Edward Bertorelli** is serving on the Governor's SERV focus group tasked with developing strategies "to get the word out" about the program. SERV is an employee benefit available to eligible employees in the Executive Branch who have at least six months of state service. With supervisor approval, an employee may volunteer during regular work schedule up to one day per month at an approved Massachusetts non-profit organization (7.5 or 8 hours/month; pro-rated for part-time employees.) Eligible areas include: education, libraries, youth mentoring, public and charter schools, health and human services

and public safety. Director Maier announced that Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Library System Administrator **Cynthia Roach** will promote the program at an upcoming expo at Bridgewater State College.

Maureen Killoran said that preliminary revenue collections for August were up 6.1 percent from last August and that total tax collections for the month were \$59 million above the August benchmark. She announced that the Library Friends workshop "Creative Fundraising; Thinking Outside the Box," would take place in September and that two Trustee orientations were scheduled for the Southeastern Regional Library System in September and October.

Nancy Rea, MBLC Deputy Director and Head of Library Development, and **Patience Jackson**, MBLC Library Building Consultant, presented Recommendations for two provisional construction grants totaling \$3,137,196 to Dudley and Mashpee for construction of public library facilities, both of which have been on the Waiting List since July 2005. The Board voted to award the Pearle L. Crawford Memorial Library \$585,421, which is the balance on a previous award of \$1,729,153 that was granted in November 2006; and \$2,551,775 to the Mashpee Public Library. Rea stated that, based on their inclusion on the November 2006 Waiting List, these awards will be increased by a 15 percent inflation factor when the Legislature approves a new Bond authorization and this increase is scheduled in the Capital Budget.

Beth Wade, MBLC Grants Manager, informed the Commissioners that in October there will be four vacancies on the State Advisory Council on Libraries (SACL). One of these vacancies is currently filled by a member whose initial term filled an unexpired vacancy, and who would like reappointment for a one-year term in order to serve the customary six-year period that two full terms would entail. Another vacancy exists for a member who is eligible for a second three-year term. Those seeking reappointment are: **Owen Smith Shuman**, Director, Groton Public Library, and **Josephine Napolitano**, Trustee, Methuen Public Library. The additional vacancies are for a representative from a public academic library, and a "library user" representative. Filling those slots are **Millie Gonzalez**, Framingham State College, and **Gregory Shesko**, Trustee, Needham Public Library. The Board voted to approve Shuman for a one-year term expiring in September 2008, and to approve Gonzalez, Napolitano and Shesko to three-year terms expiring in September 2010.

In other business, the Board approved the *Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Policies and Procedures 2008-2012* that, although they have clarifying language, have no major changes to either the policies or procedures in comparison with the 2003-2007 version.

Also at the request of **Susan C. Hancox**, chair of the Board of Trustees of the

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Publication Information

MBLC Notes is a bi-monthly publication printed in January, March, May, July, September and November. The editor welcomes unsolicited material and reserves the right to edit and publish it based on space and suitability. Submissions must be sent to the editor at least four weeks prior to publication date.

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Library Funding (continued from page 1)

administrators, network staff, regional staff and library association presidents.

A tally of comments by state budget line item showed the following:

7000-9101	MBLC Administration	19
7000-9401	Regional Library Systems	78
7000-9402	Talking Book Library (Worcester)	23
7000-9406	Talking Book Program (Perkins)	94
7000-9501	State Aid to Public Libraries	51
7000-9506	Library Tech & Resource Sharing	76
7000-9507	Public Libraries Fund	20

The testifiers made the following points:

- The budget cap of 1.5 percent is inadequate to meet current user needs and should be increased.
- The MBLC's preliminary legislative agenda for FY2009 that requests a 30 percent increase is imperative to restore essential and valued services.
- There is great frustration that both Cherry Sheet accounts (9401 and 9501) have languished while other Cherry Sheet accounts have increased 12 percent since FY2001. This will be a focal point in this year's budget process.
- Public libraries and the state programs that support them should be a high priority for the administration; they are basic infrastructure like roads and bridges.
- Users of libraries of all types (public, academic, school and special) benefit from these programs.
- Services provided by the regional library systems are critical to user services in libraries throughout the Commonwealth. The erosion of these services since the 24 percent budget cut of FY2003, and with the ever increasing cost of delivery service reduces the services local library can offer.
- Services supported under account 7000-9506 provide users access to the holdings of the Commonwealth's libraries and to licensed electronic content available in every library and to anyone with a library card. These services provide equity of access to library resources for all residents of Massachusetts.
- Blind and physically disabled residents view the services of the talking book libraries as a lifeline that keeps them in touch with the world.
- Staff, services and leadership provided by the MBLC are highly valued. This includes not only the state funded line items but the construction and federal Library Services and Technology Act programs.
- Speakers uniformly praised the Patrick/Murray Administration for opening up the budget process and listening to what people say about library programs.

"The entire testimony has now been presented to the Patrick / Murray Administration," said **Robert C. Maier**, MBLC Director. "And it is our hope that we can work together to find a way for the administration to take a more aggressive stance on library funding."

Other select testimony is available on the MBLC Web site.

Single Appropriation Now Possible for Joint Libraries in the State Aid Program

Almost every public library in the Commonwealth relies on funds from the State Aid to Public Libraries Program, administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), to round out their budgets and meet the needs of their library community.

In order to be eligible to receive State Aid grant money, libraries must meet the statutory and regulatory program requirements which include funding from local municipalities.

The towns of Hamilton and Wenham share, the first and, so far, only joint public library in the Commonwealth. But until recently, each town individually had to meet the municipal appropriation requirement in order to be eligible for the State Aid to Public Libraries Program.

Now, with the signing of House Bill 3401, Chapter 143 of the Acts of 2007, Wenham and Hamilton, because they share a joint library, are able to be considered as a single funding source to meet the municipal appropriation requirement for state aid.

The Bill, signed by Governor **Deval Patrick** on October 25, 2007, allows a joint public library that serves the residents of two or more towns, to request that the MBLC consider them as a single appropriation for the purpose of meeting the municipal funding requirement for the State Aid to Public Libraries Program.

State Aid Q&A

Q If my municipality receives a waiver of the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) for FY2008, do I use the actual FY2008 appropriation when calculating the MAR for FY2009?

A No. The Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) for each award year is computed using figures for the three prior fiscal years. For each of those three years that a municipality received a State Aid to Public Libraries award, the figure used will be either the MAR or Total Appropriated Municipal Income (TAMI), whichever is higher. If the municipality was not certified for State Aid to Public Libraries in any year, the actual TAMI for that year will be used.

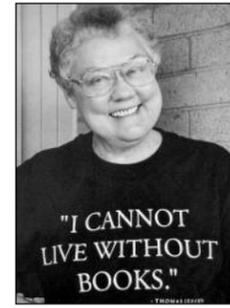
For further information, see:
http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/state_aid/policies/sadacs_mar_calculation_policy.php

Fast Facts

In FY2006, public libraries in Massachusetts provided 5,778 public access computers (4,570 with Internet access).



UMass/Amherst Library Receives Gift of Gay Book Collection



The late Barbara Gittings

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries' Department of Special Collections and University Archives was the recent recipient of a collection of over 1,000 books collected by gay rights pioneers **Barbara Gittings**, and her life partner, **Kay Tobin Lahusen**.

"With its many out-of-print books and long forgotten pioneering works, the Barbara Gittings-Kay Tobin Lahusen Gay Book Collection will be a goldmine for researchers, and will add to the wealth of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender resources available in Western Massachusetts," said **Brett-Genny Janiczek Beemyn**, Director of the Stonewall Center at UMass/Amherst.

In 1958, Gittings established the first East Coast chapter of the first lesbian organization in the U.S., the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), founded in 1955 in San Francisco. From 1963 to 1966 she edited *The Ladder*, DOB's pioneer national magazine. She marched in the first gay rights picket lines in the mid-1960s at the White House and the Pentagon, and at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. She was a charter member of the boards of directors of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (founded in 1973) and the Gay Rights National Lobby (founded in 1976), which was the forerunner of the Human Rights Campaign. Gittings was also active in the campaign that led to the American Psychiatric Association (APA) dropping its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973.

Gittings began collecting books on gay topics after coming out during her freshman year at Northwestern University and being unable to find material that helped her understand her gay identity. As part of her lifelong effort to make gay and lesbian materials more available for library use, she produced bibliographies and programs as part of the Task Force on Gay Liberation (later the Gay Task Force and the GLBT Round Table) within the American Library Association. Gittings served as coordinator of the group from 1971 until 1986, and in 2003 was awarded ALA's highest honor, honorary membership.

Lahusen is considered by some to be the first photojournalist of the gay movement. She has documented lesbian and gay political and cultural events since the 1960s and took many of the photos in the collection of Barbara Gittings as an activist. She was a co-editor with Gittings of *The Ladder*, one of the founding members of the Gay Activists Alliance in 1969, and is the author of *The Gay Crusaders* (New York: Paperback Library, 1972). Her photographs of homophile protests have been widely published and exhibited.

Charlton Opens Expanded Library



The circulation area of the new children's section of new Charlton Public Library.

After more than a year and a half in a tiny temporary location, the newly renovated and expanded Charlton Public Library opened its doors to the public on July 23, 2007 and held its official Grand Opening on a perfect, summer-like afternoon, on Sunday, September 23rd.

Speakers at the Grand Opening included State Senator **Stephen Brewer** who praised the work of volunteer fundraisers who raised more than \$1 million for the project. **Karen Spiewak**, former Capital Campaign Steering Committee Co-chair, compared the 8-year effort of the fundraising committee to the classic children's book, *The Little Engine That Could*. "Think you can and you are halfway there," was her message to the more than 100 people gathered for the event. MBLC Commissioner **Edward Bertorelli** spoke of the importance of a library to the community, and **Stefan Sage**, Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, applauded the architects and contractor for their exemplary work on the project and most importantly for staying on budget.



Charlton Public Library Staff, L to R, Joan Malinowski, retired staff member; Cheryl Hansen, Library Director; Molly Johnson, Head of Youth Services; Kathy Webber, Tech Services; Marie Beesley, Circulation; Kim Cooke, Youth Services Asst.; and Nancy Chalk, Clerk, cut the ribbon to the new expanded library.



Karen Spiewak, Fundraising Co-Chair, thanked her committee for the work they did to raise more than \$1 million, while Felice Kleya, Fundraising Co-Chair, to her left, looks on.

Sage also praised the library staff and then surprised them by asking them to come forward to cut the ribbon to officially open the library. Forgoing the traditional, over-sized ribbon-cutting scissors, Mr. Sage presented each staff member with a new pair of normal sized scissors to cut the ribbon. He showcased the frugality which kept the project on budget by stating that they could then reuse the scissors at their desks the next day!

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Expanded Georgetown Peabody Library Mends Old and New



Matthew Vincent, Chair of the Georgetown Board of Selectman, Laura Zalewski, Chair of Georgetown Peabody Library Trustees, and MBLC Commissioner Katherine Dibble cut the ribbon to officially open the expanded Georgetown Public Library.



The bowed back of the original 1909 building has been incorporated into the new lobby and staircase of the expanded Georgetown Public Library.



Thirty-year Georgetown Public Library Trustee Homer Tapin, right, shares some of the history of the library with MBLC Commissioner Katherine Dibble.

Other highlights of the event included a performance by the Georgetown High School Choir and a history lesson by 30-year Library Trustee Homer Tapin who contrasted today's library with the town's first library.



The new Georgetown Public Library addition allows for a greatly expanded library and restored the original 1909 building.

The town of Georgetown celebrated the dedication of the new Georgetown Peabody Library on Saturday, November, 3, 2007, as rain and wind from Hurricane Noel howled outside. Inside, however, a large crowd admired the continuity of old and new with the historic building and new space joined to form an open welcoming library.

Ruth Eifert, Georgetown Peabody Library Director, welcomed the crowd and shared how pleased everyone is with the new library space. "Libraries are the heritage of our past and the promise of our future," said State Senator **Bruce Tarr**. "George Peabody's public giving started us on this journey and today's celebration demonstrates that we have advanced what he started so many years ago.

Matthew Vincent, Chair of the Georgetown Board of Selectman, spoke about how important the library is to the community. **Nancy Aberman**, Chair of the Georgetown Library Building Committee, recognized the "talent and time it took to renovate the 1905 building" and praised Ruth and her staff as well as the Library Trustees (both past and present), Beacon Architectural Associates, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), and the residents of Georgetown who all worked together to make the library a reality. **Laura Zalewski**, Chair of Georgetown Peabody Library Trustees, called the new library the "community's living room" with something for everyone and added, "we finally have the library our community deserves."

MBLC Commissioner **Katherine Dibble** praised the efforts of those involved in the project, and reminded the crowd that "our work is not done." Since the MPLCP was first funded in 1990, a total of \$282 million in 294 grants has been awarded, but there are still 29 libraries on the construction waiting list. "Libraries provide a wonderful, cost-effective service and we need to remind our Legislature of that," she added.

Haston Library Celebrates Grand Re-Opening



North Main Street was closed to traffic for the Grand Re-Opening Celebration of the Haston Free Public Library in North Brookfield on Saturday, October 13, 2007.

"Take pride in taking part" was the Haston Free Public Library campaign motto, and on Saturday, October 13, 2007 more than 400 North Brookfielders and friends took great pride in celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of their expanded and renovated 1894 Richardsonian library.

Afternoon festivities began in front of the new addition with a welcome by **Thomas Skowron**, Library Trustee and Building Committee chair, who introduced the flag-raising ceremony by the North Brookfield Color Guard. Library Director **Ann Kidd** thanked the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) for the construction grant that helped fund the \$4.1 million undertaking, together with local funding and private donations. She expressed her gratitude to all the staff and volunteers who were "absolutely instrumental in the completion of this project."



Selectman James Caldwell and State Sen. Stephen Brewer (left), State Rep. Anne Gobi (right), and Friends President Janet Moran (middle) watch as Library Trustee Thomas Skowron and Library Director Ann Kidd cut the ribbon.

Larsen all offered their congratulations, and North Brookfield Board of Selectmen Chair James Caldwell called the project "a true success."

As Friends of the Library President **Janet Moran** said in her concluding remarks, "**Elvira** and **Erasmus Haston**, whose philanthropy opened the original library in 1894, would compliment the citizens of 2007 for our maintenance of their gift and for enhancing the building for posterity."



MBLC Commissioner Irving Zangwill addresses the crowd while (left to right) Selectman James Caldwell, State Sen. Stephen Brewer, Library Trustee Thomas Skowron, State Rep. Ann Gobi, Library Director Ann Kidd, and Friends President Janet Moran look on.

Library Tour Focuses on 'Small is Beautiful'



The library tour participants pose outside the new Maynard Public Library.

Friday, October 26, 2007 was a perfect autumn day that only added to the enjoyment for 40 intrepid library tourists exploring new and renovated small libraries.

Led by **Anne Larsen**, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Library Building Consultant/Small Library Specialist, the tour highlighted the benefits library building projects, funded by the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, bring to communities. Along the way, Larsen pointed out design features, their impact on library services and staff, and the critical decisions made during architectural design process and building construction.

The tour began at the Boxborough Public Library where Library Director, **Maureen Strapko**, vividly described the positive service changes made possible by the new 2005 facility. Gesturing to art works hanging from the meeting room walls, her enthusiasm for new programming like her film series for young adults, was infectious.

Next was the Maynard Public Library where a vacant brick 1918 school building had been completely gutted and transformed into a light-filled library facility. The candid comments of Director **Steve Weiner** on the difficulties of the 2006 adaptive-re-use project included examples of why library staff needed to be fully involved in the design process and the importance of sight lines for security.

As the bus wended its way through fall foliage toward Merrimac, participants pored over architectural drawings and talked over lessons learned so far. At the Merrimac Public Library, the exterior façade, entries, parking lot, landscaping and circular drive were examined in detail before entering the new 2004 building. Once inside Director **Tina Follansbee** gave her perspective on the building's functionality, with particular attention to the circulation desk and HVAC system.

Arriving at the Georgetown Public Library, (a sneak preview one week shy of its dedication ceremony), allowed the group to compare and contrast this 2007 addition/renovation of a 1904 library with the previous projects. The challenges of expanding a historic building were balanced against the benefits, with the group agreeing one major plus was the preservation of the brick façade of the original rotunda within the library atrium/lobby. Director **Ruth Eifert** spoke of difficult decisions caused by budget limitations and emphasized the need to focus on service essentials if forced to make design changes.

When the library tourists came off the bus for the final time in Boxborough, they looked at the building with finer, more discriminating eyes, shaped by their shared experience.



Merrimac Public Library Director Tina Follansbee points out qualities of the building to tour participants.

The economist **E.F. Schumacher** did not have libraries in mind when he wrote his groundbreaking 1973 guide to a sustainable community-based economy, but "Small is Beautiful" perfectly describes how many feel about small libraries. More tours are planned in early spring and summer 2008. For further information, contact Anne Larsen at anne.larsen@state.ma.us.

