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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

## Construction Grants Awarded to 31 Public Libraries

*MBLC awards close to \$95 Million in Provisional Construction Grants*

At its Board Meeting at Falmouth Public Library on Thursday, August 14, 2008, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) voted to award twenty-nine General Construction Provisional Grants and two partial awards for a total \$94,269,464 in grants to the thirty-one communities on the MBLC Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Wait List. After several years of preliminary planning, the libraries first applied for state funding in January, 2005. After extensive review, the Board placed them on a wait list in July, 2005, with additions in April, 2006.

Funding for these projects was authorized by Governor **Deval Patrick** and the Legislature in the \$3 billion General Governmental Needs Bond Bill, signed by the Governor on August 11, 2008.



Falmouth Public Library's meeting room was full as the Board voted to approve construction grants to the libraries on the MBLC Construction Program Wait List.

"We applaud the Governor, the Legislature and most importantly the libraries on the construction wait list," stated MBLC Board Chairman **George T. Comeau**. "Funding to these communities will yield great new public libraries and additions across the Commonwealth at a time when library use is at an all time high. When combined with local and private funding, (continued on page 3)

## MBLC Takes a Stand on Question 1

An initiative to repeal the state income tax has qualified for the November 2008 ballot, as Question 1. A previous income tax repeal initiative appeared on the 2002 ballot, and received 45% of the vote (885,000 votes).

At its September 4, 2008 monthly Board meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) voted to oppose Question 1 on the basis that its enactment would essentially eliminate library services, programs, networks and entire systems that have made Massachusetts libraries among the strongest in the nation.

The Board unanimously approved the following motion:

*Be it resolved that as the primary stewards of library service for all residents of the Commonwealth, the Board of Library Commissioners opposes Question 1 on the basis that its enactment would have a severe impact on all types of libraries in Massachusetts and would result especially in an overwhelming and wholly destructive loss of public library services that are fundamental to the educational, social and economic well-being of all residents of the Commonwealth.*

Income tax revenue generates about \$11 billion of the state's \$28 billion annual operating budget. The Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance stated that the loss of the income tax would result in a 60% across the board cut in state budgets. Rather than a single across the board budget reduction, the Board believes that it is much more likely that all state funding for library programs would be eliminated.

"Everything that the MBLC and the libraries worked so hard to create since the Board's inception in 1890 would be destroyed," stated MBLC Chairman, **George T. Comeau**.

"Instead of every resident in the Commonwealth having equal access to library services, libraries would be a luxury reserved for wealthy communities that can afford to pay for them." Commissioner **Em Claire Knowles** added, "At a time when we are seeing library use surge, the repeal of the state income tax would take us back to the library of 1890 and really hurt our residents."

Massachusetts Libraries have experienced an increase in usage for the eighth straight year. In 2007 there were over 31 million visits to public libraries (an average of 4.8 visits per resident), patrons borrowed more than 52 million books and materials from public libraries (an average of 8.1 items per resident) and patrons used the public Internet computers over 10 million times.

The elimination of the state income tax would impact Massachusetts libraries in the following ways:

### Impact on programs of the Board of Library Commissioners

- The Board of Library Commissioners itself would continue to exist, but it would have no budget and no staff.
- Elimination of State Aid to Public Libraries in place since 1890.
- Elimination of regional library systems and library of last recourse.
- Elimination of talking book libraries for the blind and disabled.
- Elimination of funding for automated networks and licensed electronic content.
- Elimination of matching funds for private fund raising.
- Elimination of the public library construction program.
- Elimination of Federal Library Services and Technology Act grants and statewide services.

(continued on page 8)

## Board Meeting Highlights



The July 10, 2008 meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) took place at the Board's office in Boston. It marked **Em Claire Knowles'** last meeting as MBLC Chairperson.

In her report Chairman Knowles highlighted many of the noteworthy accomplishments that occurred during her chairmanship. Among these was the creation of a statewide State Aid Review Committee that reviewed the current program and made recommendations on how to improve the program in the future. Another was the Board's budget hearing on its 2009 budget requests held during its October 2007 meeting at the Worcester Public Library where more than 100 librarians, trustees and library users gave testimony on the impact that the Board's funding has on the provision of library services at the local level. Subsequently, the Board received written testimony from 183 individuals that was forwarded to the Administration.

Chairman Knowles also mentioned the implementation of the Board's Three-Year Marketing Plan for Libraries, the convening of a Construction Summit to secure much-needed funds for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program, the establishment of a Library Legislative Caucus by Representative **Mark Falzone** to advocate for library issues, and the institution of service awards for Board staff. She also noted her pleasure that the Governor has appointed new members and has reappointed other Commissioners so that the Board now serves with its full complement of nine members.

Chairman Knowles expressed her appreciation to her fellow Commissioners, Board staff and the entire library community for their support during her chairmanship.

Before he began his report, MBLC Director **Robert C. Maier** thanked Chairman Knowles for her leadership during her tenure as chairman. He noted that she has been and continues to be a strong advocate for library services. He stated that he has enjoyed working with such a distinguished advocate to promote the cause of libraries in the Commonwealth.

In his report Director Maier discussed the MBLC State Aid Committee, composed of Commissioners **Carol Caro**, **Frank Murphy** and **Mary Rose Quinn**, and Head of State Aid and Data Coordination **Dianne Carty**, State Aid Specialist **James Lonergan** and he. The Committee has reviewed the existing program and the program proposed by the statewide State Aid Review Committee and comments received from the library community through focus groups, community forums and a statewide survey from the point of view of whether elements of the proposed program could be brought into the existing program to strengthen it. He stated that the work of the Committee is progressing well and that it hopes to bring recommendations to the Board in the near future.

Director Maier also stated that the MBLC Construction Team has been meeting regularly since last fall to review the existing regulations for the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP). In addition to the possible revisions to the regulations for the program, other discussion items are the funding formula, a need-based component, green buildings, and the twenty-year commitment to use the building as a public library.

Director Maier announced that the staff Construction Team is meeting with **Nolan Lushington** who was selected in response to an RFR issued by the agency to provide the MBLC with statistical analysis of MPLCP grantees showing the impact of construction projects in selected areas.

Director Maier reminded the Commissioners that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, through its Opportunity Online Grant program, is providing grants to assist public libraries that serve communities with high concentrations of poverty and are at risk of having their technology services become outdated. Libraries in Massachusetts will be informed shortly of their awards by NELINET, the administrative agency for this program for Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Library Information Systems Specialist **Paul Kissman** and Director Maier are currently in touch with the Gates Foundation about another possible grant opportunity that would focus on bringing public libraries with less than T1 access to at least that level and feature two years of bridge funding to achieve this goal and provide a sustainable funding model.

Director Maier also noted that Commissioner **Katherine Dibble** and he will meet with the Central Massachusetts Regional Library System Executive Committee to discuss the feasibility of the Registry of Motor Vehicles establishing a library license plate and having revenues from the sale of the plate directed to public libraries.

Director Maier called the Commissioners' attention to a draft Sponsorship Guidelines document and stated it is the result of several discussions with regional administrators, regional presidents, Board members and agency staff over the last six months since an initial draft was presented.

He noted that the purpose of these guidelines is to clarify understandings of how the Board of Library Commissioners and the regional library systems work together to establish external partnerships and sponsorships that benefit the organizations and the libraries that each serve. Following a brief discussion, several Commissioners stated that they felt the final document should be presented as a policy rather than a guideline. Director Maier will present a further draft for consideration of adoption by the Board at a future Board meeting.

In action items the Board approved the following: **(continued on page 6)**

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

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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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**Grants** (cont. from page 1) the grant awards of \$95 million in state funding have the potential to infuse local economies with more than \$300 million in construction projects, creating local jobs and stimulating local and regional economies over the next five years or so." Please see below for award details.

For more information about the MBLC's Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program please visit:  
<http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/construction/index.php>

## Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Award List August 14, 2008

MUNICIPALITY	LIBRARY	AWARD
Auburn	Auburn Public Library	\$4,188,822
Belchertown	Clapp Memorial Library	\$3,347,565
Belmont	Belmont Memorial Library	\$5,323,564
Boston-Mattapan	Boston Public Library-Mattapan (Branch)	\$5,222,907
Bourne	Jonathan Bourne Public Library	\$2,852,702
Boxford	Boxford Town Library	\$2,784,242
Buckland	Buckland Public Library	\$529,598
Dartmouth	Dartmouth Public Libraries (Branch)	\$2,732,307
Dighton	Dighton Public Library	\$2,341,560
Dudley*	Pearl L. Crawford Memorial Library	\$87,813
Edgartown	Edgartown Free Public Library	\$4,593,557
Everett	Shute Memorial Library (Branch)	\$1,578,115
Falmouth	Falmouth Public Library	\$3,071,749
Foxborough	Boyden Library	\$3,461,606
Gloucester	Gloucester Lyceum & Sawyer Free Library	\$4,549,808
Granby	Granby Free Public Library	\$988,483
Holbrook	Holbrook Public Library	\$1,965,616
Holyoke	Holyoke Public Library	\$4,367,594
Hull	Hull Public Library	\$2,809,680
Mashpee*	Mashpee Public Library	\$382,766
Millis	Millis Public Library	\$2,789,569
North Attleborough	Richards Memorial Library	\$4,866,363
Norwell	Norwell Public Library	\$3,098,877
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury Free Public Library	\$3,964,293
Upton	Upton Town Library	\$2,755,392
Walpole	Walpole Public Library	\$3,896,184
Ware	Young Men's Library Association	\$2,868,458
Westhampton	Westhampton Memorial Library	\$1,065,074
Westwood	Westwood Public Library	\$3,698,929
Winchendon	Beals Memorial Library	\$3,310,544
Woburn	Woburn Public Library	\$4,775,727
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$94,269,464</b>

**Awards include a 15% inflation factor over the amount in the Waiting List dated November 2, 2006.**

**\*Partial awards:** Dudley was awarded \$585,421 on September 6, 2007, with a 15% increase to that amount contingent at that time on legislative approval of additional bond authorization, scheduling in the Governor's Capital Budget, and based on their inclusion in the November 2, 2006 Waiting List. The amount in this award list represents that 15% increase. The library was also awarded \$1,729,153 on November 2, 2006. That award is not eligible for the 15% increment. The total amount awarded to Dudley in this grant round is \$2,402,387.

Mashpee was awarded \$2,551,775 on September 6, 2007, with a 15% increase to that amount contingent at that time on legislative approval of additional bond authorization, scheduling in the Governor's Capital Budget, and based on their inclusion in the November 2, 2006 Waiting List. The amount in this award list represents that 15% increase. The total amount awarded to Mashpee in this grant round is \$2,934,541.

## MBLC Holds Budget Hearings



*MBLC Secretary Katherine Dibble talks with a library supporter after the Budget Hearing held at Springfield City Library.*

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) held two public hearings on its FY2010 budget at Springfield City Library and Watertown Free Public Library.

Library supporters used the hearing as an opportunity to let the Board know the importance of libraries in their lives. Library Technology and Resource Sharing (State Budget Account 7000-9506) was the focus of several speakers who noted that FY2009 funding to this line item is still well below 2001 levels.

One library patron stated, "Of all the public services that I receive for my tax dollars, except for the dramatic need occasionally for police and fire, libraries are the most valuable thing for me. He went on to add, "A day doesn't go by when I do not go online to do something with the library."

MBLC Chair **George T. Comeau** stressed the importance of public input in helping the Governor and the Legislature understand the gap between library needs and actual funding, "It's the voices of our children, parents, immigrants, seniors, job seekers...it's your voices and your stories that put a face to libraries and help our leaders understand that having libraries that provide free, open, and equal access to all is not simply nice, it is an absolute necessity."

Each year the Office for Administration and Finance seeks to regulate state spending by providing government agencies with a budget cap. The FY2009 cap for the MBLC budget was 1.5%. This year the Board was given a -1.5% (negative) budget cap, meaning the MBLC would need to reduce an already trim budget.

While the budget cap is meant to act as a guide in the budget process, the MBLC will create the FY2010 Legislative Agenda based on funding needs that go beyond the budget cap. Last year the Board compiled the FY2009 budget hearing testimony and presented it to the Governor and the Legislature. MBLC Director **Robert C. Maier** called the testimony instrumental in helping the Board receive modest increases in the FY2009 budget.

In addition to the verbal testimony presented at each budget hearing, the MBLC has received hundreds of written testimonies and comments from the library community. The amount of testimony received is at least double what it was last year. The testimony will be compiled and shared with Governor **Deval Patrick** and the State Legislature.

Budget testimony video clips are available on the Board's web site: [www.mass.gov/mblc](http://www.mass.gov/mblc) under MBLC News.

Information about MBLC funding may be found on the Board's web site: The FY2009 Budget: <http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/news/nr080724.php>

The FY2009 Legislative Agenda: <http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/legislative/initiatives/agenda2009.php>

MBLC Budget History FY2001—FY2008: [http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/legislative/budget\\_history/budget\\_history.php](http://mblc.state.ma.us/mblc/legislative/budget_history/budget_history.php)

## Green Incentives Available for Library Construction

Massachusetts Libraries are going green with the help of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC). At the Board's monthly meeting on September 4, 2008, the Commissioners approved a "Green Library Incentive." This incentive encourages the recipients of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program (MPLCP) provisional construction grants, awarded in August, to incorporate green or sustainable elements in their building projects.

"Encouraging green libraries as part of the Library Construction Program makes sense. Communities will reap savings in smarter buildings designed for the 21st Century. The Board of Library Commissioners is pleased to be able to provide the financial incentives for smarter, greener and more sustainable buildings," stated **George T. Comeau**, MBLC Board Chairman.

Green library design focuses on site location, water consumption, energy use, environmental impact, construction waste, choice of building materials, and indoor air quality. Efficient heating and cooling systems as well as alternative energy sources such as solar or wind power may also be design elements of a green library.

The incentive would amount to 5% of the town's MPLCP construction award or \$100,000, whichever is greater. While the Board encourages libraries to seek higher levels of LEED certification, the library must attain at least the basic level of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Additional funding may also be available for libraries that achieve a higher level of LEED certification.

Although many public libraries across the Commonwealth have incorporated green elements into their design, North Adams

Public Library is currently the only one that has attained LEED certification.

Municipalities that received provisional construction grants on August 14, 2008 are eligible to receive a Green Library Incentive and should submit a Letter of Intent to the MBLC by November 3, 2008. No further application, beyond submission of the Letter of Intent and submission of LEED certification will be necessary. Funds will be disbursed by the MBLC in a lump sum upon official notification of the project's LEED certification by the Green Building Council.

Funding to support the MPLCP and the Green Library Incentive was made available through the \$3 billion General Governmental Needs Bond Bill authorized by the Legislature and signed by Governor **Deval Patrick** on August 11, 2008.

## Duxbury's "Bookmarks" to Help Select Most Popular Teen Books



Duxbury's "Bookmarks" pictured here will be part of a nationwide review of young adult literature.

Who says teens aren't reading?

In Duxbury not only are they reading, but the Duxbury Free Public Library's teen book club, the "Bookmarks" has been selected to read and review pre-published books as part of American Library Association's (ALA) Young Adult Galley Group. Fifteen libraries from across the United States are selected each year to be part of this national review and Duxbury Free Public Library is happy to be among them.

"The group has been reading non-stop—and this is on top of their required school reading. They are excited that their input on storylines,

characters, book covers, and other comments may influence what and how a book gets published," said **Ellen Snoeyenbos**, Young Adult & Reference Librarian in Duxbury. "It's an honor and a responsibility."

The teens will also recommend titles for the Teens' Top Ten list, which is featured as part of the ALA Young Adult Library Services Association's Teen Read Week, October 12-18, 2008. Last year, Duxbury Free Public Library was among the more than 4,800 school and public libraries that participated in Teen Read Week and the library expects many teens to participate in this year's theme: Books with Bite @ your library.®

## PR Committee to Focus on "New Americans"

At its September Board meeting, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) approved the Public Relations (PR) Advisory Committee's recommendation to focus on "New Americans" as the target population for FY2009 of the Three Year Marketing Plan.

"Libraries were founded in part to help immigrants adjust to their new communities. Today, libraries are still fulfilling that role and we'd like them to be recognized for the work they do and the services they offer as well as identify areas of need," MBLC Communications Specialist **Celeste Bruno** said in her presentation to the Board.

"Your priorities are in the right place," Commissioner **Irving Zangwill** said after the Board vote.

The original target population for FY2009 was college educated twenty-somethings but changes to [www.mass.gov/libraries](http://www.mass.gov/libraries) that make the site more appealing to this population will not be complete until FY2010. The PR Committee is currently considering the creation of college station radio ads as a way to begin working with this population.

The move also aligns the PR Committee's plan with New Americans Executive Order which was signed by Governor Patrick in July 2008. The order launches an intensive statewide project headed up by Massachusetts

Office for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI) which focuses on how to better integrate Massachusetts immigrant and refugee populations into the civic and economic life of the Commonwealth.

The Executive Director of MORI, **Richard Chacón**, has met with MBLC staff to explore collaboration between the two agencies. Below are some immigration statistics from MORI and the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR 2006):

- Immigrants make up 14% of Massachusetts population and are 17% of the state's workforce (MORI).
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ranks as seventh most popular location for immigrants (FAIR). According to MORI, there are about 31 different immigrant populations in Massachusetts.
- It is estimated the immigrant population and immigrant births are adding nearly 49,400 persons to Massachusetts every year, equating to 29.2% of the state's overall



Richard Chacón, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Office of Refugees and Immigrants visits Framingham Public Library to learn about library services to New Americans. He is pictured here with: Michelle LeMonde-McIntyre, Community Services Librarian; Jeanne Kelley, Assistant Director; and Julie Heagney, Literacy Coordinator.

population increase (FAIR). According to MORI, this is the only positive population increase in the state.

- 41.2% of those who said they spoke a language other than English at home also said they spoke English less than very well (FAIR).

For more information about the New Americans Initiative please visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and enter "New Americans" in the search box.



## Two Massachusetts Librarians Chosen as Caldecott Judges

Woburn Public Library's **Christi Showman Farrar** and Cambridge Public Library's **Julie Roach** have met before at library conferences and events but this year the two young adult librarians will be part of the selection committee for the prestigious 2010 Caldecott Medal. Ms. Roach was nominated and elected to the committee in the spring of 2008 and Ms. Showman Farrar was notified of her appointment this summer. Each year seven appointed and seven elected members nationwide are chosen to serve on the Caldecott committee.

"It must be unusual for two librarians from the same state to serve on the committee, said Showman Farrar. "I'm ecstatic and I'm looking forward to working with Julie and librarians from across the country."

The Caldecott Medal is awarded annually to an artist or illustrator of the most distinguished American Picture Book for Children published in the United States during the preceding year. It, along with the Newbery Medal for authors, is considered one of the most prestigious honors in children's literature. Both the Caldecott and the Newbery Medals are awarded by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association.

Showman Farrar has been at Woburn Public Library for two years, prior to that she was at North Reading Public Library. This summer as a way to motivate teens

### La Biblioteca Pública de Framingham: La Biblioteca De Todos

*Framingham Public Library: Everyone's Library*

Framingham Public Library is doing what libraries do best: it is meeting the needs of the community. In Framingham, as in many areas of the state, that means providing services to immigrant populations.

Staffed by a bilingual coordinator and volunteers, Framingham Public Library's Newcomers and Neighbors center, is where new residents can find out about the services the library offers and get a library card. They can also find out how to get a driver's license, get information about schools, learn about U.S. citizenship, or get health information. "We're sort of a hybrid, we provide library services but we're also a social service agency, linking them to resources, information and other agencies that can help them," said **Jeanne Kelley**, Assistant Director.

Many new residents come to the Newcomers and Neighbors center looking for a way to improve their English. That's where the library's Literacy Unlimited (LU) program helps with free one-to-one Basic Literacy and English for Speakers of Other Languages tutoring. Established in 1986 with a grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), last year LU served about 378 students and has a waiting list of at least 100.

"We've had students who have gone on to start their own business, passed the GED, completed certification in accounting, or have simply been able to read stories to their children or grandchildren," says **Julie Heagney** who coordinates Literacy Unlimited. "Students have a great experience with us and our reputation spreads."

In order to meet the increased need for LU's services, Julie has plans to use a recent grant from the Governor's Office (Commonwealth Corps) to recruit more tutor volunteers.

Framingham Public Library also focuses on programming that unifies the community. "Our immigrant populations make us a more interesting, culturally rich community," says Community Services Librarian **Michelle LeMonde-McIntyre**. "It's not only about what we can do to help New Americans adjust to life in the United States, it's also about what they bring to us."

The library hosts a variety of cultural events for the entire community including the recent 4 Cantos in Concert which featured samba, bossa nova and baião music and the upcoming *Framingham Reads Together*. This project, which is funded by a grant by the MBLC, will start in February and will feature *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School At A Time*.

For more information about New American services at Framingham Public Library please visit their Web site: [www.framinghamlibrary.org](http://www.framinghamlibrary.org)

For more information about libraries across the Commonwealth that offer New Americans services please visit the MBLC's Web site, <http://mblc.state.ma.us/index.php>, click on Massachusetts Libraries, Literacy/ESOL programs.

### MBLC's Holds Successful Fall Workshops



Commissioner Mary Rose Quinn discusses budget issues facing today's libraries with Plymouth Director of Community Services Dinah O'Brien.

The popular annual "Friends Sharing With Friends" and "How to Advocate Effectively for Your Library" offered the library community an opportunity to connect and learn ways to support their libraries.

On September 13, 2008 one hundred and thirty-seven people from across the Commonwealth gathered at the Springhill Suites by Marriott in Devens to attend the "Friends Sharing With Friends" conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) and Massachusetts Friends of Libraries (MFOL).

They were treated to a variety of presentations. Fundraising for small libraries was presented by **John Tavares**, Friends of the Acushnet Public Library. **Sarina Bluhm** from the Norfolk Public Library talked about her highly successful Junior Friends group. Attendees learned how to put together an online Friends newsletter from **Robert Abruzzo** of the Burlington Public Library Friends. **Brian Donoghue**, Friends Liaison at the MBLC, gave an excellent presentation on corporate donations for local nonprofit organizations. Finally, **Joe Ruggeri**, President of the Greenfield Public Library Friends, highlighted the many successful fundraising programs conducted by his Friends group.



"How to Advocate Effectively for Your Library" was well attended by library directors, trustees, and Friends from across the state.

Welcoming remarks were given by **Maureen Killoran**, Head of the Public Library Advisory Unit at the MBLC. Commissioner **Frank Murphy** of the MBLC and **Alice Welch**, President of the MFOL, also addressed the crowd.

(continued on page 7)

## Board Highlights (continued from page 2)

Library Services and Technology Act Grants totaling \$1,104,639 to public, academic, school, and special libraries, and regional library systems and library networks across the Commonwealth. See the complete story in the July/August Edition of *Notes* available online at [www.mass.gov/mblc](http://www.mass.gov/mblc).

The Board also elected officers for FY2009:

- Board members unanimously elected Commissioner Murphy as their Secretary for FY2009.
- Board members unanimously elected Commissioner Dibble as their Vice Chairman for FY2009.
- Board members unanimously elected Commissioner Comeau as their Chairman for FY2009.

See the complete story in the July/August Edition of *Notes* available online at [www.mass.gov/mblc](http://www.mass.gov/mblc).



The August 14, 2008 Board Meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) was held at the newly renovated Falmouth Public Library. Falmouth Library Director **Leslie Morrissey** welcomed the Board and took the opportunity to talk about the construction and renovation of Falmouth Public Library which culminated in a dedication ceremony in March 2008 attended by over one thousand library supporters.

In his report, MBLC Chairman **George T. Comeau** reported that much of the past month's activities revolved around efforts to secure passage of House Bill No. 5055, "An Act Providing for Capital Facility Repairs and Improvements for the Commonwealth," that included capital funds for the construction program. He also informed the Commissioners that the Governor had vetoed \$37.5 million in line item 7000-9090 of the Bill. The \$37.5 million was designated for restoration of the McKim Building of the Boston Public Library. This project is not part of the MBLC's Public Library Construction Program and the purpose of the line item 7000-9090 is to provide grants for 31 libraries on the MBLC's construction waiting list. He thanked the Governor for his affirmation and support of the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program.

Director **Robert C. Maier** began his report with information from the State Aid Committee (Commissioners **Carol Caro**, **Frank Murphy** and **Mary Rose Quinn**, Head of State Aid and Data Coordination **Dianne Carty**, State Aid Specialist **James Lonergan** and he). The committee is in the process of creating a proposal that would incorporate some elements of the proposed State Aid to Public Library program into the existing program to strengthen it while retaining elements of the current program that are highly valued by the library community. The committee hopes to have a proposal ready to discuss with the Board in October.

Director Maier also reported that Commissioner **Katherine Dibble**, Head of Public Library Advisory and Government

Liaison **Maureen Killoran** and he met with a subcommittee of the CMRLS executive board to discuss the library license plate concept. The subcommittee agreed to form a task group to work out the details around a fiscal agent, use of funds and design of the plate. Communications Specialist **Celeste Bruno** will represent the Agency.

As the next order of business **Patience Jackson**, Library Building Consultant, presented the projects recommended for Provisional Awards to communities for construction of public library facilities from the Massachusetts Public Library Construction Program Waiting List.

The MBLC approved grant awards totaling \$94,269,464 to the thirty-one library construction projects in the amounts on the wait list. Please see complete story on page 1.

State Aid Specialist **James Lonergan** then addressed the issue of a fee increase for the Certification of Librarianship issued by the MBLC.

In order to insure that communities are served by qualified library personnel, the MBLC grants Certificates of Librarianship to applicants based on work experience, education level or reciprocity with certification in another state, as set forth in statute and regulation, (MGL c.78 s.22-31; 605 CMR 3.01-3.06). All public library directors in Massachusetts are required to obtain a Certificate of Librarianship as a prerequisite for municipalities to receive State Aid to Public Libraries. Certification fees are currently \$35.00 and the replacement fee is \$20.00.

The regulation calls for certification fee review every three years. Fees are to be established by a vote of the Board of Library Commissioners. A certification fee cost analysis was last completed in 2006, at which time it was determined that the fees did not cover the administrative costs of providing the service.

Mr. Lonergan and **Barbara Glazerman**, Head of Operations and Budget, updated the previous cost analysis and found that it costs the MBLC \$42.30 to process a certificate. Taking into account the three-year review process and inflation, they recommended that the Board increase the certification fees to \$45.00 and the replacement fee to \$30.00. The Board voted approval of this recommendation.

Communications Specialist **Celeste Bruno** highlighted the Board's summer reading promotional campaign. This year's summer reading promotional efforts focused on on-line advertising with motion banner ads on websites of major Massachusetts newspapers. See complete story in the May/June edition of *Notes* available on the Board's Web site, [www.mass.gov/mblc](http://www.mass.gov/mblc).

Initial data shows a 75% increase in the number of on-line registrants and libraries across the state have been reporting that it has been a "banner year" for summer reading programs. Ms. Bruno commented the success of the summer reading and increase in the number of participants is due to the

quality of the events and programs that libraries offer with the support of their Friends groups and other local sponsors.

Director Maier commenced the preliminary discussion of the Board's Legislative Agenda for FY2010 by calling the Commissioners' and attendees' attention to documentation, which included the approved Board's Legislative Agenda for FY2009.

Director Maier then reviewed the Board's account lines in the recently approved state budget for FY2009. He relayed that the MBLC's line (7000-9101) is under funded and, of necessity, is supplemented by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds; State Aid to Regional Libraries (7000-9401) is close to the FY2001 funding level; Talking Book Library (7000-9402) and Talking Book & Machine Lending (7000-9406) have seen modest increases; State Aid to Public Libraries (7000-9501) is also close to the FY2001 funding level; Library Technology & Resource Sharing (7000-9506) is down significantly from the FY2001 funding level and is severely under funded; Public Library Incentive Grant Program (7000-9507) has been funded at the same level since its inception in FY2007.

Chairman Comeau requested input from the Commissioners and attendees on what the Board of Library Commissioners should include in its FY2010 Legislative Agenda and stated that the Board would use the input as well as testimony received at the budget hearings to develop a proposed FY2010 Legislative Agenda.

## Statewide Electronic Resources – From Aesop to ZZ Top

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) is delighted to announce that the license for EBSCO's *Literary Reference Center* has been renewed through June 30, 2009. Thanks to the emails from library staffs throughout the Commonwealth detailing how they use this resource in their libraries, a coalition of funding support from the Boston Public Library, the six Massachusetts Regional Library Systems, and the MBLC, along with the flexibility of EBSCO, the renewal for this robust and highly used resource was possible. The renewal had been in jeopardy due to a reduction in the Commonwealth's federal funding through Library Services and Technology Act and a level-funded state resource sharing account (7000-9506).

The full suite of statewide licensed electronic databases includes 15 InfoTrac mostly full-text files from Cengage (Gale) plus 22 subject-oriented Powerpacks with additional reference resources; the *Massachusetts Newsstand*, 12 full-text Massachusetts newspapers from Proquest, and EBSCO's *Literary Reference Center*. See product descriptions and access information at: <http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/licenses/index.php>

Marlene Sue Heroux  
Reference Information Systems Specialist

## FY2010 LSTA Grant Round Dates

Please see below for important dates in the LSTA grant process.

*Postmark Date October 1, 2008*—New Long Range Plans are due at the MBLC.

*Mid-November, 2008*—The FY2010 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant Round will be announced by mail, on the “allregions” listserv and at *mass.gov/mblc*. Find out more about individual programs by downloading their Fact Sheets at that location.

*Postmark Date December 1, 2008*—Action Plan updates to Long Range Plans are due at the MBLC. Having a Long Range Plan and yearly update on file are necessary for participation in the Library Services and Technology Act Direct Grant Program round. The Action Plan update should cover Fiscal Year 2010.

*Postmark Date December 1, 2008*—Letters of Intent (original plus 2 copies) are due for the FY2009 grant round. (Please note that Action Plans and Letters of Intent will be due on the same day.)

Those who file Letters of Intent will be invited to workshops to help potential applicants understand the components of the grant programs, plan and budget their potential projects, complete the application form, and learn about the grant review, award, and implementation processes. These workshops will be held in late January and early February 2009.

Final LSTA applications will be due in mid-March.

## Anne Larsen takes on New Opportunity in New York City



*Library Building Consultant/Small Library Specialist,  
Anne Larsen*

After ten years as Library Building Consultant/Small Library Specialist, **Anne Larsen** has left the Board of Library Commissioners to return to her native New York where she has assumed a new position as Director of Facilities Planning and Technology at Hunter College of the City University of New York.

During her time at the Board of Library Commissioners Anne has worked with hundreds of librarians, trustees, local officials and architects to help them bring their vision of improved public library facilities from concept to reality.

MBLC Director **Rob Maier** said, “Anne’s position as building consultant for small libraries was created by the legislature to assure that smaller communities would have equal footing with larger communities in seeking funds from the public library construction program. Anne has worked tirelessly to bring smaller libraries into the program and to help them meet the special challenges they face in improving their library facilities.”

“I have enjoyed working with library advocates across the Commonwealth to bring new and updated public libraries to their communities. I’ve met wonderful people from every corner of the state and I will miss them all. Working at the MBLC will always remain a major highlight of my career. This new opportunity is simply one that I could not pass up and the prospect of returning to New York is very exciting,” commented Anne Larsen on this change.

Anne came to the Board of Library Commissioners in 1998 following a career that included positions at academic, school and prison libraries. In 1992, she spent a sabbatical year establishing a library at the fledgling American University in Bulgaria. Along with her husband, **Malcolm Brown**, she has also founded a rural community public radio station, built a micro-hydropower facility, and supported wind power development in Hull, Massachusetts.

### Workshops (cont. from page 5)

“How To Advocate Effectively For Your Library Budget,” sponsored by the MBLC, was held on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008 at the Weston Public Library. Over sixty library directors, trustees, and Friends of Libraries from across the state attended.

**Maureen Killoran**, Head of the Public Library Advisory Unit, delivered welcoming remarks and was followed by MBLC Director **Robert C. Maier** who gave an update on budget issues currently impacting libraries.

A panel of library directors which included **Dinah O’Brien**, Plymouth Public Library; **Kerry Remington**, Rutland Public Library; **Jennifer Hinderer**, Tewksbury Public Library and **Walter Stitt**, Attleboro Public Library gave helpful tips on advocating for the library budget. Former MBLC Commissioner **John Arnold**, recipient of the 2008 MLA Advocacy Award, gave a presentation which included points to consider when speaking to the town finance committee and also a step by step guide to promoting the public library.

The MBLC wishes to thank **Donna** and **Tracy Forand** of the Acushnet Public Library Friends for their assistance throughout the Friends conference and **Dick Luxner** of the MFOL Executive Board for the photography. The MBLC also wishes to thank Weston Public Library Director **Susan Brennan** and staff for assisting with facility arrangements for the budget workshop, as well **Jan Resnick**, Assistant Regional Administrator, Western Massachusetts Regional Library System for the photography.

## Preservation Inquirer

**Q** *How do I deal with the papers and other media that have been collected in our Local History Room?*

*Series and Appraisal—Part 1 of 2. Part 2, Physical Arrangement and Description, will appear in the November/December edition of Notes.*

Addressing non-book materials is often a problem for librarians because their training is so focused on monographs, and now also on videos, CD’s, and DVD’s. Unfortunately, most librarians do not receive training in dealing with manuscript materials, ephemera, maps, etc. As a consequence, one of three things tends to happen: 1.) The materials are treated as though they were monographs and each item is cataloged individually, thus breaking up collections and destroying the context and relationship among the materials, which is important for historical interpretation; 2.) The materials are worked on by volunteers who approach the materials in a myriad of ways, few of which make archival sense; 3.) Nothing is done at all because no one knows what to do.

In the first two instances, the result is that the concept of dealing with the collections as an organic whole is totally lost. The third option may be the best because nothing is done to disturb the original order until someone arrives who can arrange and describe the materials according to current archival practice. While describing the concept of archival arrangement and description is the subject of whole semester courses and full-day workshops, some of the basic concepts can be enumerated here.

In the first place, it is important to ensure, if at all possible, that the collections remain as a whole. Separating items from the collection destroys the relationships between the items and the organic concept of the whole. Additionally, if there is some kind of original order to the collection this should be retained.

Collections of materials often arrive without any kind of original order – just piled into a box or boxes. No matter how they arrive or how they have been stored, an initial inventory needs to be taken of the materials, and they need to be arranged intellectually on paper or electronically by means of a computer. The materials may be arranged as a whole or in groups of related materials (known as Series) and organized within the Series in a way that makes sense. This may mean that they are arranged chronologically (e.g. in correspondence by date), alphabetically (e.g. in correspondence by writer, by ship’s name, by family member), a combination of both, or in another order that makes sense to the collection.

In arranging the materials, there should be a sense of organic whole within each Series and between Series. It is important to note that just because materials are in a collection does not mean that everything, or anything for that matter, needs to be retained. The process of deciding what should be retained in the collection is known as “appraisal.” (continued on page 8)

### Board Meetings

**November 6, 2008, 10:00 am**  
Boston Public Library

**Thursday, December 4, 2008, 10:00 am**  
MBLC Office  
98 N. Washington Street, Boston

**Thursday, January 8, 2009, 10:00 am**  
MBLC Office  
98 N. Washington Street, Boston

### Conferences/Workshops

#### CMRLS Trustee Orientation

October 23, 2008; 5:30 to 8:00 pm  
Location: CMRLS Meeting Room  
Contact: Margaret Cardello  
508.757.4110 x306 [mcardello@cmrls.org](mailto:mcardello@cmrls.org)

#### MMRLS Trustee Orientation

October 29, 2008, Time: TBA  
Location: Framingham Public Library

#### MLTA/MFOL Annual Conference

November 1, 2008; 9:00-3:00 pm  
Marriott, Marlborough

#### MSLA Conference

November 2-3, 2008  
Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Ctr.

#### Preservation Award (cont. from page 7)

In many ways appraisal is the most important concept in archival arrangement and description because it ensures that the collection will really be an organic whole and not just a collection of papers that provide little research, evidential, or intrinsic value. Once the initial appraisal and the intellectual order have been completed, the physical arrangement of the collection can be undertaken.

*Physical Arrangement and Description will be discussed in the November/December edition of Notes.*

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall  
Preservation Specialist

### Board Welcomes New Staff



John Freedman (left) and Ned Richards

**John Freeman** has joined the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners as the new Web Coordinator replacing **Yilou Song** who relocated to Chicago.

"I am pleased to be joining the Board and I am looking forward to supporting online library services throughout Massachusetts. The internet is a convenient and powerful way to deliver information and I hope to help Massachusetts libraries exploit it to its full potential."

John, a Quincy native, is a recent graduate of Simmons College where he earned a Master of Science in Library and Information Science. He earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Providence College and he is experienced in working with a variety of systems.

John will work under the guidance of MBLC's Library Information Systems Specialist **Paul Kissman** to improve the MBLC's website [www.mass.gov/mblc](http://www.mass.gov/mblc) as well as the consumer site [www.mass.gov/libraries](http://www.mass.gov/libraries).

The MBLC is also pleased to welcome **Ned Richards** as the new State Aid Specialist replacing **James Lonergan** who recently moved to Washington D.C. to take a position with IMLS.

"I'm very excited to have the chance to help provide the best possible services to Massachusetts' library users"

Ned, a Long Island Native, who earned his Master's Degree in Library Science from Rutgers University, has extensive experience working in libraries. Most recently Ned was the Library Services Manager of the Collections & Cataloging Department at the San Mateo County Library in California. Prior to that, he worked at the New York Public Library where he was a Branch Librarian and an Adult Reference Specialist.

Previously, Ned was also the Mid-state Regional Library Director for Vermont

Department of Libraries. He also worked as a Serials & ILL Librarian at Touro College Library and as a Technical Services Coordinator for Rutgers University Libraries.

#### MBLC's Stand (continued from page 1)

##### Impact on local public library service

- The public library system of 1889 which is no system at all, but rather a stand-alone library in some towns and no library at all in others.
- No assurance of free access to other public libraries either for direct borrowing or for interlibrary loan.
- Public libraries would be able to charge fees for service to non-residents and they would be able to charge for interlibrary loan requests.
- Interlibrary loan would exist in a dim shadow of what it is today as there would be no regional delivery system to move materials among libraries.
- Many public libraries would have vastly reduced hours of service as the standards and requirements of the state aid program would not apply.
- Local municipal budgets would feel the strain of losses of all varieties of state aid with many libraries threatened with closure and many would close.
- Automated networks would decay very rapidly as grant funds for capital improvements would not be available, annual state support would be eliminated, and libraries simply could not afford the increased ongoing cost of membership.

##### Impact on public library users

- Residents of towns that choose to fund a public library would have access to the collections and services of that library.
- Residents of towns that choose not to fund a public library might not have any library service at all.
- Library hours would be cut back severely.
- The user would not have free access to any other public libraries and would not be able to go online and request materials from other libraries.
- The user would not have access to any online electronic content currently provided by the state, the region or the network.
- This is the library of 1889.

Commissioner **Irving Zangwill** summarized the impact, "This is the very worst that could happen. To try to rebuild after something like this would be impossible."



MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF  
**Library Commissioners**

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