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## Maine Library Commission Minutes : January 28, 2019

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## Maine State Library Commission

**\*\* January 28, 2019 MEETING MINUTES \*\***

Meeting called to order at 1:00PM.

### **Attendance**

Commission Members Present: Joyce Rumery (Chair,) Helen Thompson (Vice Chair), Heidi Grimm, Charles Campo, Art Turley, Don Wismer, Michael Hays, Jeff Cabral, Ben Treat, Sarah Campbell and Dick Thompson

Also Present: James Ritter (State Librarian, MSL), James Jackson Sanborn (Infonet), Janet McKenney (MSL), Adam Fisher (MSL), Alison Maxell (MSL), Susan Crawford (MSL), and Irene Lee (MSL)

### **Welcome**

The chair opened the meeting at 1:00 PM.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commission reviewed and accepted minutes from the November 2018 meeting.

### **Update from State Library**

James Ritter provided a look at draft annual report. The publication was prepared for multiple audiences – our legislative committee of jurisdiction, the Maine library community and the general public.

Michael Hays suggested that more than 500 should be printed. They would be useful for local libraries to have on hand.

The State Librarian is watching a bill making its way through the legislature that pertains to obscenity law and its application to schools. The measure was precipitated by a student that brought home a book that was part of the curriculum in New Gloucester. The parent believed the content was obscene and brought it to school administrators. The school provided alternative materials as a result. The parent was elected to the legislature and submitted the legislation for consideration this session. Library groups have concerns about the measure, but there are a number of interested parties who apparently will be speaking in opposition. Mr. Ritter indicated that he intends on following the legislation closely and will attend the public hearing. At this point, he does not intend to provide testimony on the matter.

Changes are underway in the Talking Books program at the Maine State Library. Thanks to a migration to the NLS webreads platform, patrons will now have the ability to receive multiple titles on one cartridge when they place requests through the program. This change should reduce staff time in the long term, but is keeping us busy during the transition.

Patron computers will be upgraded in the near future. The Office of Information Technology will be supplying new hardware to replace the aging fleet of computers that provide patron access to the internet, word processing software and printing services.

Maine State Library staff are gearing up for the ReadME program this summer. This year's featured author is Tess Gerritsen. Program is in its third year and has over 80 libraries involved last summer.

The library is also working on another round of Poetry Express programs. The initiative was very successful last year and we expect the program to continue to grow in the year ahead.

The National Student Poet is coming to Maine in April as part of National Poetry Month. We are looking to work with local community groups and scheduling events while she was here.

2017 LSTA reports were submitted successfully. The library received our 2019 funding letter that includes a small increase – this gain has been offset by a significant increase in the amount that we are paying DAFS for indirect administrative costs (STACAP) For years it was between 2 and 3 percent. DAFS attempted to increase indirect to 8 percent but we were able to make the case that Federal law caps the amount that can be allocated to 4 percent. We are scheduled for visit from Federal Program Officer – we have a new contact there this year. Janet will be attending a LSTA training later this spring.

Maine Public Library Fund grants went out recently. Almost \$108,000 has been distributed to date to Maine Libraries.

### **Maine Library Advisory Council Update**

We made some ground in our meeting in January in identifying ways to have the group work in terms of providing a feedback loop. Next meeting will be held at MSL and will involve a full tour to familiarize themselves with services.

Joyce suggested that it might be helpful for the group to meet with the library commission at some point. James Ritter indicated that the June meeting might provide a good opportunity.

### **Bicentennial Update**

The new governor appears to be supportive in terms of funding for bicentennial activities. Private fundraising is also underway. A series of events are being planned to coordinate with the state's birthday celebration:

- Tall ships – Maine, national, international – programs in 2020 will be Maine-based, three weeks in July with events scheduled in ports up and down the coast, with a week-long event scheduled in Portland.
- NGA event in 2020 – Invite from George W Bush with the aircraft carrier
- Pine Grove initiative – groves will be planted in celebration of Maine's tree
- Blaine House Concert Series – will take place in different communities throughout Maine

The Maine State Library is looking at several initiatives that may align with the bicentennial, including:

- Statewide literacy effort – push to draw attention to literacy efforts throughout the state. Every kid gets a card, literacy calendar based on a project in South Carolina Statewide inventory of cultural collections – museum, archives

- Developing a bibliography of 200 works important to the history of Maine.
- Dedicating MPLF funding to support libraries that want to sponsor bicentennial programming
- Statewide inventory to shed light on unique historical collections of Maine libraries, museums, historical societies and archives.

A March conference is planned to share information with communities about how they can engage around bicentennial.

Sarah Campbell noted that it was important that bicentennial planning involves Native Americans and tribal governments to ensure their part in Maine's history is not overlooked.

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 PM

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