



Maine Library Association

21-22 Annual Report

MLA Annual Business Meeting and Conference, May 24th, 2022

- I. President's Report – submitted by Wynter Giddings
- II. Vice President's Report – submitted by Sonya Durney
- III. Past President's Report – submitted by Jen Alvino
- IV. Treasurer's Report – submitted by Amy Wisheart
- Secretary – no report (vacant until July 1, 2022)
- V. Member At-Large Report – submitted by Kate Wing
- VI. Member T-Large Report – submitted by Meg Gray
- VII. ALA Councilor Report – submitted by Kara Reiman
- VIII. NELA Representative Report – submitted by Michelle Sampson
- IX. Communications Committee Report – submitted by Jeff Eastman
- X. Legislative Committee Report – submitted by Savannah Sessions
- XI. Academic Interest Group Report – submitted by Sarah Lucchesi
- XII. Membership Report – submitted by Sarah Skawinski
- XIII. Youth Services Section Report – submitted by Danielle Fortin
- XIV. Archives and Special Collections Interest Group Report – submitted by Sharon Pietryka
- Genealogy Interest Group – no report
- Intellectual Freedom Committee – no report (new chair appointed May, 2022)



I. President

The first year of my term as President has been a very busy one and there has been a lot of change and growth happening in terms of what MLA offers members and how we handle our internal processes.

- One major change is that around the end of the 20-21 fiscal year, we contracted with NELA (New England Library Association) for our business management, which is handled by Bob Scheier and Michelle Scheier. Our association administration costs did increase significantly, but we feel confident that the expertise and continuity they can provide to MLA in terms of managing day-to-day administrative and financial management is well worth the expenditure. MLA has been in good financial shape in recent years and since becoming a 510(c)(3), our business practices have become complex enough that this was a good choice. We have added confidence in Bob and Michelle's abilities, as they also provide association administration services to NELA and to CLA (Connecticut Library Association).
- Every August, the MLA Executive Board has an all-day planning session, during which we set the agenda and priorities for the year (we welcome new, incoming board members at the July meeting which is the first of the year, prior to this planning session). The August, 2021 meeting was the first time that we had been in a room together since February, 2020, as we had been meeting bi-monthly on Zoom since the start of the pandemic. This meeting was the start of our switch to a monthly meeting (we met bi-monthly before), as I hoped that meeting more frequently would keep board members more consistently engaged, which I think has proven to be true. At the August meeting we established some priorities for the 21-22 year, such as:
 - o continuing work around library wage advocacy,
 - o setting the legislative agenda for the year,
 - o exploring the library ecosystem in Maine, and
 - o continuing the process of establishing and documenting board procedures, particularly around interest group and committee activities and communication.
- In the fall of 2021 I began periodic meetings with the NELA President and the other state chapter leaders from New England. We have been meeting once



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every other month or so, to discuss issues happening in our associations and boards, as well as sharing planning information around our conferences. These meetings have been very helpful to me and it is really good to have other chapter leaders to check in with and share ideas and challenges with.

- In order to try to be a more effective board President, I took a 4-part course through the Washington Nonprofits (a discount was offered via Maine Association of Nonprofits). This course was very helpful to me and I was glad to see quite a few attendees from various Maine nonprofits. I have begun to implement some of the skills I learned and will continue to do so in the 22-23 fiscal year.
- I convened the Conference Committee in December, with the help of Jen Alvino and Sonya Durney. As this was to be our first in-person conference since the fall of 2019, we decided to take a new approach to planning and created a committee and subcommittee structure that we will fine tune a bit next year. The committee consisted of Myself, Jen Alvino, Sonya Durney, Jeff Eastman, Lee Koenigs, Danielle Fortin, Sarah Lucchesi, Sarah Skawinski, and Meg Gray.

As President, it was my job to drive the theme and keynote ideas for the conference, so I took that opportunity to focus on Intellectual Freedom and the Library's status as one of the few remaining institutions (and professions) that still has public trust.

In addition to leading the Conference Committee, I prepared the event registration on our website for both the conference and the pre-conference (the exhibitor registration was prepared by Sarah Lucchesi) and I served as the primary contact with Maine Infonet (for the pre-conference event) Sunday River, our keynote speaker Deborah Caldwell-Stone, and Devaney Doak and Garrett Booksellers.

- The Coffee Chat series that began back in 2020 has been very successful and is coordinated by our Membership Chair, Sarah Skawinski. In March I facilitated a chat around collection development and bias, along with MLA member and Freeport Library Director, Courtney Sparks.
- Throughout the year, I have met weekly with Jen Alvino and Sonya Durney. These meetings are critical for making sure that we stay on top of decisions and issues affecting the organization, upcoming board vacancies and nominations, and occasionally we invite interest group and committee chairs to these meetings, if there are items needing attention and action with their groups.



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- I worked with the MLA Treasurer, Amy Wisehart, Bob Scheier, Sonya Durney, and Jen Alvino on the 22-23 budget, which the MLA Executive board approved at the April 2022 meeting.
- I will wrap up the 21-22 fiscal year by attending the American Library Association conference in Washington, D.C. in June and I will be attending the 1-day Chapter Leaders Forum during the conference, to meet with chapter leaders from around the country and discuss common issues and priorities we face.

Wynter Giddings

MLA President



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II. Vice President

MLA Nominations. The MLA VP is responsible for nominations. Please join me in welcoming our elected officers from the 2022 ballot:

- a. Amy Wisheart - MLA Treasurer (2022-24) and director of the Northeast Harbor Public Library
- b. Kate Wing - Member at Large 1 (2022-24) and Course Materials and Collections Specialist at Bowdoin College
- c. Anna Faherty - Secretary (2022-24) and Archivist at the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College

Please also join us in welcoming Samantha Duckworth, Law Librarian at Verrill, as Intellectual Freedom Chair.

Thank you to Joanna Breen (Intellectual Freedom Chair 2019-2022) and Matt Delany (Secretary 2020-2022) for their dedication and hard work! We wish you all the best!

MLA Annual Conference - a HUGE shoutout to all on the conference planning committee who pulled this amazing event together. Planning a conference during a pandemic is not ideal, to say the least, but we did it! The conference committee consists of Wynter Giddings, Jen Alvino, Danie Fortin, Meg Gray, Sarah Skawinski, Sarah Lucchesi, Jeff Eastman, Lee Koenigs, and myself.

I would also like to thank the brave souls who joined me on the programming subcommittee: Sarah Lucchesi, Mary Beckett, Lee Keonigs, Joanna Breen, and Savannah Sessions. We compiled a really stellar lineup of speakers for MLA Annual 2022. Of course, the real credit goes to all of the wonderful speakers who have volunteered to share their expertise at the conference. Maine librarians and library partners - you do not disappoint. Thank you!

National Library Week - I had the privilege of working with the awesome MLA Legislative Committee: Savannah Sessions (Legislative Chair), Amy Stone (Legislative Vice-Chair), and Kara Reiman (ALA Councilor) to plan an excellent series of events and resources for National Library Week. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to host Maine Library Legislative Day in Augusta - this was the next best thing! ICYMI:



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- Advocacy + Marketing w/ Ian Ware, Communication Associate for ALA's Public Policy and Advocacy. View recording [here](#)
- **Library Policy Day**, a discussion on library policies and their impact w/ Courtney Sparks, Director of the Freeport Community Library; Marijke Vasser, Section Supervisor for Library Development at the Maine State Library; Kerrie Lattari, York Middle School Librarian; Michelle Sampson, York Public Library Director; and Wynter Giddings Manager of Adult Services & Technology at Curtis Memorial Library and MLA president.
- Please check out the [Padlet](#) for further advocacy resources.

Intellectual Freedom - MLA has been closely following book challenges happening in Maine and nationally. The American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom (OIF) is seeing an unprecedented volume of book challenges. In 2021, 1,597 books were affected by censorship attempts, a tenfold increase over the 156 challenges reported in 2020. MLA is now registered with SIFnet where we can receive challenges updates from the American Library Association. MLA has also partnered with the Maine Association of School Libraries for media outreach in an attempt to educate Maine citizens. There is much work to be done under the umbrella of IF. Hence, I am thrilled to welcome Samantha Duckworth to the executive board. A goal for the coming year is to build the capacity of the IF committee with committee members ready to advocate and educate on the topics of censorship; privacy and cybersecurity; first amendment, free speech, and civil liberties; access; net neutrality and broadband; academic freedom and campus speech; social media; copyright; journalism, media, and disinformation.

Please report any book challenges through the REPORT CENSORSHIP module on the Maine Library Association homepage: mainelibraries.org

Policy Corps

Attended bi-monthly workshops and an in-person meeting in DC in December. The sessions were an excellent opportunity to learn more about policies that impact libraries from broadband to copyright to general advocacy skills.



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Met with Senator King and Senator Collins' office with James Ritter (ME State Librarian) and Savannah Sessions (MLA Legislative Chair) to advocate for federal library funding.

Weekly MLA Administration meetings with Jen Alvino (MLA Past President) and Wynter Giddings (MLA President). These weekly admin meetings are a great opportunity for us to touch base beyond email and discuss what needs our attention that week. Moving into the role of Vice President this time with Jen and Wynter has been so valuable to me as I become more familiar with my role.

MLA Budget 2022-2023. Thank you to Amy Wisheart (MLA Treasurer) and Bob Scheier (MLA Library Admin) for their leadership through the budget process. MLA is in solid financial shape as we enter FY 23, a discussion on library policies and their impact.

Sonya Durney
MLA Vice President



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III. Past President

My first year as Past President began July 1, 2021. At the MLA retreat in August, in person (!) at the temporary location of Maine State Library, we discussed goals for the year. I set a few goals for myself for the upcoming year 1. Complete transition to the new Library Association Administrator, 2. Work on a policy and procedure manual, 3. Bring concepts of the Library Ecosystem to the association.

Transition to new Association Administrator

The MLA Admin group began working with Bob and Michelle Scheier, on June 1, 2021, as part of a contract with the New England Library Association for Administrative Services. The transition went very smoothly with Bob and Michelle taking over the day to day and financial management of the association. Bob and Michelle do this work with NELA and the Connecticut Library Association so their knowledge and expertise with this work is extremely valuable and it has been a pleasure working with them.

Policy and Procedure Manual

The association has spent the last few years stabilizing itself financially. With that work in a much better position, I have been focusing on documenting our policies and procedures so that as the board transitions it is an easier handoff. The Executive Board approved the first policy toward this end, the Guidelines for Committees and Interest Groups. I have a few others in draft format, Code of Conduct, Document Retention, and Quick Response Team and will continue this work going forward and well as working on documenting conference planning guidelines.

Bring concepts of the Library Ecosystem to the association

I began this work at the Retreat. I met with a group of board members and described the Library Ecosystem work. We shared ideas about which organizations in Maine are part of the library ecosystem and how we can work as a group to make connections with the other stakeholders identified and further advocacy efforts using the ecosystem. Unfortunately, this work has not moved forward beyond this initial discussion but I think there are some ideas that the group came up with that we can easily put in place.

In addition, this year not only are we returning to an in-person conference, after a two-year pandemic hiatus, we are hosting the conference for the first time in a while in the spring! I have participated in the conference planning and look forward to attending it



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soon. I think, as a committee we did a great job planning and hope with the changes, members will have an improved experience.

Finally, I continue to participate in ALA as a member of the Committee on Library Advocacy Statewide Ecosystem subcommittee and as the Chapter Relations Committee Chair. I look forward to continuing to serve MLA in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Alvino
MLA Past president



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IV. Treasurer

I began my tenure as MLA treasurer in July 2020, and so far we have not experienced a typical financial year. COVID has made budgeting more complicated for us. Overall though, association finances are still strong. Last year, the MLA conference was all virtual, which resulted in significantly less income but also fewer expenses. This year, we are returning to an in-person conference and while the final tally is not available yet, revenues for the 2022 conference are projected to be a bit lower than for pre-COVID in person conferences.

Membership revenue this year has held steady, and we are grateful to our new and renewing members. But membership revenue only comprises less than 25% of our total budget, so we rely on other sources of income (especially the conference) to balance the budget.

We also made a switch to association management services last year (replacing our business manager position) by contracting out to NELA. This is a higher fee than we were previously paying, but it has been well worth it. Bob and Michelle Scheier have provided very valuable service to our association.

For the past two years, we have budgeted to pull some funds from our reserves in order to balance the budget. While this is sustainable in the short term, the MLA board will be planning for funding sustainability in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Wisehart,
MLA Treasurer



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V. Member At-Large – Kate Wing

In the 2021-2022 year I continued to concentrate on two projects: library wage advocacy and document archiving.

1. Library Wage Advocacy

In April 2021 the Library Wage Subcommittee was formed to address library wages in Maine, and although I chaired the committee its success came from shared leadership among the committee members. In this fiscal year the group attempted to further define the scope of the project and determined that retaining a consultant would be necessary to assist with deciding what is possible and how to go about it. The group obtained the study KardasLarson did for the Connecticut Library Association. After contacting KardasLarson to discuss ballpark costs, the group consulted with the Board President, the Treasurer, and the Business Manager in order to understand MLA's place in self-funding the initiative. At the November board meeting the subcommittee made a proposal and requested funding to go forward. The board approved the proposal.

Meanwhile, NELA decided to engage in a similar study. The MLA board requested that the subcommittee consider whether NELA's study would meet the information needs of Maine's library workers. During November and December, the Library Wage Subcommittee communicated with the NELA President and with our NELA rep, Michelle Sampson, to determine how to move forward. We decided to put Maine's individual effort on hold while I joined the NELA committee to explore a regional option. The committee met once, and during that meeting we were introduced to a representative of KardasLarsen. The representative was unfortunately uninterested in working with us, although they had worked with the Connecticut Library Association on a similar project. There has not been any communication or action from NELA on the subject since that meeting in March 2022. If NELA drops the idea, the next step will be to resurrect the MLA Library Wage Subcommittee and set about hiring a consultant.

2. Document archiving

Alisia Revitt's documents have been converted to PDF and uploaded to the folder in the Google Drive entitled Archived Documents. I have received documents from Bryce Cundick as well.



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VI. Member At-Large – Meg Gray

The majority of my first year on the MLA board at a Member At-Large was spent acquainting myself with the roles and responsibilities of the board. I attended all of the monthly virtual and in person meetings and served on the 2022 conference committee where I was involved in the vendor and FUNdraising subcommittees and served as the lead on the conference survey.

After the scholarship group of the board dissolved, I took part in the scholarship subcommittee that awarded four conference scholarships and the Ainsworth scholarship.

I was nominated to serve on the InforME Board as an MLA representative in December 2021, but Governor Mills wasn't scheduled to review board appointments until the end of the legislative session. I haven't received an update from the InforME staff since March 2022, but am hopeful that the appointment will be finalized before the end of the summer and that I'll start attending the InforME board's monthly meetings by September.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Gray



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VII. ALA Councilor

Overall, ALA is in a time of great change. Due to the pandemic, ALA was forced to figure out how to carry on its business virtually. Like the previous year, the winter and annual conferences were held virtually, including the council business meetings. January 2022 featured the first ever LibLearnX conference, which replaced Midwinter. Previously, Midwinter was mostly committee meetings and a few speakers. From the ALA website: “LibLearnX is designed to be an active learning experience. With a variety of “session types” in assorted “topics” that support a range of instructional methods, you’ll explore experiential learning — “learning by doing.” From hands-on workshops to “bite-sized” informal offerings, you can create a schedule to match your learning style and objectives.” June’s 2022 Annual meeting is moving back to in-person in Washington D.C. as was previously scheduled. Council members have requested to maintain the ability to attend council meetings virtually, but ALA has not confirmed that it will remain an option. For June’s meeting a hybrid meeting will be attempted.

The biggest topic for this year, as well as for the previous 5 years, is re-imagining ALA structures. Council has been the biggest area of disagreement. The majority of council members have voted to retain council in some form. The discussion now is whether it will remain a policy-making body or become an advisory council for the executive board. A plan is being created to vote on during the Annual conference.

Not related to ALA, I again worked on the planning for Advocacy day, which was a week this year.

Kara Reiman
ALA Councilor for MLA



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VIII. NELA Representative

New England Library Association (NELA)'s mission is to lead, educate, convene, and advocate for the advancement of New England libraries and library workers.

The responsibilities of the state liaison to NELA include collaborating with and sharing reports between NELA and MLS. The ME rep also serves on NELA's Nominations Committee (annually); the NELLS Selection Committee (biannually); and the Emerson Greenaway Award Committee (annually).

In the fall of 2021, NELA launched its inaugural **Emerging Leaders' Virtual Cohort** - a 10 week interactive program with a focus on developing and understanding leadership styles, discussing issues in library leadership, and building a leadership toolkit. The cohort met weekly over the course of mid-August-October. Representing Maine in 2021: Julie Olsen, Lauren Rettig, Melissa Small, Megan Smith, and Rachel Statham.

Given continued COVID concerns in addition to the positive responses to last year's [NELLS Emerging Leaders Program](#), NELA will be holding another leadership program this year: **NELLS Emerging Leaders Program**. It will be a 9-week virtual program culminating at a 1.5 day long in-person event that will segue directly into NELA's 2022 Annual Conference. The application deadline has been extended to June 10, 2022.

Held over the course of 6 weeks, NELA's **2021 Annual conference, [Play it Your Way: A Library Adventure Awaits](#)**, went with a hybrid model. There were three virtual events, each focused on one of three topics: advocacy, diversity, and leadership/management. The conference culminated with an in-person meeting @ Holy Cross, but was also streamed for those unable to attend.

During the in-person meeting, the **Emerson Greenway Award**, given for distinguished service in librarianship, was presented to Jen Alvino (Windham, ME) and Ed Garcia (Cranston, RI). A **special commendation** was given to Callan Bignoli, creator of [LibRev](#), a resource tool for library staff to support and advocate for each other in the face of adversity.

NELA's Annual Conference will to be held October 23-25, 2022 in Manchester, NH. This year's theme is ["Back Together Again."](#) The deadline for program proposals has been extended to Jun 10, 2022.

NELA had - and continues to have - monthly [ITS: In the Know](#) virtual meetings. Each session, which occurs on the 2nd Thursday of each month, focuses on a different topic such as Goggle tag managers,



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Meeting bimonthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, the Intellectual Freedom Committee began hosting virtual [Conversations with IFC](#) on all topics related to intellectual freedom such as how to respond to challenges with confidence.

“Help is Here - How to Use the Intellectual Freedom Manual to Respond to Intellectual Freedom Challenges with Confidence.”

With the purpose of providing a baseline expectation to assist librarians and library staff in salary negotiations, NELA formed an ad hoc Salary Committee in late summer 2021. Each state has representation on the committee; as her dissertation is on this very topic, Kate Wing is representing Maine. Maine had completed a preliminary survey; CLA had recently completed a consultant led survey; and all states had the data as collected in the annual state reports. In March 2022, the Committee spoke with the consultant firm who administered CLA’s survey and the Committee is in the process of identifying and meeting with other consultants before moving forward.

Michelle Sampson,
NELA Representative for MLA



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IX. Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's responsibilities include sending regular communiques with membership and outside the organization in the form of email, social media, a quarterly newsletter, and a website. We have another responsibility to honor exemplary librarians at our Annual Conference with awards.

Membership on the committee has changed in the last year. Two of our members, Julie Olson and Alex Richey, whose respective roles were on the newsletter and on social media. Fortunately, two new members joined to fill their roles, Kelly Greenlee and Kayla Chagnon. Amanda Leen continues to help with website updates and to offer sound advice when questions of site revisions arise. Four is a good number for this committee, but there is room for more. We have not named a Vice Chair. Any of the other three members could volunteer, but we would certainly welcome a new member to step right into the role of Vice Chair, who would take over for me when I eventually step down.

Kelly and I have worked on three *MLA to Z* newsletters together continuing with the style that Julie developed a year or two ago. Kelly has the freedom to put her own creative stamp on the design if she would like.

Kayla has been posting regularly to Facebook and Twitter with MLA news and various library-related tidbits since joining us in the fall. Vice President Sonya Durney and Past President Jen Alvino have access to our social media accounts, and they post when they want to. (President Wynter Giddings does not maintain a Facebook account.) Access to social media was granted to members of the Legislative Committee during National Library Week and Library Legislative Day. Danie Fortin of YSS was also instrumental in using social media in the lead up to the 2022 Annual Conference. Ordinarily, the fewer people with access to our official accounts, the better.

We added a carousel of images of public libraries in the state to our homepage. The photos are courtesy of Jamie Dacyczyn. I would love to add more or different images to the carousel, images of academic, school, and special libraries; images of people enjoying libraries; images of library interiors; and images from parts of the state that Jamie did not have a chance to visit (northern and eastern Maine).

The 2021 Annual Conference was held online. I participated in the Conference Committee meetings, and during the conference, I interviewed our keynote speaker Brooke Gladstone of WNYC's *On the Media*, a format she preferred to making a speech. We also gave one award in 2021 for Outstanding Librarian of the Year to Janet McKenney of the



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Maine State Library. There was massive support for this award from around the state. During the first year of pandemic-related uncertainty, Janet displayed true leadership. She kept us informed, offered steady guidance, and affected every librarian in the state positively.

For the second conference in a row, there was no award for Journalism. While we believe firmly in the service that journalists provide in informing the public (I like to think in a way that is adjacent to what librarians do) and in communicating libraries' message to the public, we decided in 2022 that our second award would go to an Outstanding Library Advocate, which could theoretically go to a journalist but would give us the opportunity to recognize the value of other adjacent contributors and allies.

This year I participated again on the Conference Committee for the 2022 Annual Conference. I have assisted here and there with public programs, either with publicity or with setting up Zoom meetings. I also left my job at the Merrill Memorial Library in Yarmouth for a job at the Maine State Library in the spring of 2022. Overall, it has been another exciting year to be a librarian in Maine, and I have been proud to serve on the Communication Committee.

Our goals for next year are simple: continue in the same vein we have been with delivering. Some processes could be streamlined, or we could help out other committees and interest groups more than we have, such as stepping up publicity for events. We definitely need a Vice Chair. We should explore the possibility of adding other social media, like Instagram or even TikTok, to our roster. We would be open to suggestions of any other ways we could improve.

Jeff Eastman,

MLA Communications Committee Chair



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X. Legislative Committee

The past 9 months have been light on the legislation front but busier (than ever?) on the advocacy front. Looking back at prior Legislative Committee Reports tells me we have successfully taken on (in close partnership with the IF Committee) tough issues around censorship, freedom of information, and privacy before. Today, fake news, misinformation, and a tidal wave of book challenges threaten the principles of our profession. Some of us have even found ourselves or someone we know having to advocate for the very existence of a library. So while we wait for the next round of legislative challenges and the outcomes of this election year, we don't sit idly by. We are preparing, training, advocating, learning, reading, researching, teaching.

Maine Library Legislative Day – This year, we overlapped LLD with National Library Week. Again, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we held LLD remotely. Folks from MLA and MSL helped to plan/execute a week of online events from April 3rd to 9th, 2022. We covered a variety of topics, such as marketing and social media, related to library advocacy with a special focus on state and local efforts. We had several presenters from right here in Maine library land, including Courtney Sparks, Director of the Freeport Community Library; Marijke Vasser, Section Supervisor for Library Development at the Maine State Library; Kerrie Lattari, York Middle School Librarian; Michelle Sampson, York Public Library Director; Wynter Giddings Manager of Adult Services & Technology at Curtis Memorial Library; and Sonya Durney, Scholarly Communication Research & Teaching Librarian at the University of New England. We also had guest speakers including Ian Ware of ALA's Policy Office; Jeffrey Knox, Media Specialist for the Town of Gorham and Youth Services Asst. at Baxter Memorial Library; and Georgia Humphrey, Public Access TV Manager for the town of Gorham. 40 people registered for events throughout the week. Unfortunately, we had no responses to our feedback survey.

Library Snapshot Day - We are hoping to build on the LLD momentum this fall and hold a Library Snapshot Day (<https://www.ala.org/advocacy/snapshotday>). Since it is an election year, we are hoping lots of local legislators will participate. We are also hoping to make a deliverable product (similar to a scrapbook) that can be sent to newly-elected or re-elected officials as an advocacy tool. Stay tuned!

Funding - With COVID-19 still among us, many libraries received much-needed funding through the ARP and CARES Acts.

#FundLibraries – Sonya Durney, Jamie Ritter, and Savannah Sessions met with Senator



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Collins' office to thank her for leading the **IMLS/LSTA Funding** Dear Appropriator Letter. We requested she also sign the **Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL)** letter, though her staff indicated that was unlikely. The group of three also met with Senator King's offices to request he sign on to both letters as he has done in the past. His staff indicated that he would.

Engage - Amy Stone, Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee, has begun digging into ALA's advocacy app, Engage. She has set up some emails, widgets, and webpages libraries will be able to use in their advocacy efforts. We plan to get that up and running this summer.

Legislation - LD-1206: *An Act Regarding the Terms of Office of the Director of the Maine State Museum Commission, the State Librarian and the Director of the Maine Arts Commission.* Enacted March 16, 2022. This legislation changed some language around the appointments of the State Librarian, Director of the Maine State Museum Commission, and the Director of the Maine Arts Commission. These directors now serve "at the pleasure of" their respective Commissions rather than having lifetime appointments. Officers who were appointed before January 1, 2021 are exempted from this change.

Savannah Sessions,

Legislative Committee Chair



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XI. Academic Interest Group

This year the Academic Interest Group has focused on the following:

Building out more structure to the group

A vice chair for the group was identified and a succession plan established, with the new vice chair scheduled to become the chair in August of 2023. Ideally a few other members would be identified to form a leadership team, but other members have volunteered to lead specific initiatives such as informal monthly chats, a journal article discussion group, etc.

Participating in planning MLA Annual Conference

The AIG chair participated in the overall conference planning committee, the programming planning committee, and was in charge of vendors and exhibitors.

Planning Maine Academic Libraries Day

A 5-person team, led by the AIG chair, is planning MALD 2022, scheduled for June 16th. For the first time we are planning to offer a hybrid MALD event, based on feedback from AIG members. The in person symposium will take place at UMaine Augusta with remote attendees able to participate live. I look forward to reporting at a later date about our very first hybrid MALD.

Sarah Lucchesi,

Academic interest Group Chair



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XII. Membership

Activity

- Increased membership by 99 (see below).
- Hosted 7 Coffee Chats with a total of 209 attendees (see below).
- Sent “MLA Wants You Back” emails to people with lapsed memberships on 9/3/21, 12/8/21, and 2/7/22.
- Ran membership interest group report and shared with interest group chairs 9/3/21 and 4/7/22.
- Served on the Conference Planning Committee.
- Recruited Raminta Moore to serve as Membership Vice-Chair.

MLA Membership

- As of 7/7/21 there were 590 Members:
 - 581 active;
 - 7 pending new;
 - 2 pending renewal.
- As of 5/24/22 there are 689 Members:
 - 641 active;
 - 13 pending new;
 - 35 pending renewal.

Coffee Chats

We hosted 7 Coffee Chats this year and had a total of 209 attendees. Thank you to all who participated!

COFFEE CHAT: RA FOR EVERYONE!

Thursday, September 16, 2021

12-1pm

62 registered; 25 attended

COFFEE CHAT: EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CLOUDLIBRARY

Thursday, October 21, 2021

12-1pm via Zoom

46 registered; 35 attended



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MLA Annual Business Meeting and Conference, May 24th, 2022

COFFEE CHAT: INTRO TO MLA SPECIAL INTEREST & ADVOCACY GROUPS

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12-1pm via Zoom

27 registered; 18 attended

COFFEE CHAT: PROGRAMMING WITH SNAP-ED

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 12-1pm via Zoom

29 registered; 21 attended

COFFEE CHAT: SETTING BOUNDRIES WITH PATRONS

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 12-1pm via Zoom

62 registered; 43 attended

COFFEE CHAT: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT & CENSORSHIP

Thursday, March 17, 2022, 12-1pm via Zoom

86 registered; 56 attended

COFFEE CHAT: REOPENING STRATEGIES

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 12-1pm via Zoom

19 registered; 11 attended

Goals

- I would like to send “MLA Wants You Back” emails to people with lapsed memberships every 3 months: July, October, January, April.
- I would like to run membership interest group reports and share with interest group chairs every 3 months: July, October, January, April.
- I would like to host Coffee Chat programs in September, October, November, January, February, March, April, & June. We will take December off for the holidays, May off for the Annual Conference, and July/August off for summer break.
- I would like to have Coffee Chat programs scheduled at least 2 months in advance for publicity.

Sarah Skawinski,

Membership Chair



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XIII. Youth Services Section

As I near the end of my term as Chair of the Youth Services Section I remain extremely grateful for a wonderful committee and supportive youth librarians across Maine. Special thanks to all of the members who put in so many hours in these past few 'eventful' years. Thanks to everyone who put their trust in me to Chair YSS and to everyone who worked with me and supported me through rather difficult times. I truly appreciate everyone. Thank you.

This year saw quite a few changes in the Youth Services Section, and we are excited to move forward. With the Maine Library Association becoming a 501c3 registered non-profit we encountered a few challenges surrounding the Youth Services Section and our Bylaws. A set of Bylaws within Bylaws is null and void unless specifically addressed. Since the Maine Library Association Bylaws did not specifically include bylaws for YSS, we opted to reorganize YSS rather than include an outdated system that wasn't working as well as it could. Working closely with the Maine Library Association the Youth Services Section adopted a new committee plan that we hope will be more accessible to all YSS members and encourage participation.

At first, I was a little worried about this change because of how difficult it was for us to redo the Bylaws in 2018 (it was SUPER stressful...). But, after [what felt like] a thousand discussions with the MLA President, Past-President, and Vice-President, we had a plan that would bring positive outcomes [we hoped]. After several meetings and long phone calls Mary Beckett, the current Vice-Chair of YSS, and I came up with a complete redesign of the the committee. We presented it to the YSS Board and after some discussion, changes were approved. We plan to move forward with this new format in the upcoming fiscal year.

I am extremely excited about the new roles since they encourage more active participation from a variety of YSS members, and open opportunities for those without a lot of time to commit. New roles for the YSS Committee include Event Planning, Website Design, and more. Some current YSS members have opted to continue in a new role, and others have opted to move on for other opportunities. We are very excited to welcome new members and ideas. If you have any interest in joining YSS please reach out to yss@mainelibraries.org or contact Danie.

We are looking forward to working with Jon Roy of the Curtis Memorial Library on Website Design, Danie Fortin of the McArthur Library as Past-Chair, Mary Beckett of the Edythe L. Dyer Community Library as an Event Planner, Kayla Chase of the Auburn Public



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Library as RRU Liaison and member, Jessie Trafton of the Skidompha Library as Lupine Chair, and new member Charlie Gluck of the Rockport Public Library!

HUGE thank yous to outgoing members of YSS: Samantha Cote of the Windham Public Library, Deanna McNamera of the McArthur Library, and Kathleen Wirth of the Saco Middle School. Special thanks to Kara Reiman at the Maine State Library for her lifetime membership as MSL Liaison.

We are still looking for a few new members including Chair and Vice-Chair, so if you are interested please contact us!

Once again, the Youth Services Section sponsored a booth at this year's virtual Reading Round Up Conference. The conference was AMAZING and we would like to thank the RRU committee for their hard work. Visitors to the YSS booth were greeted with an adorable dinosaur slideshow (bit.ly/3PrDGgF) and had the opportunity to enter a raffle and win a book pack. Jillian Grove of the Somerset Elementary School was the lucky winner! Congratulations Jillian.

The Lupine Award and Katahdin Award for lifetime achievement were announced at this year's virtual Reading Round Up conference. Since 1989 the Lupine Award has been presented annually. The Lupine Award is designed to honor a living author or illustrator who is a resident of Maine, or who has created a work whose focus is Maine, as shown through the work's characterization, plot, or setting. An author or illustrator is considered a resident if he or she was born in this state or currently resides in Maine for all or part of the year.

The 2021 Katahdin winner was Cynthia Lord. Congratulations Cynthia!!

The 2021 Lupine winners were *Down to Earth* by Betty Culley and *The First Blade of Sweetgrass* by Suzanne Greenlaw, Gabriel Frey, and Nancy Baker.

Lupine Honor Awards went to *Franklin Endicot and the Third Key* by Kate DiCamillo and Chris Van Dusen and *The Little Library* by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Kara. Congratulations to the award winners and honor winners!

Alongside the Youth Services Section the Lupine Committee has also seen some changes! Kathleen Wirth resigned as Chair, and Jesse Trafton stepped into the role. The Lupine Committee has also been exploring some options to grow the committee and will be changing things up this year. We are super excited for these changes and wish the Lupine Committee the best!



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The Lupine Committee is also accepting applications for new members. There are currently two spots available for school or public librarians. If you have any questions about the Lupine Committee or what is expected of our members, check out the application and/or email Jessie at children@skidompha.org.

You can check out the application here: <https://forms.gle/vYam69pUD76BFi4aA>

All applications need to be submitted by 5:00pm on Friday, June 3, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Fortin, Youth Services Section Chair



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XIV. Archives and Special Collections interest Group

During the last year, the Archives & Special Collections Interest Group underwent further leadership transition. The Board decided to eliminate Co-Chair positions in favor of Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure future transitions and continuity. Patricia Burdick, longtime Co-Chair who served many years with Betsy Paradis, went on a professional sabbatical and decided to step down from her interest group position. This necessitated finding someone to take over as Vice Chair. Fortunately, Anastasia Weigle answered the call. She is an Associate Professor of Information and Library Science at the University of Maine at Augusta, and she has a long history with MLA and the archives group specifically. She served as MLA Archivist for a period, as well. She will take over as Chair of the group in one year.

The group had a fall Zoom gathering on November 2 with 22 registrants. These unstructured gatherings are a valuable opportunity to make announcements about current projects, solicit feedback, and discuss relevant topics with colleagues.

At this year's Annual Conference, we will be hosting a meeting for the group as a chance to speak to members about what has been happening over the last year, to discuss future plans, and, in some cases, to meet folks in person for the first time. Additionally, there are a number of sessions at the MLA conference related to Archives and Special Collections. Anastasia will be presenting a session on "Public Trust, Faith, and Cultural Humility in the Archives." There is a panel on basic archiving techniques with Adam Fisher, Renee Burkett, and Lee Koenigs. Additionally, Anna Faherty and Candis Joyce from the Maine Contemporary Archives Collaborative will be hosting a workshop on their technology kits initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Pietryka, Chair

Anastasia Weigle, Vice Chair