

**Advocacy with Maureen:**

MLA Exec board meeting, Erin brought Maureen to us!

Before director, she was a Children's/Teen Librarian, came 10 years ago to be Youth Advisor, then became Director in Westborough, as a Youth Librarian - never thought advocacy was "her job" - what does the word mean? Pictured as "for directors." State Association "marching to the State House," but this isn't really how it works. Legislative events tend to be a lot of directors. Lightbulb moment: 2005, Texas, State Conference event: rally @ State Capital (see Austin, Texas) nothing else happening during a two-hour block. Asked every attendee to wear red "want libraries to be 'out of the red'" 1,200-1,500 people at the State Capital that day. Passion about libraries - this is my job. I should be here. I should be supporting things like this. Next opportunity to speak with an elected official - "I'm the only one that can tell my story - what affects my patrons, etc. If I don't show up and tell that story, no one is going to show up and tell it for me. All of those officials/advisors/liaisons are telling their own stories. Youth librarians see it every day - our/your work changes lives." Individuals making connections with legislators to share those stories is what pushes things forward. When legislators hear the impact from their constituents and those that serve their constituents, it makes a connection.

Not participating in legislative events were missed opportunities. Make the case to your director to "get out of the building" when need be! Or, send them to Maureen. :) Directors don't always think to extend the invitation to Youth Staff. Legislative Day will include a session for First Timers.

First time can be intimidating. (Maureen wants it to be known she was petrified at her first MA Legislative Day). Over years, trying to lessen "pit in your stomach" feeling for first timers. This year will include a specific, dedicated session. Getting to know your legislators/representatives is not always difficult. They are regular people. They just happen to have a title and office. They want to hear from us and know what's going on in their communities - it's their job. Make connections, build relationships, add them to your email lists!

Format for Legislative Day will be different. Used to use Hall of Flags in the State House, attendance has been going down over years. Legislative committee has decided to do this year: Call for displays - almost like a poster session - innovative programs that libraries are doing. Want to see Youth Programs! (PROPOSALS ARE DUE TONIGHT! YSS will draft a proposal. See next agenda item) Legislative Committee wants librarians to bring successes and impact to the day. Morning session! Ongoing displays on the grand staircase. Time to go and visit your legislators in their offices. Maureen usually invites her legislator to lunch. More informal, not talking about just library stuff. Talking about community. Find out what things are important to them. Talking to legislative aides - if officials are in session or may not be in office that day - befriend aides. The aides will pass on your thoughts and information! Legislators get really bummed if librarians don't show up. "The librarians are coming." If they know that there are librarians in the building and nobody shows up to see them. "Don't make your legislator sad."

SLJ: Experience with red shirt... 2005, moved to MA later that year. Invited by Mass School Library Association to testify at a public hearing at the state house. (Yes, very terrifying.) Trying to get language about school librarians into Chapter 70 - about funding. Superintendents don't always

realize they can spend state money on hiring school librarians. Asked Maureen as she was new to MA. In TX, certified librarian in every school. Think about stereotypes for a second - TX vs. MA. Who has certified librarians in every school? Does that match up with those stereotypes. Maureen was able to talk about what her kindergartener had learned in the library of her school in TX. Terrifying experience - cold, nervous, timed, etc - When it was over - that was a rush. Talking with Linda Braun, "you should write an article about that!"

Burst of creativity - started writing. Sent it to SLJ and heard nothing. Got a call from the Art Director to turn article into mini-four-page graphic novel adaptation. Keep essence and use Maureen's words as much as possible. January 2008 issue. Title: "The Metamorphosis, or How I Went from a Quiet Bystander to a Raging Library Activist." First job from Teen Librarian to article in SLJ about Maureen as "Raging Library Activist." Only piece of article got push back was on presentation of volunteer librarians - but art was done by SLJ. Stand behind theme - kids deserve a certified, credentialed librarian from day one all the way through. Volunteer or paraprofessional is not a substitute. Taking story of her daughter to her legislators - kids in the Commonwealth should have that.

Not always successful. But happy to have been part of the conversation. They wouldn't have had that perspective or that part of the story without Maureen participating.

Legislators should know about the work that Youth Librarians are doing.

### **Questions:**

Daily/weekly/monthly basis? How to advocate?

Make a point to keep town officials informed of things that are going on. If there's a big event that they should know about - add them to list for press releases. Town officials that have kids or grandkids - This will be the fourth year of outdoor movies in Westborough. First year sent second email to publicize to department heads. Fire Chief showed up every week with his granddaughter. Who else in town can you spread the word to? Make sure that information about what you do goes into Director's Town Report - big picture, historical record for things that happened in town that year. Monthly report to trustees. Include Youth Section each month. More information put out there, the better. Little notes are valuable - teenager coming back to say thank you for help on how it's changed the way they have done work at Salem State, etc.

Poster session sounds awesome - it's intimidating, but having a project to talk about, makes it easier to focus on.

Invite legislators to see your poster! Make it a point to reach out! If you invite them, they will come, or send an aide. Legislative Breakfasts allow you to see legislators on "your turf," while Legislative Day is on "their turf." Breakfasts: they come to you to see what you do, where you do it. You can hand stuff, clippings, notes, thank yous, etc. Make that introduction and connections.

Legislative Breakfasts?

Central Mass: Organized around Senate Districts, one senator, and four state reps, about. Each given a chance to speak on the agenda. They speak at the end. First is welcome from Library Director, etc, librarians talking about their issues. A patron or two. Getting a teen to come and speak is paramount. Officials listen and really pay attention to what kids say. At

school libraries, public libraries, officials leaning forward to listen to them. Later, speaking, they reference what kids said! Hearing it in their words carries impact. There will be one or two patrons. Then we give legislators a chance to speak. They'll give you an idea of how difficult of a year it will be - deficits foreseen, etc. Then mingle! Give your info and run.

If we go to Legislative Day, before we go: is there a particular type of story you feel is more resonant to try to tell than others?

Whatever you can think of, situation seen in library where your library succeeded, interacting with patron, etc, outcome. Don't say it should be a teen or baby or mom, you know what that story is. A story that you truly believe you changed someone's life - your enthusiasm will come through in that story. Theme this year is: Libraries = Opportunities for All. You could pick something according to that theme, but not necessarily.

Last year was 100 participants. Which is way less than it should be. Stories will carry more weight when they come from you.

If you don't know the names of your legislators how do you find out:

On the state website: [mahouse.gov](http://mahouse.gov), [masenate.gov](http://masenate.gov), MLA Legislative Committee webpage.

Done by zipcode, will tell you state senators and state rep. Most communities will have one of each.

### **Library Legislative Day, March 8:**

We need to write a proposal to send to them. Jess will write it up. Send to Susan McAllister? Let's do what we always do, bring the robots, printers, STEM toys. Will need two tables. Just re-do NELA conference.

If you are particularly inspired, you can write up a proposal tonight!

Will they line the steps with books? Maybe!

You can be involved in Legislative Committee through MLA! See, YSS, Exec Board, Conference Committee. What are all these boards? And what are they doing?

Exec Board is Chair and rep from each committee.

Months when EBoard doesn't meet, Admin meets. Clean up, votes, etc.

Admin and Exec Board open to everyone. Friday Mornings 10-12, Admin Minuteman HQ, Exec in Worcester

Exec Board is intimidating at first, but takes time to get used to structure and players.

Important to speak up when you don't always know something. Offer to help. We should be doing that stuff. Gap of information between Exec Board and the membership. How would we know about some of these things if we weren't here? We wouldn't.

Not a bad idea to have a YSS rep on the Legislative Committee - meets Friday that we have Admin, after. In the afternoon. Schedule is on the MLA website. (Tomorrow afternoon in Natick)

See YSS candidates? Ask Legislative Committee for YSS rep, they will say yes.

They're a little intimidating, but know what they're doing.

### **Executive Board Update:**

Legislative Day was what they were about last time.

Pricing conversation. See Retreat update. What we're doing right now is okay.

**Retreat, March 12, Update:**

Informal learning experience.

At Camp Winadu in Pittsfield. Food included. Sleep on bunk beds, bring your camp stuff. 11:00 a.m. on Saturday to 11:00 a.m. on Sunday

Good networking.

Registration website is up, but needs a blurb because it looks bare bones.

Forget the day rate.

Erin will write up stuff for Jen for the page.

Photos to Larissa!

Let's get registration up in a week. - Dietary note!

**Mixed contacts:**

Larissa will have her CLAMSNET email for a while. Will have OCLN email soon.

Nora Blake has a new job. Email contact?

**Conference, May 17, Reminder:**

Our day is Tuesday May 17 in Hyannis! Spa! Discounts stuff for attendees. Exclusive time for spa treatments.

What's different this year: we have Two Rooms! Lineup for teen programming and children's programming in two rooms.

STEM Grants, Readers Advisory stuff, No Flying No Tights, Girls Who Code, STEM, Annual Meeting - Poster Session: Fanfiction crafts, Summer Reading Beads (see Storytime Underground), Guerilla Storytime and YA Slam,

YSS is out for Awards Gala. Book Cart Drill team will allow video submissions and solo submissions.

Jess suggested teens would be down to do it! This might be allowed.

TRIVIA (don't know what night?)

Dine Around

Guerilla Storytime and YA Slam

Conference Committee Meets every month on a Friday in Marlboro

**Story Time Project**

Jess will send the email out. Author made a book, did audio recording. Seems legit. Will pass around.

"I am a retired college library director and also a member of the Rotary eClub of the Southwest USA [[www.recswwusa.org](http://www.recswwusa.org)]. I am writing chairs and co-chairs of Children's or public library sections of state library associations in the U.S. to ask for advice on the following project:

During 2016 I will be conducting a Rotary project designed to provide narrated, illustrated stories for downloading to smart phones, tablets and computers at no charge. I have written ten stories in English and Spanish using public domain illustrations. The stories are suitable for third graders and younger and each is three to four minutes in length. Once the stories and narrations are downloaded they may be played without an Internet connection. A sample story may be found at [[www.srbrown.info/storytime](http://www.srbrown.info/storytime)].

I would be interested in your feedback about whether this project would be suitable for Story Times in public libraries. For mixed audiences of English- and Spanish-speaking children, narrations in each language could be played one after another. Feedback may be sent to me at [cheshbrownsr@cox.net](mailto:cheshbrownsr@cox.net)

Thank you for your help.

Samuel Brown  
Cheshire, Connecticut

**ALA breakdown:**

A picture book won the Newbery. Skillset for writing novel vs picture book totally different.  
YMA Committees: rumors are that they suck.

**Take Your Child to the Library Day:** First Saturday in February 6, you can do this any Saturday during the month of February

Special Story Time

Collaborating with local businesses - trying to show that library is open on Saturdays! (see Chelmsford) Raising a Reader MA

Science Saturday

Drop-in, passive, crafts

**Conversation turned to security cameras... and then to teen spaces.**

Who can see it? What's the point? Staff trying to police patrons (ahem, teens). Finding the right balance for patrons and older staff. Advocating for our teens. Reassuring staff. "Love them, and very kindly kick them out if need be." Tell them to come back tomorrow! Friction between what was and what is going to be. Protecting teen space. Using furniture and shelves to allow for their space, but still keep it functional.

**Question: about getting a Simmons intern**

To develop Teen stuff - start a TAB, etc. How would you capitalize on having a 4-hour teen intern? Find one thing to have them bond about - weekly thing that they do. Whatever they love, parlay that! Geek Club - whatever they want to talk about - have the gamut. Go on whatever rants they want to. Let them drive the whole thing. Here's some food. Here's something to do. Conversation doesn't have to be all about one thing. Doesn't have to be narrow. Everybody has a "whatever they like." Social media! Teen librarians always stuck with social media. Explore tumblr or pinterest. Farm those off.

Is Pinterest still a thing? For teen girls, etc. "New beauty magazine..."

Teens say tumblr is for girls.

Facebook is good for parents.

No emails. Use Remind for texting. They have to sign up for it.

**Library extension for Chrome:**

<https://chrome.google.com/webstore/detail/library-extension/chkgcmmjoejpekoegkedcpifgfhpmec?hl=en>

**Libraries and ADA Compliant Signage:**

Libraries and Autism - have a font!

**LittleBits Notes:**

Dump out all of the kits, (TAKE OUT THE BUZZER), make stuff!

Close the doors and use the synth kit.

Get the synth kit, gizmos and gadgets kits. You need one battery for every kid.

Motors popular, wires.

Challenge cards off the website.

Find LEGO wheels and put them on the motors.

**Next meeting: March 12-13, Retreat at Camp Winadu in Pittsfield**