

**LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
May 12, 2006  
10:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, May 12, 2006, at the Library of Michigan, by Elaine Logan, Chair.

**Attendance**

Members Present: Barbara Bonge (alternate for Chief Justice Clifford Taylor), Linda Farynk, Cliff Haka, Elaine Logan, Fran Pletz, Nancy Robertson, Nancy Skowronski, Francis "Bus" Spaniola, Representative Aldo Vagnozzi

Members Absent: Representative Fran Amos, William Anderson, B. Denise Bartlett, Senator Irma Clark-Coleman, Senator Tom George

Staff Present: Susanna Davidsen, Elaine Harrison, Sheryl Mase, Judith Moore, Jennifer Sipe (recording secretary), Lance Werner

Visitors: Roger Ashley, Jill Costello, Randy Dykhuis, Roger Mendel, Jim Seidl

**Agenda**

Today's agenda was modified to accommodate Lance Werner's USA Patriot Act presentation.

BUS SPANIOLA MOVED APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA CHANGE. CLIFF HAKA SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Minutes of  
March 24, 2006  
Meeting**

NANCY SKOWRONSKI MOVED APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 24, 2006, BOARD MINUTES. FRAN PLETZ SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Board Reports  
Board Chair's  
Reports**

Elaine Logan and Nancy Robertson met recently in Ann Arbor. For September, they will look into the role Boards of Trustees play in other state libraries; i.e. resolving issues; championing; and being more active and focused.

Elaine and Nancy participated in an Arts Advocacy meeting, sponsored by Bill Anderson. Participants included all HAL boards and consulting groups, and discussions included the plight of fundraising; creating awareness; and speaking with a single voice. Libraries don't currently see themselves in the cultural mission of HAL, Elaine stated, urging future Board discussion of this issue.

**Board Members’  
Reports**

Fran Pletz noted that the replacement for her Board seat has not yet been appointed by the Governor. Fran again urged that the appointment be a person from Northern Michigan. She further noted that in Petoskey, arts and library people are working closely together. This week the local newspaper had an insert focusing on arts and library activities in the Petoskey area. Fran said it is difficult to understand why libraries feel they’re on the edge of the arts; the Library of Michigan is the largest unit under the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. Libraries are part of their communities’ culture, Fran stated, adding that we should ‘toot our own horns.’

Bus Spaniola attended two meetings in this building yesterday. He had conversations about working together with the Library of Michigan Foundation and the Board, noting that a message should be carried to the Capitol showing unity. HAL is working together to better things for Michigan’s citizens, and if libraries don’t speak authoritatively, with one voice, they will be pushed aside. Bus stressed the importance of strong political activity.

**Legislator  
Reports**

Aldo Vagnozzi indicated the legislators are awaiting next week’s budget review; rumors are indicating a small budget increase. Representative Vagnozzi agreed that libraries need to do more to promote themselves.

Jill Costello reported back to the Board that legislators’ newsletters will be including information on MeL. The newsletter coordinator was very enthusiastic about sharing information on this service; her daughter had utilized MeL when she was attending school in California. MeL information will also be shared in the education newsletter.

**State Librarian’s  
Report**

Nancy agreed that libraries need to ‘toot their own horns,’ adding that Gretchen Couraud of MLA is also aware of this need. Libraries are currently doing things that fit into arts and culture; however, additional activities are occurring that go beyond that realm as well.

The Library of Michigan has hired Susanna Davidsen as its new MeL coordinator; she is a welcome addition to the LM staff. The State Data coordinator position will be posted soon, and details are being worked out regarding the PAC/HUG coordinator position.

The move of the Law Library is proceeding. Capital Consultants has been hired as the architect for the project. It is hoped that the Law Library move into the Michigan Library and Historical Center will be completed by February 2007.

The Library of Michigan hosted a Learning More At the Library genealogy session on March 25th. 200 people signed up to attend; the event was a huge success.

In July, the Abrams Foundation will sponsor a 2-day genealogy workshop at the Library of Michigan. Curt Witcher, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, will be the keynote speaker.

Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, was the Night for Notables. Judith Moore will be reporting on that later in the meeting. Author tours are now underway.

Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, was Michigan Library Association's Legislative Day. MLA's Legislative Day was an opportunity for Michigan librarians to talk to their legislators. That same day, Nancy Robertson and Board member Nancy Skowronski, director of the Detroit Public Library, testified before a Senate Subcommittee budget hearing.

Nancy participated in National Library Legislative Day, in Washington, DC, on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. 500 people from 47 states participated; Michigan's delegation was 15 people. This was a first for Nancy and she found it quite an interesting experience.

University of Detroit Mercy will be meeting soon regarding the revival of a theatre production of the Sweet Trials, the subject of Kevin Boyle's book *Arc of Justice*. This production will become a mini-play and will hopefully travel around to Michigan libraries and schools. Reviving this play is a good opportunity for libraries to be venues for discussion of the Sweet Trials. Nancy will keep the Board updated on progress.

The Library of Michigan is working with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). MDOT is engaging a survey of Michigan citizens and asked to work with Michigan libraries to get the word out. We hope to get the word out about MeL at the same time. In addition, the Secretary of State will be placing advertisements in their offices promoting MeL.

The Michigan Library Digitization Task Force (MLDTF) met again recently and came up with a couple of ideas that LM is pursuing. Libraries would contribute to get simple, targeted projects started; then in the future work together on bigger, more complex projects. Work is currently being conducted on an inventory of city and local histories. In the long term, MLDTF looked at building on the University of Michigan Dearborn's project about Michigan's auto industry. Currently, materials relating to the auto industry are located throughout the state. Hopefully sponsorships and funding will become available to finance this project. Nothing is finalized, but it is being looked into.

Nancy has been traveling extensively. Last evening she attended the Mideastern Michigan Library Cooperative Board meeting. During that same day, she toured Mideastern libraries with cooperative director Roger Mendel, visiting Corunna, Owosso, Flint, UofM Flint, Lapeer and the Johnson Branch of the Genesee District Library.

The end of April, Nancy visited libraries with Jim Seidl, director of the Woodlands Library Cooperative. That evening, Nancy attended the Woodlands Library Cooperative Board meeting.

Nancy has also attended a number of additional meetings recently, including MALC, MeL Users and the State Bar Committee on Research and Libraries.

### **LM Foundation Report**

The Notables event on May 6th, sponsored by the Library of Michigan Foundation, was a success, Judith reported. 13 of the 20 Notables authors were in attendance, and the keynote speaker was Kevin Boyle, a former Notables author of the book *Arc of Justice*. This year's Notables author tours have begun statewide; 51 libraries will host the authors in May and June. As recommended at the last Board meeting, LMF contribution cards were distributed to libraries hosting author visits. The Notables sponsors are pleased about the success of this year's program.

Judith welcomed Elaine Logan to the LMF Board of Directors. Her participation is welcome.

The annual fund campaign is wrapping up. LMF Board members are personally contacting former donors.

In addition, Judith, Sheryl Mase and Al Zehnder met with senior members of the Mott Foundation recently to discuss what the Library of Michigan could offer them. Mott indicated they would be interested in activities such as an on-line jobs fair for Michigan students. Sheryl added that this was an excellent meeting and she will be discussing a Library of Michigan proposal with Nancy Robertson. There are many rural Michigan children that have no idea what they will do once they graduate. Many partner organizations can be brought together in pursuit of this project. A grant from Mott could pay for coordination of this venture.

Judith noted she would be meeting with executives from Daimler-Chrysler on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, details for a meeting with Rick Cole of the Detroit Medical Center are being worked out. These meetings will help strengthen the LMF Board, and perhaps assist in finding new funding.

**MeL Demo**

Sheryl Mase introduced Susanna Davidsen, who presented a MeL demonstration to Board members. Following the demo, Board members asked about use statistics. Sue indicated that LM is currently working on a MeL Usability Study, which will hopefully show use statistics as well as MeL positives and negatives. The Board asked for a review of just how to use the MeL Web site, which Sue provided. Board input is welcome.

**USA Patriot Act**

Lance Werner joined the meeting and gave a presentation on the newly reauthorized USA Patriot Act. The presentation was intended to provide the Board with a better understanding of the Act and its requirements. The new Act contains the same policies that require the same steps as last year's, and will be in effect until 2009.

**Partnership Reports**  
**Cooperatives**

Roger Mendel reported that Dan Siebersma, director of the Lakeland Library Cooperative has resigned; Martha McKee will serve as interim director. The coop directors are committed to assisting in the successful completion of the PAC HUG grant program. Nearly 900 tickets were sold for this year's "Ernie and Tram Go To Bat for Michigan Public Libraries" program. The Tigers game will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Thomson Gale is providing bus service between the Detroit Public Library and Comerica Park. Cooperative Directors and MLA have been working together to provide librarians to testify at various legislative committee meetings. Over 30 librarians and trustees attended the House Subcommittee on the budget; 45 attended the Senate Subcommittee. Libraries provide valuable services to their communities; it is important that the legislators be made aware of these services. A committee of cooperative directors has begun work with Bob Parsons of the Michigan Department of Transportation, on a survey of transportation needs in Michigan, as mentioned earlier. The survey will be rolled out in June at selected Michigan libraries. This is an exciting project and demonstrates the kind of collaboration between agencies that can occur. Three cooperative directors participated this year in ALA Legislative Day, in Washington, D.C. Legislative Day was an opportunity to share what LSTA grant funds and e-rate discounts do for our state. The next cooperative directors meeting will be held in June, in Alpena. Digitization projects, funded by LM, and a tour of the Thunder Bay Underwater Sanctuary are part of the agenda.

**MLA**

Linda Farynk reported on behalf of Gretchen Couraud, director of MLA. A new Board and President will be elected this month, bringing many changes to MLA. MLA's legislative day was held in May, with over 80 attendees; the event was a success. During an interactive briefing, attendees received a legislative toolkit, including key messages and briefing papers on the value of libraries to our communities and

constituents. MLA will be filing a brief in support of the Bloomfield Township Library in the event of a Supreme Court appeal. This issue could have a devastating impact on library funding. It is an issue of people and communities paying their fair share to support quality library services. MLA also was a participant at this year's ALA Legislative Day in Washington, DC.

**MLC**

Randy Dykhuis noted there are now 104 MeLCat libraries (half of those from Northern Michigan); another round will be worked on in the near future. MLC trains all new MeLCat participants.

**MAME**

MAME's spring conference in Grand Rapids was a success; 50 available spots were all sold out. The summer conference will be held at the Ingham ISD on July 11<sup>th</sup>, with David Loertscher as keynote speaker. MAME was also a participant in MLA's Legislative Day, as well as the 2006 ALA Legislative Day in Washington, DC. MAME's annual conference this year will be held October 25-27, 2006, in Grand Rapids. MAME and MLC are partnering in a grant to provide information for the Department of Education. In addition, MAME is participating in the School Library Committee. There are 147 new members to the MAME organization, mostly from charter schools. The Michigan Reading Association has nominated a MAME member for a leadership role in their organization. It is hoped these two organizations will work together on a number of collaborative ventures.

**Digitization Project Update**

Sandy Draheim, of the Loutit Library in Grand Haven, made a presentation to Board members on Loutit's digitization project. With Grand Haven historians aging, the loss of historical information was feared. Historians were interviewed and their conversations were recorded and the 111 tapes were reviewed by staff. 73 of those original tapes have been digitized, with 40 remaining. The original goal was to digitize 50 tapes. Transcription services were provided by Michigan State University. Grand Haven's museum also participated in this project. Ms. Draheim shared a portion of the library's Web site, and an audio portion of the project with Board members. Sheryl noted that digitization projects would be made accessible via MeL in the future.

**Old Business**  
**Board Advocacy Guidelines**

Draft Board Advocacy Guidelines were again presented to the Board for action. No suggestions and/or changes were made to the document.

BUS SPANIOLA MOVED THE PASSAGE OF THE BOARD ADVOCACY GUIDELINES. FRAN PLETZ SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**New Business**

No new business was presented to the Board.

**Public  
Participation**

Visitors introduced themselves.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board is Friday, September 22, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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Elaine Logan, Chair

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Nancy R. Robertson, State Librarian