

MLA Legislative Forum

2015 Legislative Issues Recommendations

July 8, 2014

The Minnesota Library Association hosted its annual legislative forum on Tuesday, July 8, 2014 at the Great River Regional Library's St. Cloud Public Library. Approximately 45 people attended and heard presentations about legislative issues from Capitol Hill Associates—Elaine Keefe and Sam Walseth-- as well as from representatives of the State Library Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Education—Kevin McHenry, Assistant Commissioner, and Jennifer R. Nelson, Director, State Library Services Division.

The consensus of the attendees was that the following issues should be recommended for consideration by the MLA Board of Directors, the MLA Legislative Committee and the MLA membership:

- The Minnesota Library Association supports state funding for the following library programs:
 - Regional Library Basic System Support at a level to be recommended by the Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators
 - \$2 million annually for Multi-county, Multi-type Operating Aid for the Multitype systems
 - \$3.3 million annually for Regional Library Telecommunications Aid
 - \$9.75 million annually for Telecommunications Equity Aid
- Minnesota Library Association supports funding for ELM, Minitex, Minnesota Digital Library and MnLINK
- Minnesota Library Association supports the recognition of the critical role of libraries and librarians in legislation and initiatives focusing on early literacy.
- Minnesota Library Association supports the recognition of the increasing demand for libraries to provide users with digital library materials including ebooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and electronic databases. *[Conversations during the Forum included the possibility of new resources, including an initiative related to medical and health information, "MyHealth"]*
- Minnesota Library Association supports the inclusion of the important roles of libraries and librarians in initiatives fostering electronic access to governmental services, at all levels, as well as the importance of providing access to such services. *[Subsequent to the Forum, one idea being discussed would be possibly advocating for a librarian to be appointed to the Minnesota E-Government Advisory Council]*
- Minnesota Library Association supports the Minnesota Data Practices Act and changes that foster greater security for private data held by libraries and other institutions.

In addition, the Legislative Forum recommends that the Association monitor the MDE Task Force on Library Services and Governance and that the Association recommend to the Task Force issues to be considered including revision of M.S. 134 relating to library services in Minnesota.