

MLA Legislative Committee Handbook Changes September 1, 2009

3.9 Legislative Committee

Purpose: The Legislative Committee (LC) exists to promote MLA's Legislative Agenda and other legal issues of importance to libraries that may exist from time to time.

3.9.1 Membership

1. The Legislative Committee shall be composed of at least ten members but not more than fifteen, with representation from all types of libraries (i.e., college/research, public, school, special) and the Trustees and Friends Division, [with the preponderance of members representing public libraries.](#)
2. Members shall be appointed by the President for three-year staggered terms. [Special consideration shall be given to library type, geography and appropriate skill set and how it impacts the Legislative Committee of MLA.](#)
3. The chair shall be appointed by the President from members who have served at least one year on the Committee. The chair shall serve for a two-year term. [The President shall seek input from the Legislative Committee in regards towards who will be appointed as chair](#)
4. One member of the Committee shall be designated as the Federal Legislation Coordinator (FLC) to monitor library legislation at the federal level. FLC duties are described below. (Section 3.9.2 Item 8.)
5. The Legislative Advocate shall serve as an ex-officio member.
6. The current chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee shall be a member of the Legislative Committee, changing on an annual basis.
7. The State Librarian, or designated representative of the State Library, shall be invited to attend meetings of the Legislative Committee.
8. [Liaisons from stakeholder groups such as: the Directors of Large Libraries \(DOLL\), the Missouri Association of School Librarians \(MASL\) and Missouri Public Library Directors \(MPLD\) will be invited to attend and participate in Legislative Committee meetings and agenda development.](#)

3.9.2 Duties

1. The Legislative Committee has primary responsibility for the creation of MLA's legislative agenda, which is approved by the Executive Board and by the membership at the annual meeting.
2. Communications [amongst committee members are maintained](#) via the use of the listserv, MLA-Legislate (a closed listserv). The committee reports its activities to the Board at scheduled meetings and to the membership via *MO INFO* articles and other venues.
3. The Legislative Committee conducts an open committee meeting at the annual conference where MLA members can discuss recent and future activities and issues.
4. The Legislative Committee maintains a network of librarians and citizens throughout the state to serve as contacts, to gather support for MLA's legislative efforts, and to aid in disseminating information about current legislation.
5. Over the course of the legislative session, this committee develops legislative position statements for MLA on issues of concern to Missouri libraries, in accordance with changes in proposed legislation. [The position statement will be shared amongst MLA communication tools, including MO INFO, the MLA-L listserv and any other forms of communication in use to the membership.](#)
6. Annually this committee considers a Missouri legislator(s) for the "Francis (Bud) Barnes Outstanding Legislator Award." If a candidate(s) is selected, the committee submits the name(s) to the MLA Executive Board for approval. The committee arranges for the presentation of the award at the annual MLA Conference and assists the MLA Executive Director in preparing press releases. [Expenses \(two banquet tickets and one hotel room\) for each recipient and a guest shall be covered by MLA.](#)
7. The Legislative Committee coordinates an annual Missouri Library [Legislative Day](#), a statewide lobbying day, conducted while the legislature is in session, at a date decided on in consultation with the Legislative Advocate and the State [Library](#).
 - (1) The Legislative Committee develops a schedule of events [and talking points](#) which informs participants about legislative issues, fosters advocacy in the MLA membership, and increases awareness of library issues in the legislature.
 - (2) The Executive Director manages reservations, registration, contractual arrangements and other support services, as directed by the committee.
 - (3) The Legislative Committee prepares the [Library Legislative Day](#) budget in accordance with budget and finance practices detailed in Handbook Section 6.10 Continuing Education Workshops.
 - (4) [The Legislative Committee publicizes the MLLD event via the MO INFO newsletter, the MLA and Legislative Committee web pages, MLA listservs and any other appropriate communication means.](#)

8. The Federal Legislation Coordinator (FLC) informs the committee about national legislative efforts and ALA alerts, as appropriate. The FLC leads MLA's participation in ALA's annual National Library Legislative Day in the spring. The FLC recruits participants, leads the delegation through the events, including congressional visits, and acquires and distributes ALA packets for distribution to elected representatives. The FLC reports back to the Legislative Committee, as appropriate. [MLA may provide a stipend for the FLC to attend the National Library Legislative Day annually. The Missouri State Librarian may co-coordinate the Missouri delegation's NLLD congressional visits. He or she may also provide visit scheduling services through the assistance of administrative support staff.](#)

3.9.3 See Section 6.2 for Policies on Legislative Matters.

6.2 Policies on Legislative Matters

6.2.1 Guidelines on the hiring and retention of a Legislative Advocate

1. The term of the contract of a Legislative Advocate shall generally be for 12 months.
2. The performance of the Legislative Advocate shall be reviewed by the [Executive Committee](#) after [the conclusion of each legislative session](#) to determine his/her retention. [Legislative Committee input shall be solicited for Executive Committee consideration.](#)
3. A contract shall be entered into by MLA and the Legislative Advocate, the terms of which shall be approved by the Executive Board.
4. Any contract shall include specific terms for the dissolution of said contract.
5. The amount of remuneration to the Legislative Advocate shall be approved by the Executive Board of MLA.
6. The Legislative Advocate will be required to deliver a report to the membership at the Annual Conference.

6.2.2 Other Policies

1. MLA should support [National Library Legislative Day](#) in an amount to be determined by the Board each year at budget time. (Executive Board, February 27, 1980).
2. A separate line item should be included in the MLA budget to reflect monies spent on legislative activities and events. The budget shall include any special funds collected to be used for the Legislative Advocate and his or her related expenses as outlined in accordance with his or her contract. Special funds specifically raised for legislative activities are to be used only to support the Legislative Advocate.

(Executive Board, November 19, 1982).