NOBLE Executive Board Meeting
March 7, 2012
@NOBLE

In Attendance: Pat Cirone, Patricia Rogers, Carol Gray, Linda Hummel-Shea, Brian Courtemanche, Karen Pangallo, Nancy Ryan, Alan Thibeault, Linda Shea, Martha Holden and NOBLE Exec. Director Ron Gagnon

Call to Order: NOBLE President Pat Cirone called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting were not available, but will be voted upon at next Executive Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Karen Pangallo distributed the Treasurer's Report. No concerns were noted. Carol Gray forwarded a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Nancy Ryan seconded the Motion that was unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report: Ron Gagnon reported the following

- ❖ NOBLE provided Innovative with required 90-day notice of non-renewal of service contract.
- ❖ Ron submitted required annual statistical report to MBLC on behalf of NOBLE.
- ❖ OCLN recently issued RFP for new ILS. MBLC has little available funding for such at this time. MassLNC will review RFP, but not officially respond. We will however offer general advice to the best of our ability, based on MassLNC experience to date. This may be an opportunity for MassLNC in the future, as a new governing board will be instituted in July and will likely establish guidelines and procedures for potential new members.
- ❖ A new projection system will be installed by ADTECH in training room. Existing equipment is aging and starting to exhibit problems. There will be some, but not full, smart board functionality in the new equipment.
- ❖ Elizabeth Thomsen will travel abroad for two weeks at the end of March. She had planned the trip originally so that it would occur comfortably after Evergreen implementation. Delay of planned Evergreen implementation was not anticipated at the time.

Formula Review: Committee Chair Alan Thibeault led the discussion, as follows:

- ✓ Attempt to create new member assessment formula takes into account that we do not want to price out current members; we do not want to discourage new membership, and formula needs to be based on factors that make sense to 3rd parties (e.g. town officials).
- ✓ Committee has reviewed dozens of formulas and scenarios prepared patiently by Ron Gagnon. Other networks' formulas were reviewed for feasibility without success. Least erratic results are found with higher equal distribution.
- ✓ Most palatable solution appears to be latest proposed. This formula is based on 75% equal distribution, 12.5% active patron count (patrons who have used their cards in past year); 12.5% resident circulation. There is an extra $30,000 added to the 75% equal portion that serves as a rebate to libraries that would suffer more than a 5% increase.

✓ Executive Board discussed this option at length with the addition of a 2-year phase in, rebates discontinued at year 3 when all members would be at target level. Subsequent years assessments would be calculated on an annual basis to account for changes in patrons/circ. Also Executive Board could consider changes that will lower barriers for new members. These might include adjustments to new members fee ($10,000 Innovative initial fee for new members would no longer be factor.) and/or new levels of membership to reflect library collection size/ budget.

✓ Linda Shea forwarded a Motion to recommend to membership a formula of 75% equal distribution, 12.5% active patrons, 12.5% average 3 yr. circ; with rebate, as discussed. Motion was seconded by Brian Courtemanche and unanimously approved. Alan will prepare presentation for the general membership.

Resource Sharing: Ron brought up the topic of resource sharing at the request of a member who had questions regarding resource sharing under current NOBLE policy. Ron noted the following:

- NOBLE policy does not have a provision for "rental collections". Is concept of rental collection fair when residents of towns with these policies do not face restrictions when they borrow from other communities? On other hand, cash-strapped libraries depend on rental funds to support collection development.
- Age-hold protection practices present similar dilemma. Do libraries have right to deny holds because they want their own patrons to have first access? When their own patrons can go online and borrow from other libraries, thereby stressing others' collections, is this fair? Evergreen will allow holds to be picked up only at specified locations. Should age-hold protection be addressed in terms of fairness across the board? Libraries with small collections (e.g. college libraries' fiction collections) might never see most popular items on shelves for their own patrons.
- Pat Cirone stressed the need to codify rules for acceptable resource sharing considering the best interests of all members, yet taking into rationale for different types of rentals or non-fulfillment of holds. She suggested that after Evergreen implementation, Executive Board may want to initiate discussion in this area. Recommendations would be brought to membership for subsequent vote.
- Discussion ensued as to the wide scale clearing of overdue fines by libraries that do not charge fines. In Lynnfield, for example, Lynnfield patrons routinely return their materials to neighboring libraries that do not charge. Lynnfield items are then "clear charged", bypassing the Lynnfield policy and depriving the Lynnfield Library of a needed stream of revenue. After discussion, it was suggested that directors of libraries affected negatively by this practice speak directly with the libraries that waive non-local charges. If this is unsuccessful, NOBLE Executive Board will consider whether policy language revision is necessary, again, after Evergreen implementation.

Evergreen Update: Ron reported the following:

➢ In response to question from Carol Gray concerning plan for Acquisitions training sufficiently in advance of implementation, Ron reported that the next software Release Alpha 2, has better capacity for Acquisitions. NOBLE is reluctant to begin training until this version is released because it is expected to have significantly better Acquisitions functionality that current version. Carol also questioned whether ARIS statistics through the end of June will be provided for public libraries. Ron

explained Evergreen's counting function, and the difference between its intelligent count as opposed to the more mechanical count provided by Millennium. (Evergreen's query vs. Millenniums "ticking off" counts). Evergreen will transform Millennium's counts to its own format and FY12 statistics should be accurate even after implementation.

➢ NOBLE has been waiting for Equinox to respond regarding hardware review and set up assistance for Evergreen. The Evergreen hardware configuration as recommended by Equinox includes 18 separate servers, each controlling a distinct function, and reporting to a "load balancer". This is a level of complexity not familiar to NOBLE as Millennium required a single multi-tasking server. If Equinox does not respond adequately, NOBLE may rely on Bibliomation personnel for support. MVLC personnel also have some knowledge of setting up this type of configuration, although they opted for a single-server configuration.

➢ Tom Berezansky of MVLC, and an Evergreen committer, is reviewing holds functionality for MVLC. His work should improve the "holds" functionality for NOBLE as well.

➢ NOBLE continues to communicate regularly with MassLNC Coordinator Kathy Lussier to verify that we stay on course for migration.

➢ NOBLE is anticipating Release 2.2 Alpha 2 very soon. Martha Driscoll will upload the production system and test load patron and item records, holds and transactions. The beta release, that will include software fixes but no functionality upgrades, will be released shortly thereafter.

➢ Ron suggested that we may want to use expiration dates in Evergreen, not for restricting circulation, but for re-verification of personal information, e-mail address updates, etc. This may cut down on returned bills and avoid problems with communicating with patrons whose personal information may have expired or changed. Evergreen can calculate expiration dates automatically. Ron recommends a three-year expiration – issue date plus 3 years for staggered verification to ease load on circ staff.

➢ Ron also recommended consideration of age-hold protection on new items. MVLC has set a two-week protection. We will have to consider legitimate reasons for age-hold protection for NOBLE libraries, including college, small public and public branch libraries, and agree on a time limit. Members present expressed legitimate reasons for age-hold protection. This issue can be addressed by Executive Board, and a recommendation made to Members, at a later date.

As there was no additional business, Karen Pangallo forwarded a Motion to adjourn at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Holden
Acting Recording Secretary