

## MTA – Are You Involved?

By Patsy Diver



When I first became involved about 12 years ago with MSLA, it was the first professional organization I'd ever joined. Well, I guess you might include 4H, but that was a really, really long time ago! Our organization, Massachusetts School Library Association, provided me with a

network of people who shared my interests, inspired my ambitions, and helped me become a better school librarian.

Then, as my involvement grew, I heard about ALA, AASL, MLA, MRA, NELA, NESLA, and MTA. Then it was Nobscot Reading Council, Foundation for Children's Books, Children's Book Council and Norfolk County Teacher's Association.

If you haven't joined or connected with the Massachusetts Teachers Association, perhaps you might want to consider it. And if you ARE a member of MTA and haven't been to a conference yet... well, maybe you should consider that, too.

Why? I can only offer you two reasons: the two conferences I attended, last year and this year, both had issues that concerned school libraries. As teachers, our voices need to be heard by others. MTA's statewide conference, like the MSLA, provides an empowered forum for input, discussion and impact. Last year, a group of school librarians led the way to have a resolution approved for MTA to support certified school librarians. This year, in discussing how to best prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning, I stood up and suggested schools keep their school libraries, and their school librarians. Is this going to make a difference? We won't know until we try. **So try it this year: get involved with your MTA chapter.** Be a leader as a teacher as well as a school librarian. We are both.

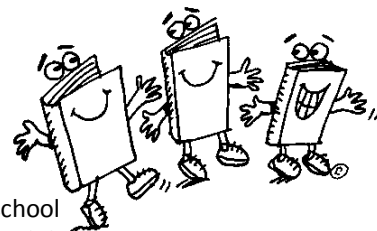
## Introducing the new Author Database

<http://maauthors-msla.wikispaces.com/>

A group of MSLA members are working to create the new MSLA database to connect authors and schools. This resource will include local authors and illustrators from the greater New England area and are known to do school visits.

Information available includes:

- Author/illustrator name
- Published work
- Contact information of author/illustrator
- Contact information of school librarians who have hosted them.



This database it is in the early stages of development. With contributions from our members, this promises to be a valuable source of information for us all.

Future plans include:

- Continual adding of author/illustrator information
- Tips for how to do author visits, and programs
- Ideas for creative funding

Got a suggestion? To add information, please visit the site and fill out the "Add an Author" form. With everyone's help, this will soon become a valuable resource.

If you are interested in being an active participant in this project, please contact Chris Steinhauser [chrissteinhauser@yahoo.com](mailto:chrissteinhauser@yahoo.com)

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### 2010 MSLA Conference: "Working Smarter"

# TRADING POST

*formerly the Exploratorium*

**Share ideas that have been successful in your school.... We want to hear about it!**

★ Collaboration   ★ Resource sharing   ★ Program ideas   ★ Money saving tips   ★ You name it!

**What should your application include?**

A. Title   B. 1-2 Paragraph description   C. Your name, school & your email.

**How can you submit it?** Send it to Leslie Schoenherr ([leslieschoenherr@gmail.com](mailto:leslieschoenherr@gmail.com)) by **9/24/2010**.

**Those submitted by 9/24/2010 will be "posted" on the Trading Post in the lobby** at the conference. For the procrastinators, write up your idea at the conference and submit it at the registration desk. All "posts" will be placed in the lobby for viewing during the conference & posted on the MSLA website for future reference.