Message from the President

July is a time to celebrate Independence Day. Your Montana Library Association leaders met in mid-June for their annual leadership retreat and we think our meeting will help members achieve even greater independence.

The Cates Scholarship committee has agreed to expand their offerings. Any member interested in pursuing an endorsement for Library Media specialist can now apply for funding from Cates to support it. This will expand the number of trained, qualified school librarians in Montana, always a good thing.

Are you hoping to create a program for your peers at the ASLD/PLD retreat in October? Program proposals are online and newbies are encouraged to try their hand at presenting. You will be among friends. Our volunteer presenters grow the organization as they teach subjects about which they are passionate.

The Board unanimously agreed to record in-kind donations that members make to MLA, including Sheila Cates baskets, travel costs, meals, materials and any other expenses members bear on their own. Recording and reporting in-kind donations will allow members to deduct their expenses on their tax returns.

We have agreed to expand our Executive Director’s duties for the coming fiscal year to include many aspects of conference planning, left vacant by the T & T events Company recent retirement. Debbi Kramer’s dedication to MLA is unparalleled and she volunteered to take on this task while a search is conducted for new conference planners. This will allow members to work with someone they all know for all things MLA Annual.

Finally, MLA Executive Board has ‘closed the books’ (such a good library expression) on the fiscal year ending June 2013. Profits were made, and solvency achieved. We have a new budgeting system thanks to Past President Anne Kish’s advocacy and training. All this will allow MLA to thrive for its independent members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

Beth Boyson, President
Time to Renew Your MLA Membership
By Debbi Kramer, Executive Director

Didn’t I just pay my dues? I’m sure that is the first thought that comes to mind when you read this message. Well, the Montana Library Association’s membership year runs from July 1 to June 30 each year and now is the time to join or renew your membership to take full advantage of all MLA has to offer librarians, trustees, friends, students and all others interested in strengthening the Montana library community. But what does MLA do for me? Glad you asked!!

MLA offers its members many, many wonderful benefits for their membership.
• Membership discounts for all MLA retreats and conferences.
• Travel grants to help members attend conferences.
• Professional Development Grants to provide members with the opportunity to further their education.
• Membership costs for the Collaborative Summer Library Program in conjunction with the Montana State Library.
• Various Continuing Educational opportunities throughout the year.
• Pay extensive lobbying costs to promote and secure funding for the Montana State Library.
• Sponsor representatives to regional and national library associations.
• Membership in MLA links members to discounts at Joann’s Fabric Stores and other retail stores.
• Leadership training by serving as Division Officers, Interest Group Chairs and members, or Committees chairs and members.
• New MLA members receive a complimentary breakfast at the annual conference.
• Great networking opportunities for library staff, trustees, and friends at annual conference.

Need I say more? Joining and renewing is quick and easy. Go to the MLA website and click on the “JOIN” link and either pay your dues with a credit card or scroll to the bottom of the webpage and download a membership form and send in with a check or PO. It’s just that easy. Your 2013-14 membership card will be emailed to you as evidence of your paid dues. While this message is fresh in your mind, get this task completed for the year. Don’t put it off for later! Together we can all make the Montana Library Association a strong, robust organization to further Montana librarianship. Thank you.

Rosebud County Library Kids Dig Dinosaurs
By Cheryl Heser
Rosebud County Library

Kids from northern Rosebud County and Treasure County in grades 1-7 this fall got excited about dinosaur digs when they got to see the Museum of the Rockies traveling trunk items as well as working away on their own “field jacket” items provided by the museum and put into plaster casts by our staff and volunteers. When we followed up with a great session by local rock and fossil collector Melanie Martens, we also got the kids involved in creating stepping stones for out front of the library using agates to spell out R-O-S-E-B-U-D and create other unique designs. At that point, we knew we needed a really great “finale” to the program, rewarding the kids who had made an effort to attend and to engage in our reading contest.

The result was a field trip to Makoshika Park, with a geology hike and dinosaur dig session led by Frankie Jackson, paleontologist at MSU who has worked all over the world, whose work can be viewed at the Museum of the Rockies, and her husband Bob. It helped that Bob and Frankie are cousins to our Director! The kids also got great tours and movies at the outstanding Dinosaur and Fossil Museum in Glendive. It was a great day, and its success is obvious when we have kids still talking about their adventure and checking out dinosaur and fossil books in addition to the ones they won through our reading contest awards.
Book Nooks Come to Polson
By Mary O’Brien, Administrative Assistant
Photo by Jery Walker, Public Services Librarian
North Lake County Public Library

North Lake County Public Library announces the placement of four “Book Nooks” throughout the Polson community. Each consists of a comfortable hardwood rocking chair and an eye-catching bookshelf filled with lightly used books for all ages. The custom-designed chair cushions show the library’s logo along with a reading-related quote. Attached signs urge users to “Take Time to Read,” and explain that readers may enjoy the books for the moment – or take them home to keep.

Book Nooks are placed in locations where community members spend time waiting. So far, Polson’s units are located at the local hospital, the tribal health clinic, Beacon Tire Shop, and the Wash ‘n Go Laundromat.

Based on an award-winning “Take Time to Read” initiative by King County Libraries in Seattle, Book Nooks have already proven very popular in Polson. Users can’t believe that they are allowed to take the books home. (“Can we really keep them if we want?” one incredulous community member asked.) When the supply runs low, the shelving units are restocked with donated books by library staff member Jery Walker. During May, June, and early July alone, 709 of them flew off the shelves!

Library Director Marilyn Trosper learned of King County Libraries’ Book Nooks at the Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia in 2012. She knew immediately that she wanted to implement the idea in Polson. With an enthusiastic go-ahead from King County, she started the wheels turning. One year later, the Book Nooks were in place.

The project was made possible by a grant from the Greater Polson Community Foundation and library monies. It has provided North Lake County Public Library with exceptional outreach opportunities. The Book Nooks not only spread literacy, but also attract library non-users, encourage families to read together, provide public awareness about the benefit of libraries, and offer a great use for the many used books that come in the library doors.

Best of all, it’s good advice for us all: Take time to read!

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2013 MPLA/SDL A/NDLA Tri-Conference
September 25-27; Sioux Falls, South Dakota
The theme for this year’s conference is The Library: All Travelers Welcome. For someone who likes to travel and see new places, attend this conference and gain some professional development credits along the way! Visit the conference website to view the conference program, to register and for more information.

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MPLA 2014 Leadership Institute
May 4-9, 2014; Estes Park, Colorado
Apply now!
Grants available from Montana Library Association to help defray the cost of the Institute
For more information and application material, click here
DEADLINE: Friday, November 1, 2013
MontanaLibrary2Go Annual Meeting 2014
By Susie McIntyre, Chair
MontanaLibrary2Go Executive Committee

SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, April 8, 2014 will be an important meeting for Montana Library2Go. Our licensing agreement with Overdrive will need to be renewed next year. Please plan on participating.

At the MontanaLibrary2Go annual membership meeting in May, some libraries expressed the desire to have the membership meeting earlier in the year so that they can better plan for their annual budgets.

Last month, MontanaLibrary2Go members participated in a survey

1) 100% of the participating libraries operate on a July 1st to June 30th fiscal year.
2) Over 95% of the participating libraries begin work on their budget 3 to 6 months before the next fiscal year.
3) 100% of the participating libraries finalize their budgets and present them to their governing authority at least 3 months in advance of the fiscal year.
4) 87% of the participating libraries feel that receiving an estimated/proposed cost share formula in March is sufficient for them to plan for their budget.
5) 67% of the participating libraries state a preference for having the annual MontanaLibrary2Go meeting at the April Montana Library Association Conference.

The executive committee used the survey results to develop a meeting schedule for the upcoming year.

Selection Committee Meeting: February 6th, 2014 10:00 am to Noon
Executive Committee Meeting: February 6th, 2014 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Full Membership Meeting: April 8th (Wednesday before Montana Library Association Conference)

Billings Public Library Holds First Event for “Out of the Box” Pilot Program
By Barb Riebe
Billings Public Library

On Saturday, June 15th, the Billings Public Library joined with Redbox and OCLC to celebrate the beginning of Summer Reading with a Block Party. The library’s parking lot was transformed into an entertainment space where families could get balloon animals, have a flower or shark painted on their cheeks, have a massage, or enjoy gyros and snowcones. The new hybrid Bookmobile was open for tours and book checkouts. Also, throughout the party the nearly 200 attendees enjoyed music by Deryk Cunningham and Friends.

The event was made possible by a grant from Redbox, which has teamed with the OCLC and Project Public Spaces to create a pilot program with the goal of joining libraries and communities through entertainment. Five library systems were chosen for the beginning stages of the program, including Richland Library in Columbia, SC, the Chicago Public Library, the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries in Columbus, GA, and Cuyahoga County Public Library in Ohio. The Billings Public Library is both the smallest library to be chosen and the only one west of the Mississippi River. Each library hosted a public planning event in preparation for their community events.

The participating libraries have held outdoor concerts, movie nights and open houses in addition to Billings’ Block Party. Billings Public Library is planning an outdoor movie night as its second event with the Out of the Box program. This is scheduled for mid-September.
Beginning August 1, Dori Muehlhof will be executive director of the Flathead County Library Foundation. She will spearhead the foundation’s mission to enhance and support the programs, facilities and patron services of the Flathead County Library System.

Muehlhof brings experience with a variety of Flathead Valley organizations to her new position. She is leaving her position as Director of Member Services for the Whitefish Chamber of Commerce, held since 2010, and was previously Executive Director of the former Flathead Convention & Visitor Bureau from 2005 to 2010. Prior to that, she was Senior Sales Manager at Grouse Mountain Lodge. She is a graduate of Washington State University, Pullman, Wash., with a bachelor’s in communications/advertising, and currently resides in Kalispell with her husband, Wade, and two children.

The Flathead County Library Foundation raises and accepts funds for projects and services not covered by the county library system’s operating budget. In the past three years it has provided more than $150,000 in support for the main library in Kalispell and branches in Bigfork, Columbia Falls and Marion.

Support comes from events such as Loud at the Library, a March social event; special sponsors such as Park Side Federal Credit Union, which funds the Summer Experience program for children and teens; and an annual appeal to the community. The foundation also accepts bequests and memorial or tribute gifts.

Other projects funded by the foundation include a subscription to the Foundation Center database, a free resource for area nonprofits; remodeling of the main library’s children’s area; self-service checkout equipment and furniture; and additions to the electronic materials collections.

This year, an update to the library system’s 10-year-old space needs assessment is being funded by the foundation. The 2004 study confirmed that the main and branch libraries were seriously deficient in space. In particular, the Bigfork and Columbia Falls branches have outgrown their current facilities, limiting the ability to provide adequate materials, services and programming to the community. Due to increased library usage and growing populations, customers in these communities do not have the resources they need.

“Libraries are critical to thriving communities,” Library Director Kim Crowley said. “Libraries and librarians guide our citizens to discover and explore information and technology and provide a comfortable place to meet and scheme, start learning to read from birth, create a business, invent something and seek entertainment. We’re excited to welcome Dori, and we look forward to the energy she will bring to the Foundation.”

With Muehlhof’s leadership, the Flathead County Library Foundation will work to assist the Flathead County Library Board, library staff, Friends of the Library, Columbia Falls Library Association, other library support organizations and community leaders in improving library services throughout the county.
Updates from ALA Representative

By Suzanne Goodman
ALA Representative

ALA Works with Publishers on Ebook Lending

While at ALA 2013 Annual Conference in Chicago, representing your professional organization, I got to hear the most current report from the ALA Digital Content & Libraries Working Group. That report says that now (finally) all of the “Big Six” publishers are engaged in library ebook lending (hooray!). Although they do say that the publishers are participating in varying degrees and that four of the six have made forward steps on library ebook lending. At conference, this working group also launched its initiative to engage authors to stand with libraries on ebook lending. You can find more information about this initiative at this website. The website has toolkits and suggestions on how your library can engage your community in a conversation about ebooks. Ideas are also given for contacting the press in order to make your community aware of the problems libraries face in providing ebooks to patrons.

The report from the Digital Content & Libraries Working Group also states that it “will be increasing its focus on how libraries can (and should) serve as publishers in their own right.” This innovative new role for libraries is born out of a project undertaken by Douglas County Library System in Colorado under the directorship of Jamie L Rue. To find out more about libraries and the future of ebook lending, please see the e-content supplement to ALA’s American Libraries publication.

ALA 2013 Annual Council News

ALA Council actions help set the course for some ALA activities throughout the year. At this year’s ALA Annual Conference held June 28 – July 2, ALA Council passed several resolutions which may have some relevance to MLA and its members. Council Activity at ALA Annual Conference 2013 in Chicago is summarized below.

Declaration for the Right to Libraries Resolution passed easily and will serve as a kick-off to 2013-2014 ALA President Barbara Stripling’s initiative to bring libraries, especially school libraries to the forefront of the public’s attention. This resolution asks that “the American Library Association, on behalf of its members: endorse the Declaration for the Right to Libraries; and urges that the ALA work to support and engage libraries and communities across the country in signing the Declaration for the Right to Libraries.”

Defense of Videogames and other Non-print Media: Due to recent violent events in our country and to a Supreme Court Case qualifying videogames for First Amendment protection, a councilor presented a resolution ALA Council which easily passed entitled “A Resolution Commending Freedom to Read Foundation for Defending Videogames.”

Support of Whistleblowers: At the annual ALA membership meeting, members passed a resolution which “recognizes Edward Snowden as a whistleblower who, in releasing information that documents government attacks on privacy, free speech, and freedom of association, has performed a valuable service in launching a national dialogue about transparency, domestic surveillance, and over classification.” The resolution was then forwarded to ALA Council. In Council the Snowden resolution passed, but a similar resolution stating that “ALA opposes the prosecution of Bradley Manning” spawned lengthy discussion. In the end, Council voted to refer both the Edward Snowden and the Bradley Manning resolutions to the ALA Committee on Legislation and to the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee. Concern was expressed that these two committees may have some necessary insight on these actions.

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)
Both committees reported back to council before the end of Annual and presented a more general resolution which “supports a system of public accountability, government transparency and oversight that supports people’s right to know.” The resolution also urges Congress and the President to provide protections to support such a system and encourages the public to support bills that do the same. The full text of this resolution is attached (See section heading: The resolution is Council Document # 20.4 & 19.2). Council passed this resolution as a substitution for both the Snowden and the Bradley Resolutions. Watch for a developing campaign on the part of ALA to educate the public about the Patriot Act.

Preservation of Digital Government Documents: In another resolution presented by the Committee on Legislation, Council approved a resolution calling for Congressional action to enable the Government Printing Office to ensure archival files of GPO Digital documents.

Global warming issue: Many institutions around the US have begun a campaign to divest themselves of holdings in fossil fuel companies, especially those identified as the “Filthy Fifteen.” A resolution came before Council asking that the ALA endowment fund divest itself of these holdings. A close vote defeated this resolution, but discussion leads me to believe that this is an issue we will see again, if not in ALA, then in our own institutions.

Library Service During a Community Disaster: ALA passed a resolution to commend libraries and librarians to their governing institutions when libraries perform service during a community disaster. Libraries serving areas hit by hurricanes this spring opened their doors to offer warmth, shelter, power and information during a disaster. The actions of these libraries serve as an inspiration to all libraries to consider how the library and its staff is uniquely positioned to be of service to their community during times of disaster.

Libraries and the Affordable Healthcare Act

While at ALA, I also got to see/hear a special White House Videogram from President Obama calling for libraries to help citizens prepare for the Affordable Healthcare Act. I have read in the media about the Insurance Marketplace which should be available to Montanans in October and have also read in the media concerns that those who most need to know about the Insurance Marketplace may not have computers or internet access. Like me, I’m sure you have been thinking about how libraries can help fill the gap. At ALA I heard a report from the ALA Washington Office which advocated that libraries step up to the plate and help. The tact ALA took was to enlist the help of state libraries to get the information out to public libraries. IMLS and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have teamed up with ALA to create help screens and checklists in an effort to help libraries prepare. Watch the ALA website for new postings on how libraries can prepare themselves to help citizens prepare for this change.

For further information on these and any other issues discussed during ALA Council Meetings, please e-mail Suzanne Goodman.

MSU to Join Montana Courier Project
By Mary Guthmiller, RSDD/ILL Coordinator
Montana State University, Bozeman

Beginning August 5, 2013, the MSU Library will be partnering with Bozeman Public Library to send and receive items through Critelli Couriers. The routing slip to the MSU Library should be: BOZEMAN (MSU-Bozeman) The delivery schedule is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We look forward to serving many Montana libraries through this courier service.
Need for More Photos for Historical Montana Calendar
By Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Chair
Marketing and Public Relations Committee

So far, we have eight beautiful photos of historic Montana libraries for the planned 2014 Historic Montana Library calendar. We need MORE to make this a great calendar that folks will want to purchase—and perhaps keep forever because it will be so cool! If you have a calendar-worthy photo of your library, send it my way. This is free to you and is a great way to get some recognition for your fabulous Montana library! All photos submitted will be included in the calendar. And any money raised by this calendar spearheaded by the MLA PR & Marketing Committee will come back to financially support MLA. Please send your photos via e-mail [lisameckjack@gmail.com] to Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, PR & Marketing Committee Chair, by Aug. 20. A high quality photo of your library is needed along with any historical data possible. Bring some recognition to your fabulous space! And help MLA at the same time.

Food for Thought Hosted by Billings Public Library Foundation
By Dee Ann Redman, Assistant Director
Billings Public Library

“Food for Thought, An Evening of Great Conversation” was recently hosted by the Billings Public Library Foundation. This popular fundraiser continues to be enthusiastically received by our community and sells out quickly each year. The purpose of the evening is to offer a lively conversation, promote community dialogue and foster a spirit of life-long learning. In this process, the Foundation also wishes to raise community’s awareness of the Billings Public Library plus raise funds in its support.

Held in the Billings Public Library, the evening begins with a cocktail reception then moves up stairs for a sumptuous dinner, all catered by a local, popular caterer. During the meal, guests, seated at tables of eight, discuss a topic set in advance for their particular table. A conversation host facilitates discussion at each table and the guests are encouraged to “speak their mind” with a free flowing agenda of discourse and discussion.

Twenty table hosts lead a conversation throughout the evening on the chosen topic. Table topics have been selected from a wide variety of subjects, from arts and literature as well as food, public policy and popular aspects of the Montana scene.

We are looking forward to hosting our next annual Food for Thought event in the new Billings Public Library!

For more information, please contact Leslie Modrow, Development Director, Billings Public Library Foundation at leslie@billingslibraryfoundation.org.
Farewell Tea for Stillwater County Library Director
By Norma Glock
Stillwater County Library

The Friends of the Stillwater County Library held a farewell tea for Sarah Milligan, Library Director who is moving to Reed Point Public School Library. Della Haverland, a former Rosebud County Librarian, is the new Stillwater County Library Director.

The former director, Suzi Nathan was on hand to wish the new and outgoing people well. Pictured, at right, are Sarah Milligan, Della Haverland, and Suzi Nathan.

Did You Know Sheila Cates?
By Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Chair
Marketing and Public Relations Committee

If so, the Cates Committee wants to talk to you! We're putting together a video on Sheila Cates and the legacy she left behind for Montana librarians who came after her. We'd love to include interviews from librarians in the state who knew, and were touched in some way, by the work of Sheila. If you are interested in participating in this video interview project, please contact MLA Cates Committee Chair, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson at lisameckjack@gmail.com. We know Sheila was a very influential force in the Montana library world and we hope to hear from many of you who can share with the rest of us your “Sheila experiences.” Thanks so much!