Message from the President

It is time for the annual conference of the Montana Library Association, and I hope to see you there. The Conference and the Association’s success depend entirely upon the members. As you register for the conference, give some thought to the Montana librarians who first met in Missoula on May 17, 1906. They wanted to improve library service. What would they think of our conference and Association in 2014?

The twentieth annual meeting of the Montana Library Association was held at the Parmly Billings Memorial Library on October 21 and 22, 1930. Yes, that Parmly Billings Memorial Library. Now in 2014, a new Billings Public Library will be the star of the conference. Wednesday evening, April 2 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. I hope you will join fellow librarians at the beautiful new Billings Public Library for a reception and tour. And if you do, think back for a few minutes on how we got to where we are today.

Our members help us thrive. If you are a presenter or donated a Cates basket, attend every year or serve on a committee, come for one day or stay home so others can attend—you are contributing to improved library service across the state. Those contributions are what bring us together in the Montana Library Association, and I thank you for them.

This year is my twentieth MLA conference and a return to Billings for me. In 1995, when the late Sue Nissen served as President, she hosted a party at her Billings home for members. It. Was. Wonderful. I knew then, I had been welcomed into a quality, caring organization and that remains true to this day.

I hope to celebrate with you in Billings.

Beth Boyson,
MLA President
The PNLA Board met at the Dumas Bay Retreat in Washington January 31 to February 2, 2014.

The editor for the PNLA Quarterly resigned this past year so we have posted a Request For Editor on the PNLA website homepage and jobs page, http://www.pnla.org. We will post the request on Wired-MT, and Honore Bray, Vice President, or I will report on this at the MLA Conference.

Conference happenings!

Registration for the Helena PNLA Conference will open the middle of April. Watch for details on Wiredmt. With the change in membership fees – individual memberships are $50 across the board and institutional memberships are $150 – your library can send as many attendees as they want under the membership rate.

Thanks to all of you who sent in program proposals. We had a stellar selection of submissions to choose from. There will be quality professional development opportunities for everyone at every session time. The ever popular Corks & Cans will be at the Brewhouse across the parking lot from the Great Northern Hotel. There will be a ride on the Tour Train, entertainment, authors, etc. So, watch for the opening of registration and book your hotel room early. There will be rooms available at the Great Northern, the conference hotel, as well as at the Holiday Inn on the walking mall. See you there!

MPLA Updates
By Norma Glock,
MPLA Representative

The Best of the West joint MPLA/AZ conference is planned for November 11-14, 2014 in Phoenix, Arizona. A free pre-conference will be available for MPLA members. Many authors are expected to join us there. One Book, One Conference book is still to be chosen.

The 2015 MPLA conference will be held with Wyoming Library Association, September 23-25, 2015. The Mountain Plains Library Association is also planning a booth in conjunction with ALA this summer in Las Vegas.

The MPLA newsletter is available at mplau.us along with a membership form for people wishing to join this regional organization. As membership is down, the association is exploring ways to get new members and keep former ones. All new members this month were from Arizona. Professional development grants are available to MPLA members and applications are available on the web site.

The 2014 Annual Membership meeting of the Montana Library Association will be held on Friday, April 11 at 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. All members are invited to submit agenda items prior to the meeting. A copy of the minutes from the 2013 meeting can be found on the MLA website at mtlib.org. For more information, please contact Beth Boyson, MLA president at bboyson@bozeman.net.
Fall Workshops: Save the Date
By Joanne Flick, MS Ed.,
Continuing Education Coordinator
Montana State Library

Mark your calendars today for Fall Workshops 2014–September 28-29 (Sunday-Monday) at the Red Lion Colonial Hotel in Helena. Your input and ideas for sessions and presenters is most welcome. Please contact Joann Flick or any of the consulting staff.

Fall Workshops is a program of the MT State Library to support the training mission and certification program directed by the Montana Library Commission. Fall Workshops is an onsite, seminar-style training over two days, with 12 CE credits available. Anyone may attend a single session or both days. There is no registration fee and lunch is provided both days. Attendees pay their own travel to attend though the MT State Library provides travel stipends for new public library directors and, as available, for those traveling long distances to attend. The Red Lion will honor the state rate $88 single for rooms booked September 26-29. That rate for attendees will expire a month before the event.

Registration will be activated on August 15. Session descriptions and presenters will be posted at that time. All sessions are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration is done online only through the Montana library directory. To assure you get the sessions you want, plan to register on August 15 and be sure you have your login and password information available.

Fall Workshops are funded through the Library Services and Technology Act of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal program.

Partnership brings NANO to Missoula Public Library
By Mary Drew Powers,
Public Relations/Reference Librarian
Missoula Public Library

Missoula Public Library is hosting its first exhibit from SpectrUM Discovery Area, an interactive science museum located at UM and in downtown Missoula. The “Nano” hands-on display consists of three hands-on stations: a molecule-building station, a small/smaller/nano demonstration of magnetic filings in fluid, and an equilibrium table. A large poster display explains how the concept of nano—a prefix meaning “a billionth”—is impacting our world, from electronics to nutrition.

The partnership has been in the works for months. Staff needed to creatively repurpose the limited Youth Services area to allow for a permanent exhibit space. In the process, they were amused to discover that a display about tiny things in the universe required more than 200 square feet of space! OPAC computers moved to colorful endcap stations, children’s computers moved to a new “In Be'Tween” space for middle schoolers, and the Gnome House was also relocated to open up the area. Nano world arrived March 18, right on schedule. The plan is for SpectrUM to install a fresh display at the Library every six months.
New Billings Public Library Dedicated
By Bill Cochran,
Director
Billings Public Library

A standing room only dedication ceremony on February 1 kicked off a month-long celebration of the grand opening of the new 66,000 square foot Billings Public Library building in Billings, Montana. The $20 million, two-story building designed by Phoenix-based architect Will Bruder features a Digital Learning Lab, a 44-foot tall Story Tower, an elliptical skylight, and an infinity pool. A $5 million capital campaign conducted by the Billings Public Library Foundation and a 2011 bond issue that passed in all five wards of the City provided funding for the project. The adjacent, previous library building will be demolished and replaced with a 100-space, landscaped parking garden. Among grand opening events throughout February were readings in the new building by Berenstain Bears books author/illustrator Michael Berenstain and internationally acclaimed author of books for all ages, Neil Gaiman.
Privacy/Surveillance Resolution
By Bobbi Otte, Chair
Intellectual Freedom Committee

The Intellectual Freedom Committee is sponsoring a privacy/surveillance resolution that will be brought before the members at the Montana Library Association conference for consideration. The resolution can be viewed on the Intellectual Freedom Committee’s wiki http://mlaif.pbworks.com or the text of the resolution is below.

RESOLUTION ON THE NEED FOR REFORMS FOR THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT PRIVACY, OPEN GOVERNMENT, GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY (DRAFT)

Whereas, public access to information by and about the government is essential for the healthy functioning of a democratic society and a necessary predicate for an informed and engaged citizenry empowered to hold the government accountable for its actions; and

Whereas, the Montana Library Association (MLA) supports policies of the American Library Association (ALA) pertaining to the right to privacy, including but not limited to the ALA Code of Ethics (1939), Principles for the Networked World (2002), and Privacy: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights (2002); and

Whereas, the rights of anonymity and privacy while people retrieve and communicate information must be protected as an essential element of intellectual freedom; and

Whereas, the Montana State Constitution section 10 and 11 afford the citizens of Montana the right to privacy and the right from unreasonable searches and seizures; and

Whereas, MLA values access to documents disclosing the extent of public surveillance and government secrecy as access to these documents now enables the critical public discourse and debate needed to address the balance between our civil liberties and national security; and

Whereas, these disclosures enable libraries to support such discourse and debate by providing information and resources and for deliberative dialogue and community engagement; and

Whereas, The Montana Library Association remains concerned about due process for the people who have led us to these revelations; and

Whereas, libraries are essential to the free flow of ideas and to ensuring the public’s right to know; and

Whereas, for over a decade librarians and library workers in Montana and across the nation have criticized the USA PATRIOT Act on the grounds that it increases the likelihood that the activities of library users, including their use of computers to browse the Web or access e-mail, may be under government surveillance without their knowledge or consent; and

Whereas, the public recently learned that the National Security Agency (NSA) is collecting the telephone call metadata of millions of U.S. customers of Verizon Business Services, AT&T, and Sprint pursuant to an order issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act; and

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)
Whereas, pursuant to a court order issued by the FISC under Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act (FAA) the NSA is operating a program called PRISM that is collecting and retaining vast quantities of data on internet usage, including internet search histories, email, video and voice chat, videos, photos, voice-over-IP chats, file transfers, and social networking details, from internet service providers in the United States. Though intended to target communications of foreign persons, the NSA admits that it collects and stores Internet data from U.S. persons; now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Montana Library Association:

- Affirms its unwavering support for the fundamental principles that are the foundation of our free and democratic society, including a system of public accountability, government transparency, and oversight that supports people’s right to know about and participate in our government;
- Calls upon the U.S. Congress, President Obama, and the Courts to reform our nation’s climate of secrecy, overclassification, and secret law regarding national security and surveillance, to align with these democratic principles;
- Urges the U.S. Congress and President Obama to provide authentic protections that prevent government intimidation and criminal prosecution of government employees, private contractors and journalists who make disclosures of wrong doing in the intelligence community;
- Calls upon our members to lead and the public to engage in public dialogues discussing the right to privacy, open government and balancing civil liberties and national security;
- Encourages the public to support bills and other proposals that both secure and protect our rights to privacy, free expression, free association, a free and independent press, and promote a more open, transparent government;
- Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the members of Congress who work to protect our privacy and civil liberties.

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Rebekah Kamp,
Children’s Librarian
Belgrade Community Library
Belgrade, MT 59714
Phone: (406)388-4346
Fax: (406)388-6586
Email: rkamp@mtlib.org

Please send address changes to:
Debbi Kramer,
Executive Assistant
Montana Library Association
PO Box 1352
Three Forks, MT 59752
Phone: 406-285-3090
Fax: (406)285-3091
Cell: (406)579-3121
E-mail: debkmla@hotmail.com