



**MLA Board Meeting Minutes DRAFT
October 17, 2016
Livingston Public Library
Livingston, Montana**

President, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She extended a thank you to Mitch Grady for hosting the board meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Mary Guthmiller, Matt Beckstrom, Mitch Grady, Carmen Clark, John Finn, Sheila Bonnard, Conor Cote, Stephen Haddad, and Bobbi Otte.
Debbi Kramer, Eileen Wright, and Dawn Kingstad via phone conference.
Guest: Ann Ewbank

BOARD MINUTES:

Conor Cote moved to approve the June 9-10, 2016 Board meeting minutes. Carmen Clark seconded. The motion passed.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Matt Beckstrom reported that he is the new ALA rep. He attended the ALA meeting and shadowed Susan Gregory, the outgoing ALA rep. Although many reports are posted on the website, it was suggested in the spirit of transparency, that all submitted reports be posted. All agreed that reports be posted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) The business of switching from D.A. Davidson was reintroduced. Mary Guthmiller expressed concern over ethics. Debbi Kramer indicated that MLA investments are not getting their "bang for the buck". Matt Beckstrom said he personally has had a good experience with them. Sheila Bonnard commented that it may depend on your rep. Lisa asked if Debbi could meet with the D.A. Davidson rep to voice concerns and evaluate the holdings we currently have. Debbi will do so and report back at the January 2017 board meeting.
- 2) The Executive Director's salary FY2016 contract was discussed. Lisa provided a draft of an updated contract and suggested that we give a 2% increase plus a \$1,000 equipment allotment, retroactive to July 1, 2016. Matt asked about our current budget leeway and it was verified that this year's budget can accommodate the increase. Matt Beckstrom moved to approve the increase in the Executive Director's salary to \$12,300/year + \$1,000/year equipment allocation. Conor Cote seconded. The motion passed unanimously. It was mentioned that this needs to be built into subsequent budgets.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) The ASLD/PLD retreat went well, but Sheila Bonnand expressed disappointment with lack of attendance from academic libraries. The 2017 retreat is slated again at Chico for October 15 & 16, 2017. Debbi indicated that if there are more than 35 attendees, then we normally make money.
- 2) Ann Ewbank from the Education Department at MSU reported on the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) school libraries initiative. ESSA is a reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. The original act did not provide for federal funding for school libraries, so the reauthorization seeks to correct that, especially funding with regards to collections and professional development. Ann provided a handout of the provisions. ESSA's advocate is EveryLibrary, a political action group. At the SLD meeting, a committee was organized as well as a letter created and sent to the MLA Executive Board for approval, then sent to Montana's Superintendent of Education Denise Juneau, Governor Steve Bullock, State Librarian Jennie Stapp, and other state government officials to inform them of MLA's support of this act. Upcoming events include: October 18th meeting in Missoula with Senator Tester with Thomas Smathers providing talking points; October 24th second ESSA meeting; November 10th draft Montana ESSA plan released to the public for comment; December 20th Montana ESSA plan sent to the U.S. Department of Education for approval. Ann indicated that each school district will need to make individual plans to be in line with the Montana plan. An update on this is planned for the MLA conference. Ann thanked the MLA Executive Committee and the MLA Board for our support. Ann and Dianne Mattila will work with Stephen Haddad to get information on the MLA website.
- 3) Sheila Bonnand reported on progress of the Professional Development Committee. She indicated that some previous applications fell through the cracks. She consulted with the MLA Executive Committee about honoring those applications, but due to budget issues, it was decided to craft an apology to and send out to those applicants. She indicated that all appreciated that communication. She reported that there are seven members on the committee, three applications have already been approved, and that an announcement will be forthcoming. She said that they will be looking at ways to market the professional development funding opportunities. It was recommended that the fund balance and payouts be checked and reported at each board meeting so this doesn't fall through the cracks again. Sheila also said the forms need revamping regarding the requirements for the grant award and process/steps. Discussion was held regarding the Emerging Leaders ALA budget line item, which hasn't been used in years. Mitch Grady made a motion that we reallocate the \$1,600 line item from the ALA Emerging Leaders to the Professional Development allocation. Mary Guthmiller seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Stephen Haddad will remove the information pertaining to the Emerging Leadership from MLA's website.
- 4) Stephen Haddad said he is redesigning the MLA's website. He showed what he has done so far, with almost all the current website information having been moved to the new website. In the redesign, the main page will have rotating images. Stephen said he will send out a message to solicit photos from Montana librarians for the rotator through a photo contest as well as have something in the January Focus. The website will have drop down tabs that will have sub headings and almost all information will be available within two clicks. Matt Beckstrom asked about the placement of the MLA logo. It was also suggested that under the Resources tab, that Intellectual Freedom information be added as well as all MLA forms. Carmen Clark asked if a place for conference presentations will be available. Stephen indicated that could be done. Debbi will need to work with conference speakers to get their presentations for posting. Conor Cote asked about social media presence. Lisa promised to look into this. Sheila Bonnand suggested that the new website be shown at the MLA conference with a big marketing splash.
- 5) Dawn Kingstad reported on the progress of Offline. She said it will be held at the Holiday Inn Express in Glendive February 10th & 11th, 2017. The Holiday Inn's rates are good, and if 50 or more people attend, then there will be no meeting room charge. If less than that, the meeting room charge will be \$50/day. The theme is Back to the Future with 2 tracks of Delorian Dreams and Great Scott. Currently, program proposals are being sought and she is working with Jo Flick to get a speaker. Dawn is also lining up entertainment, such as brewery/dinner tour or a trip to the dinosaur museum.

- 6) Jim Kammerer, on behalf of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, sent in an inquiry pertaining to MLA membership with the Montana Newspaper Association. In his e-mail communication, he brought forth reasons why membership should be considered. Matt Beckstrom made a motion that MLA look into the \$225 bronze membership for the Montana Newspaper Association as a 1-year trial and re-evaluate after that. Conor Cote seconded. Discussion revealed there were more questions. The motion was tabled until the January 2017 meeting pending obtaining more information from Jim.
- 7) Sheila Bonnand asked for approval of a new interest group, MILA (Montana Information Literacy Alliance). Debbi Kramer indicated that all paperwork has been filed. Conor Cote made a motion to approve the development of the MILA interest group, while Mitch Grady seconded it. The motion carried.
- 8) Mary Guthmiller went over information that she gleaned from a webinar she attended pertaining to membership recruitment. She will send a document highlighting different points as well as the website for the webinar to the MLA Board.
- 9) A few items pertaining to the MLA conference were discussed. Eileen Wright proposed a different format for the upcoming 2017 MLA conference. She proposed the following changes: eight free half-day seminars on Wednesday, full day conference sessions on Thursday and Friday, with the conference concluding on Friday – nothing offered on Saturday. Debbi concurred that attendance numbers for Saturday are low, which includes school librarians. Dawn Kingstad moved to change the 2017 conference schedule to what Eileen proposed. Carmen Clark seconded. The motion passed. Debbi put forward different scenarios for conference costs, based on the fact that fewer vendors are willing to come. Scenario 1: \$80 member, \$125 nonmember for seminars (no lunch included); \$150 member, \$195 nonmember for 1 day – lunch included; \$235 members, \$290 nonmembers for full conference – lunch included. Scenario 2: \$135 no meals included, special rates for board, retirees, and students. Scenario 3: \$195 for full conference 2 lunches included for Thursday & Friday; \$150 one day attendance (Thursday or Friday) lunch included. Debbi also talked about picking which meals in advance and that adding meals would not be an option once the conference has commenced. All thought a question should be included in the post-conference survey regarding registration with or without meals included. No changes in meals or fees were made at this time. It was also asked if a time/place could be reserved for the TRAILS (Montana academic libraries) consortium. It was noted that Friday morning from 7:30-9:00 has been set aside.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2017 in Helena in conjunction with Legislative Day. The time and place will be determined. There will be a call in option.

Having completed the Fall board meeting agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Guthmiller
MLA Secretary/Treasurer