



*Supporting Montana's libraries
from the mountains to the prairies*

**MLA Board Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2017
Livingston-Park Public Library
Livingston, Montana**

President Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. She thanked Mitch Grady, director of the Livingston-Park Public Library, for hosting the meeting.

ATTENDANCE:

Board members: Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Mary Guthmiller, Matt Beckstrom, Carmen Clark, Debbi Kramer, Gavin Woltjer, Anne Kish, and Kit Stephenson. Those attending online: Elizabeth Jonkel, Angela Archuleta and Dawn Kingstad.

Guests: Mitch Grady and online attendees Joey Kositzky as well as staff from the Joliet Public Library.

BOARD MINUTES:

Gavin Woltjer moved to approve the June 19-20, 2017 Board meeting minutes. Carmen Clark seconded. The motion passed.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

President Mecklenberg Jackson reported that at the behest of State Librarian, Jennie Stapp, MLA should have a representative on the Network Advisory Council (NAC). She suggested that it be MLA's Vice President/President elect. After a short discussion, including background on the Network Advisory Council, the three year term length, and necessary related changes to the handbook, Matt Beckstrom made a motion that MLA's Vice President/President elect be a member of NAC. Gavin Woltjer seconded. The motion was approved. Debbi reported on MLA's financials informing us that numbers/figures are done through Quick Books as a non-profit entity. Therefore, some terminology has changed slightly. She gave a quick run through on finances, such as income from different sources (Chico retreat, dues, etc.) and expenditures.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lisa reminded everyone that a report on progress on MLA position goals will be due by January, 2018. She also reminded everyone that updates to bylaws, the MLA calendar and job descriptions be submitted to Debbi by December 1, 2017. Lisa also indicated that since duties of handling administrative functions of all conferences has passed to the Executive Director, effective at the June 2017 board meeting and that this information needs to be updated in the conference planning manual and the handbook job descriptions.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Fall Retreat: Kit reported that all seemed to have a good time and that there were excellent presentations although the number of attendees was down. She indicated that at a meeting beforehand, goals were discussed such as creating a wiki for resources for public librarians, possibly working with a mentoring group, and developing a document/checklist for what's expected of the Public Library Division (PLD) chair. Matt suggested a few ideas on how to refocus the retreat such as rebrand and to include all members. Gavin also said that perhaps having a year-to-year theme might help as well as provide live streaming for those unable to attend in person. Debbi said that Chico has been reserved for October 14 & 15, 2018 for the next Fall retreat.
- B. State Library Budget: Lisa reported she received an e-mail from State Librarian, Jennie Stapp stating that she could not attend the board meeting. Lisa and Anne Kish said that there has already been a 27% cut to the State Library's budget and that only state (not federal) funded positions were affected. Additionally, services to the blind, the GIS program, and collaboration with the State Historical Society have been impacted. There have been staff members who have left due to uncertainty of positions. It was reported that there isn't really a mechanism in place to appeal cuts. It was also mentioned that if another 10% cut is asked for, it might affect what is required in the statutes. Anne suggested that we might have a non- legislative year "Legislative Day" if a special session is called to show what has been done/cut and the impacts. Gavin said he was invited to testify on behalf of the State Library. He said that libraries need to work on our stories, to be proactive, and work with what we do have.
- C. Resolution supporting State Library: Anne and Gavin shared information about this resolution in that it's a strategic framework with the purpose of solidifying the partnership between MLA and the State Library and to focus on similarities. The resolution will be sent out via Wired along with a request for stories, especially for data on the impact of not having state aid. There was some discussion on the wording of the resolution. Gavin made a motion to amend the last paragraph to add the word Board to now read ... "the Montana Library Association Board sees" ... Kit seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Mary made a motion to accept the amended resolution in support of the Montana State Library's Strategic Framework. Gavin seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved. Anne and Gavin will do follow-up on this resolution.
- D. MLA Bylaws review: Bobbi Otte submitted changes for review. Lisa indicated that the board should look over the document, especially for wording changes (PNLA & MPLA rep

terms, interest group chairs, secretary/treasurer job description) so that they can be discussed at the January, 2018 board meeting. Bylaw changes need to be decided by the board at the January meeting in order to meet deadline requirements for presenting to the membership at the April annual membership meeting. Lisa indicated she would contact current interest group chairs to get feedback regarding election/appointment of chairs.

- E. New policy review: The review of Code of Ethics, Independent Contractor & Volunteer, and Strategic Planning policies postponed until the January, 2018 meeting.
- F. Strategic Plan review: Postponed until the January, 2018 meeting.
- G. MNA membership (Montana Nonprofit Association): Debbi reported that it is \$85/year. She said that the original intention in joining was to learn about budgeting; however, there are different workshop opportunities that, with membership, can be taken at discount prices. After some discussion, it was suggested that these learning opportunities should be shared with the MLA membership. Gavin made a motion to renew MNA's membership. Matt seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.
- H. School Library Division meeting request: The SLD co-chairs asked about the possibility of having a board meeting on a Saturday and/or the board retreat on a weekend. It was decided that the next board meeting will be held online on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. No action was taken on the weekend board retreat request.
- I. Offline update: Debbi indicated that Offline will be held February 2nd & 3rd, 2018 at the Great Falls Public Library. The registration will be \$90 and will open mid-December. The program is all set. She is working with LaQuinta hotel for state rates.
- J. MLA 2018 Conference update: Debbi said that program proposals have been reviewed and that presenters will be contacted by November 1st. The Montana ACLU contributed \$1,800 for the boot camp, etc. workshops, so those will be free of charge. Leslie Budewitz, an author from Whitefish, will be the speaker at the author luncheon. Obtaining a keynote speaker is still in the works, but James LaRue is a possible back-up. After discussing registration costs, Lisa made a motion that the registration will include the cost of meals, with the exception of the awards dinner meal. Gavin seconded and the motion was approved.

WRAP-UP

Debbi suggested that we have a better online meeting venue, such as Go to Meeting. She will work with Gavin.

Having completed the MLA Fall board meeting agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Guthmiller
MLA Secretary/Treasurer

