



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Double Tree Hotel  
Billings, Montana  
Friday, March 31, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by President Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson by welcoming the meeting attendees.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson indicated that new this year, the membership meeting is being recorded and sent live using the Periscope program. The recording will also be archived on MLA's Website. Thank you to Conor Cote and Jim Kammerer for suggesting this and making it happen. She also welcomed the president of PNLA, Jenny Grenfell. She extended numerous thanks to: the MLA conference sponsors of Montana State University-Billings, Blackfoot Communications, and Opportunity Bank; Billings Public Library for hosting the reception and Montana Book Awards; This House of Books for the wine and cheese reception; everyone who assisted in putting on the conference; Sheila Bonnard and the Professional Development Committee; John Finn of the Government Affairs Committee, Conor Cote for establishing the MLA Twitter account; Cara Orban and Mitch Grady for the ASLD retreat; Dawn Kingstad for Offline; Caroline Campbell and Kendra Mullison, Focus newsletter editors; Debbi Kramer, MLA Executive Director, and of course, all MLA members.

### **BOARD INTRODUCTIONS**

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson introduced the current MLA board and committee members.

### **INTRODUCTION OF BOARD CANDIDATES**

President Mecklenberg Jackson asked candidates to come forward and introduce themselves. For Vice-President/President elect, Elizabeth Jonkel is running. For the position of MPLA Representative, the three candidates are Rachel Rawn, Kris Johnson, and Pam Carlton. For the Director at Large-East, the two candidates are Gavin Woltjer and Vivian Schultz. Within two weeks of the conference's conclusion, the electronic ballot will be sent out by the Executive Director.

### **MINUTES**

Matt Beckstrom moved to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2016 Member Meeting. Carmen Clark seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

### **MLA FINANCIAL REPORT**

Debbi Kramer, MLA Executive Director, reported on the income received from various venues such as the different conferences and retreats. She gave an accounting of expenses and assets, noting what has been budgeted and what the actual amounts are to date. She did indicate that the bills from the conference hotels still need to be paid. She also gave a breakdown of membership and encouraged members to contact her regarding any updates to the current membership directory as she is working on updating that information.

## **STATE LIBRARIAN REPORT**

State Librarian, Jennie Stapp, reported on some key issues. She indicated HB261, which extends the sunset date of funding to the State Library, came out of the House with unanimous vote in favor of extending. It was heard in the Senate Finance committee and she was optimistic about its approval, but she encouraged everyone to contact their Senators to keep the bill intact. She said the Library Commission was updated on the different bills that directly and indirectly affect Montana libraries. Such bills are HB81 which would give the Secretary of State the authority to only publish the Administrative Rules of Montana and the Montana Administration Register electronically. In the bill, it is being advocated that there must be a way to print these. HB364 pertains to the revision of service animal laws. This would potentially affect all library staff regarding communications with patrons that have service animals. She reported that a small increase in the coal severance fund should be realized. Unfortunately, it's looking like there will be about a 20% reduction in LSTA funding and about 5% reduction in the State Library's overall budget. They're looking at shifting some of the services that are currently funded by the general fund to the coal severance one. She does not believe that IMLS money will go away as Congress has to pass the budget and that the President's budget does not carry the weight of law. They are looking at different funding sources at the federal and state level and indicated they're investigating a way to develop one at the State Library level.

## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

John Finn gave members a quick update on a few bills that are of concern to MLA. Two (HB147 and HB 148) pertain to privacy and electronic devices and electronic communications. He reported that HB563, which would have established a Montana preschool grant program did not pass. He also said that HB609, which is the "bathroom bill" was tabled.

## **2017 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Steering Committee members, Eileen Wright and Cindy Patterson were introduced. They indicated that the conference survey will be sent out via Wired and are particularly interested in people's thoughts on this year's format.

## **DOOR PRIZES**

Carolyn O'Hara was the lucky recipient of the Kindle that was donated by Overdrive. Tomi Alger won the iPad Air that ExLibris donated.

## **MLA BY-LAWS**

Bobbi Otte proposed four changes to the current MLA By Laws. Article V, Section 3 refers to resignation/removal of directors, but did not address filling vacancies. A Section 4 is proposed to give directives on how the office of the President would be filled. Bobbi Otte made a motion to accept the By-Law change to Article V, Section 3. Eileen Wright seconded. The motion was approved. Article IV, Section 1 refers to the meeting of members. A wording change from location to city, venue and date was proposed. Bobbi Otte made a motion to accept the wording change to By Law Article IV, Section 1. John Finn seconded. The motion passed. Since we do not currently have mention of the Executive Director in our By Laws, it was proposed to add Article IV, Sections 1-3 to describe the position, define powers and duties, and provide for annual evaluation of the position. Bobbi Otte made a motion to add Article IV, Sections 1-3 to the MLA By Laws. Dale Alger seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Article VI to become Article VII pertaining to duties of officers. After discussion of the renumbered Article VII proposed changes to Section 4 for duties of officers, Eileen Wright made a motion to withdraw this proposal. Bobbi Otte seconded. The motion to withdraw was passed.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Matt Beckstrom put forth four resolutions to the membership. Rachel Rawn made a motion to accept the resolution to support funding for the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Anne Kisch seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved. Rachel Rawn made a motion to accept the Montana Restroom Initiatives resolution that indicates MLA does not support the bill. Niki Keuch seconded. The motion passed with reservation. Jennie Stapp made a motion to accept the resolution, providing that any reference to the American Library Association be changed to the Montana Library Association, that MLA supports full funding by the United States Congress for the preservation of federal government publications. Jane Lopp seconded. The motion passed with 24 ayes, 9 nays, and 12 abstentions. Kim Crowley made a motion to accept the resolution thanking all those involved with planning the 2017 MLA Conference. Norma Glock seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

#### **NEW WEBSITE**

Although a roll out of the new website had been planned, it was not quite ready. A link will be sent out via Wired when available.

#### **2018 CONFERENCE**

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson announced that next year's conference will be held in Bozeman. The tentative dates are April 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

All business being concluded, the MLA Membership meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary J. Guthmiller  
MLA Secretary/Treasurer