

Montana Library Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2006

President Lyn McKinney called the October meeting of the MLA Board of Directors to order at 1:05 pm at the Livingston Public Library. In attendance were: Lyn McKinney, Milla Cummins, Martha Thayer, Judy Hart, Suzi Watne, Norma Glock, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Eileen Wright, Gail Wilkerson, Honore Bray, Marje Doyle, Karen Gonzales, Della Dubbe, and Debbi Kramer.

The agenda was accepted with no changes

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the August 3, 2006 board meeting were approved.

Financial Report: no report

Association Reports

Officers:

President Lyn McKinney: Applicants for the Executive Directors position were interviewed by Lyn, Honore Bray and Peggy Smith. It was difficult to choose from the qualified applicants. Debbi Kramer was offered the position; she accepted and has started her duties. Lyn gave a brief overview of the upcoming MLA conference. Neil Gaiman and Nancy Pearl will be presenting. Gaiman has also agreed to do a public session for which MLA members will have the first opportunity to purchase tickets. Lyn is working with Debbi to get letters out to the new members.

Vice-president Honore Bray: after investigating other possible venues for the August retreat it was concluded that the most cost effective location is still the Camp on the Boulder. It is scheduled for the first week in August; dates to be confirmed later.

Secretary/Treasurer Peggy Smith: a flash drive was purchased to facilitate access to files.

Director at Large Gail Wilkerson: deferred to membership report.

Association Representatives:

ALA report: written report submitted by Beth Boyson, see attached.

MPLA report: submitted by Eileen Wright, written report attached. MPLA has proposed a joint conference with MLA in 2011. This requires an invitation from Lyn to formalize it. MPLA president Sharon Osenga will also be invited to our spring conference. Milla Cummins moved that we plan a joint conference with MPLA in 2011. Motion carried. She also expressed some concern about possible locations that would accommodate that size of conference. Big Sky was the last location of this joint conference. It was the general consensus that Billings would probably be the

best location taking into consideration the new construction of hotels, etc. Honore Bray moved that the site for the joint MPLA/MLA conference in 2011 be Billings. Motion carried. The three candidates who will be attending the Leadership institute at Ghost Ranch, NM October 29th are Samantha Hines, TyRee Jenks and Donna McCrea. Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson will look into a proposal that one of the requirements for the recipients of the leadership grants is some service plan to give back to MLA.

PNLA report: submitted by Norma Glock, written report attached. The PNLA Leadership institute takes place every two years. MLA has budgeted \$500 per year as "seed" money and there was some discussion about what this means. It is actually more accurately termed a participation fee from all of the organizations affiliated with PNLA. We also have the cost of sending the participant to the institute. The Young Reader's Choice Award book store is closed. Honore has been sending people their money back who have tried to order materials. The items may eventually be available on a website. Norma will post an Email with the status of the YRC committee. Lyn will invite the PNLA President Jason Openo to the MLA conference in April. The next PNLA conference will be in Edmonton August 8-11, 2007. Their 100th Anniversary conference will be in Montana in 2009.

Divisions:

ASLD report: submitted by Martha Thayer, written report attached. Debbi Kramer will send her a list of ASLD members so they can follow up on membership. Martha and Della have been working on the ASLD/PLD Retreat at Chico October 15-16, 2006. It was well organized and well attended. Kudos to Martha and Della for their hard work in putting together a great program.

PLD report: no report; see above.

SLMD report: submitted by Suzi Watne, written report attached. Suzi and Margy Kernan (SLMD co-chairs) will be looking for candidates to run for Chair and Vice-chair of the division next spring. January 27, 2007 Capital High will have a session from 9:30-3:00 on Networking Socially.

Standing Committees:

Awards: no report. Lyn will contact current membership to see if one will serve as the chair.

Bylaws: no report

Cates: no report

Communications: submitted by Milla Cummins, written report attached. Direct Email of Focus requires coordination with Steve McCann and Pam Henley who must get addresses from Debbi Kramer. Updating the website is an issue. Milla will investigate how the webmaster job is split and report to the board. Debbie will send all the updated information to Steve for posting to the web. She will also send it to all

MLA Board members and to John Finn, the Focus editor for publication in the next issue of the Focus. It should be posted each year following the election so the membership has this information.

Conference Planning: submitted by Judy Hart and Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, written report attached. The committee met October 6 in Helena where 101 program proposals were submitted and 47 selected. Seven programs will be presented concurrently in each time slot. The committee proposed that each conference registration fee be raised \$10 in each category. The last increase was \$5 in 2005. This would bring the cost for members who pre-register to \$85. Norma made a motion to raise all conference fees \$10. Motion carried. Exhibit fees were \$380 last year and the committee proposed an increase to \$400 for the 2007 conference. Honore moved that the exhibitor's fees be raised to \$400. Lyn pointed out how important it is to let our corporate sponsors know that we are grateful for their support. Motion carried.

Government Affairs: no report

Intellectual Freedom: submitted by Karen Gonzales, written report attached. Jim Heckel, Samantha Hines and Karen presented a program at the ASLD/PLD Retreat and will present a version of that at MLA in April. She had no challenges to report in the previous quarter. Karen reminded us that all challenges should be reported to the IF committee.

Membership: submitted by Gail Wilkerson, written report attached. Gail and Carlene Engstrom have been sending monthly membership renewal reminders on Wired and will begin sending out program information with those reminders. Membership information on the web will be updated quarterly. Pins should be available by January.

Professional Development: submitted by Marje Doyle, written report attached. November 7, 2006 is the fall deadline for applications for money. Marje will post a message to Wired soliciting for additional members for the committee. All activities take place via Email. Beth suggested that perhaps the ALA, MPLA, and PNLA reps could serve on the committee. The consensus was that while a generous offer, it would be better to get more MLA members involved in committees so that they become more active in the organization.

Public Relations: submitted by Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, written report attached. The new focus of the "what's your story" programming campaign is geared to the baby boomers. There will be several new events at the MLA conference in 2007 including an edible book contest, a bookcart drill team competition, and a PR swap & shop. The 2008 librarian calendar has enough models signed on; the photo shoot is scheduled in Helena and will be marketed at the 2007 conference.

Nominating: submitted by Milla Cummins, written report attached. They will be getting calls out for candidates for Vice-President/President elect, ALA councilor,

PNLA Representative and Director at large East. They should be in place by January at the latest so that they can be included in the MLA conference information.

Past Presidents: submitted by Milla Cummins, written report attached. Milla is working on the directory of all past presidents.

Interest Groups:

Children & YA services: written report attached.

Offline: It is in Bozeman Feb 23-24, 2007. OCLC Western will in Bozeman the day before.

No other reports were submitted.

State Library: no report

Task forces:

Central Asia Institute: submitted by Norma Glock, written report attached. Roberts turned in over \$800 – a mile of pennies. So far, a total of over \$13,000 has been raised. Norma would like to see more public libraries become involved along with the schools so we can reach our goal of \$20,000 and be finished. Any money raised should be credited to Job # 12 – that is the MLA account. Many thanks to Norma who has taken this on as directed by our MLA membership and kept it going.

Conference Solutions: Lyn and Milla will be looking at this and requesting volunteers to serve on the committee on Wired.

Unfinished Business:

There is some concern about whether it is **appropriate for the MPLA and PNLA leadership institute candidates to receive money from the PD grants** in addition to the money budgeted for the institute stipends. The money available to the candidates for the leadership institutes is a separate item from the money in the Professional Development Grants budget. Marje will come to the January meeting with recommendations.

Lyn brought to the board a proposal that the **MLA legislative agenda** include the request for the State to pick up the cost of the OCLC database. This was a piece of the Montana State library budget package that went to the Governor but was rejected. Milla made a motion that the MLA legislative agenda for 2007 include a request for the State funding of a statewide subscription to OCLC. Motion carried.

Debbi Kramer was introduced as our new **Executive Director**. Congratulations- we are looking forward to working with Debbi and feel we are in able hands.

Lyn has visited with Matt Beckstrom about the **license plates** and will have more for us at the January meeting.

New Business:

Beth Boyson sent us information on the **Emerging Leader Program** at ALA. This program is designed to train new, young members of the profession for leadership roles in ALA. Each chapter has been asked to support a candidate with a \$500 stipend. The deadline to apply was Sept 30, 2006 and applicants will be notified by November 1, 2006 if they have been accepted. Beth indicated in her report that \$500 was available to fund this stipend in her budget. Gail made a motion to use \$500 from the ALA budget to sponsor a candidate for the Emerging Leaders program. It will be used for ALA Mid-Winter in Seattle. The major difference between this and the other leadership institutes is the service required at the national level. The new leaders will represent Montana libraries at a national and state level. Eileen said this is why PNLA can not support a candidate; it is a multi-state group. Gail's amendment to the motion, allowing \$500 for an MLA member or members passed. Honore indicated that ALA is asking for \$500 in local support since they feel that local institutions benefit as well so funding should come from there too. Milla suggested that any additional money be decided on at the January board meeting. Motion carried.

Lee Phillips suggested using **PayPal** on our web page to allow members to pay for conference registration, retreat registration and dues online. Debbi will investigate this and bring information to the January board meeting.

The **Website taskforce** will report at the January meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Peggy Smith