

Montana Library Association
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2007

President Lyn McKinney called the January meeting of the MLA Board of Directors to order at 9:10 at the Montana State Library. In attendance were: Lyn McKinney, Milla Cummins, Martha Thayer, Judy Hart, Suzi Watne, Norma Glock, Beth Boyson, Eileen Wright, Gail Wilkerson, Honore Bray, Debbi Kramer, Della Dubbe, Carlene Engstrom and Peggy Smith. Guests attending: Marje Doyle and Karen Gonzales.

Additions to the agenda. The strategic plan was added to unfinished business at Della's request. The Public Relations committee was added to Standing Committee reports. Judy Hart's report on the Conference Planning Committee was moved to the first agenda item.

Conference Planning Co-Chairs Judy Hart and Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson: Written report attached. Presented by Judy Hart. The committee met January 9, 2007 and had a very productive session. The conference schedule should be posted to the Web by January 31, 2007. Pre-conference information should be available sooner so that members have time to make plans to attend. The registration form will be available and can be filled out online. Costs for all meals will increase this year. Tickets for Neil Gaiman's public appearance will be available by February, cost to be determined. These should also be available for purchase online. Each time slot at conference will have eight offerings so we will have lots of programs to choose from. Judy requested that if you have questions or comments for the Conference Committee please cc both Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson and Judy so there are no gaps in communications. Opportunities for members to volunteer at the conference include working at the MLA Bookstore and hospitality – more information will follow as we get closer to conference. All presenters have been contacted if their programs were accepted for the conference. Lyn requested that all board members attend the New Members breakfast if possible. The MLA Board will meet from 1:00 to 5:00 pm Wednesday April 25, 2007. This is the only meeting at the conference this year because of the Gaiman appearance scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Judy will send out a conference guide to all the Board members. Many thanks go to Conference Planning committee members for all their hard work.

Approval of minutes: There was a correction to the minutes; under New Business, Eileen informed us that MPLA (not PNLA) could not contribute to the Emerging Leaders program. Norma Glock moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Financial report: Submitted by Debbi Kramer, written report attached. Debbi was finally able to get her office set up and is working on getting the report up to speed. The accounts do not balance as presented in the report as she is learning about which receipts go to which line item in the budget. Please indicate on all claims submitted to her which account the money is to come from to ensure that it is taken from the correct account. Please check you line item budget and contact Debbi if you feel that there is a discrepancy. The checking Account has been moved from Missoula to Bozeman. This will allow for better control since the money will not have to be mailed to Missoula for

deposit. The account is free in Bozeman since it is a business account. Debbi will add number lines to the budget sheet so we can more easily communicate questions. Debbi will send Suzi the list of SLMD members that are current with their dues. The MLA Legislative reception was a success; good food and conversation. Carlene asked about the ALA reception in Washington. Lyn and Lois Fitzpatrick will attend if they are able to arrange to visit with our Montana congressional delegation at that time. There are still a few outstanding checks in the Missoula MLA account. Debbi will send a list of those checks to the executive committee. Debbi will email MLA members who have uncashed checks from the Missoula account. Debbi has sent out 60 letters to potential vendors at the April conference. She will ask on Wired if there are other vendors that the members would like her to contact. Carlene asked how many vendors could be accommodated in the Great Falls venue: sixty or possibly more depending on the size of the tables used.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Officers:

President Lyn McKinney: Lyn will send out invitations to our April conference to the MPLA and PNLA presidents. She testified at the subcommittee hearing on the Montana State Library budget Tuesday morning where she requested that \$600,000 per year for statewide access to OCLC be put back into the MSL budget. Two Carroll College students spoke about how essential it is for their research and were very well received. The response was very positive and 2 senators on the committee were interested in bringing an amendment forward at the appropriate time to get it back in the MSL budget. The Legislative Reception had a good turn out. The State Library staff was great – taking care of the setup, cleanup and visiting with the Legislative folks that attended. We really appreciate their assistance in making the reception a success. Lyn will be working with Jane Howell in looking for donors for the Gaiman appearance. Lyn will be contacting Nancy Pearl to see if she is willing to be auctioned off as a member of a team in the Sheila Cates trivia fundraiser. Beth suggested T-shirts for the hospitality folks that are going to be in place doing crowd control for the Gaiman public event. The MEA/MFT Conference is in Belgrade in 2007. Collet Bartow is coordinating the library sessions and is hoping to have Chris Crutcher for the event.

Vice-President Honore Bray: As reported at the last board meeting Honore discovered that it was prohibitively expensive to do the Board Retreat at a different site. It is scheduled July 30, 2007 @ 4:00 through August 1, 2007 @ 3:00 at The Camp on the Boulder.

Secretary Peggy Smith: no report

Directors at Large Gail Wilkerson and Carlene Engstrom: deferred to Membership report

Association Representatives:

ALA Counselor Beth Boyson: Written report attached. Christy Donaldson of MSU-Bozeman was selected by ALA to attend the ALA Emerging Leadership training. Beth made the motion to support the ALA Emerging Leadership program with an additional \$500 to send Christy to Washington D.C. The Money will be taken from the Executive Directors Support Budget, specifically the money set aside to send Debbi to ALA Midwinter for the ALA chapter orientation. Debbi will attend that orientation next year. Motion carried.

MPLA Representative Eileen Wright: Written report attached. Eileen will send to Lyn the name of the person who should be invited to attend the MLA Conference.

PNLA Representative Norma Glock: Written report attached. There is some confusion about Association Representative Terms. They should be staggered so that all three are not going off the board at the same time. The MLA Handbook information needs to be communicated to the Associations so that their handbooks are aligned with MLA's. This needs to be added to New Business for April. The PNLA Conference in 2009 will be at the Missoula Parkside in August. Barbra Meisenheimer is the new chair of the Young Readers Choice Award Committee.

ASLD Chair Martha Thayer: Written report attached. Martha has posted to Wired seeking candidates for Vice-Chair and Secretary. The PNLA Medical Chapter will be meeting in Billings September 30, 2007. Contact Terry Koch if you know of someone who would be a good presenter.

PLD Chair Della Dubbe: Written report attached. Della reported that they are looking to have some kind of event on Thursday of the conference for the dinner time slot.

SLMD Co-Chairs Suzi Watne and Margy Kernan: Written report submitted by Suzi Watne attached. Because of the variety of ethnic restaurants in Helena, Suzi suggests that the Thursday dinner for the MLA Conference be a "Taste around Helena" experience. Seven restaurants with a variety of foods would be pre-selected and have a local "guide". Conference goers would sign up at registration for the restaurant of choice. The SLMD Retreat is January 27, 2007 at Capital High from 9:00 - 3:00.

Standing Committees:

Awards Chair Suzanne Goodman: Written report attached. Lyn will contact Suzanne to see if she can stagger the new members terms so there will be some continuity on the committee. The Executive committee will approve the committee recommendations for the awards.

Bylaws Chair Lois Fitzpatrick: No report

Cates Scholarship Chair Mary Anne Hansen: Written report attached. Lyn reported that the fundraiser at MLA will be Book Trivia. Lyn will contact Nancy Pearl to see if she is willing to be auctioned off for dinner and to be a member of the highest bidder's team. Debbi reported that \$450 was donated through the dues renewal option.

Communications/Publications Chair Milla Cummins: Written report attached. Milla said that John Finn would be checking with webmasters Steve and Pam Henley to see how they would like to get updates for the website. Photos of board members were taken to be sent to Pam for the website. If you have a favorite and did not have your photo taken, please send it to Pam so she can post it. Milla said they are shooting for February to have direct email of the Focus to members. Only up-to-date current members of MLA would get the newsletter.

Government Affairs: Lyn reported on the Kitzenberg bill that has money to help with Public library construction. She also requests that we pay attention to Lois's emails and when she asks us to contact our legislators to please do so. If Lois needs help with testifying at committee hearings she will let us know. Honore suggest that public libraries check to see if they have a County Legislative Committee. If so, the public librarian can do some lobbying at work since the Committee can take on Public library concerns. Lyn commended Lois for the excellent job she is doing and requests that we provide her with any support she needs.

Lois Fitzpatrick and Darlene Staffeldt joined the Board meeting during the Membership report.

Membership Co-Chairs Gail Wilkerson and Carlene Engstrom: Written report attached. Gail and Carlene had 2 questions: 1) what design would be used? and 2) how would the pins be distributed? 1) The design chosen was the irregular/teal without text choice. 2) They will be distributed to all MLA members specifically in the registration packets at the conference in Helena. Extras will be available to purchase at the MLA Conference Bookstore for \$5.00 each. 750 pins at the "import" price will be ordered. Milla suggested that we post a thank you to OCLC at the registration table since they provided the original money for the pins. Gail asked for suggestions for distributing the membership brochures. Darlene suggested the Library Commission. Della suggested library directors. Lois suggested the career centers like CTI in Helena. Carlene will distribute some in the western part of the state. Lyn suggested each school librarian should have one and Suzi suggested that we include the para-professionals and support staff. Lyn will work with Gail on an insert for the brochure with information about the MLA Conference including CE units and the pre-conference *Boys to Books*. Thank you to Gail for pulling all the information together on the pins.

Government Affairs Chair Lois Fitzpatrick: Lois reported that Senator Hawkes was interested in the supporting the OCLC proposal with an amendment to the State Library budget. It will be offered at the most positive point in the bills progress. Two bills that she is following closely are: HB132 – State publications and HB133 Information Access Act. She spoke in opposition to HB49 dealing with having hand-outs approved by the Chair of committees, the President of the Senate or Speaker of the House. Censorship issues may arise later in the session, she will keep us apprised. So far the session is going great and Lois thanks everyone for their help. She will let us know when she needs us to make additional contacts with Legislators.

Intellectual Freedom Chair Karen Gonzales: Written report attached. Karen met Betsey Griffing the ACLU lawyer in Missoula who expressed an interest in the Lawyers for Libraries training. An Intellectual freedom workshop will be presented at the MLA Conference in Helena. The IF committee would like to make a special Award of Appreciation this year. Karen suggested paying for the plaque from the IF budget. Honore moved to give an Intellectual Freedom Award of Appreciation this year only at the 2007 MLA Conference if the IF committee pays for the award. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Chair Milla Cummins: Milla had hoped to have the nominations in place by January 1st but was unable to get enough candidates. We will be electing An ALA Counselor, a PNLA Rep, Director-at-Large East and Vice-President/ President elect. It was suggested that Milla contact the folks who have been sent to the leadership institutes.

Professional Development Chair Marje Doyle: Written report attached. Marje has four new members with staggered terms. She will recruit at the Division breakfast during the MLA Conference in April. Marje presented a written report (see attached) on the MLA grants for leadership institutes. Suzi Watne made a motion to approve the first report recommendation; to support the leadership institute through grants to MLA members who attend rather than to provide “seed” money to the Institutes and to have the Professional Development committee administer the fund. Norma asked if that meant no money would be sent to PNLA for “seed” money this year even though they are calling it something else. The answer was yes, no money will be sent. Milla said these kinds of ventures are designed to be self-supporting and if they can’t do that, they are failing ventures. They should not expect continual up-front money. Motion carried. Honore Bray made the motion to have the Professional Development Committee create guidelines and recommendations for awarding the funds to candidates for the institutes. These guidelines will be presented for approval by the Board at the April meeting. Motion carried.

Public Relations & Marketing Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson: Written report attached. The Librarian Calendar is underway with some photos being

taken at the Barrister Bed & Breakfast on January 9th and more scheduled on Jan 10th. Additional volunteers are needed to complete the pages. Milla will check on getting the new MLA Logo posted on the web so members can get it if they need it.

Interest Groups:

Interlibrary Loan Chair Mary Guthmiller: Written report attached.

Trustees Chair Carol Grover: Written report attached.

Task Forces:

Central Asia Institute Chair Norma Glock: The MLA account at the CAI has a balance of over \$17800 and several more fundraisers have money to deposit. Norma recommends that the task force wind up at the April meeting and then convert to an Interest Group if there is enough interest to keep it going.

Conference solutions Co-Chair Lyn McKinney and Milla Cummins: Lyn reported that due to difficulties with the conference site in Kalispell, they recommend that the conference in 2008 be moved to Great Falls. Milla made the motion that The 2008 MLA Conference location be moved from Kalispell to Great Falls for the dates of April 9-12, 2008. Motion carried. Lyn will bring a slate of proposed locations for the next five years to the April meeting for Board approval. Lyn reminded us to expect higher room rates for this year's conference since the room rates were not locked in several years ago as is the usual practice for our conferences. Please bring your 1997 Conference Site Criteria report to the April meeting for review. There was some discussion about using a paid Conference Planner versus volunteer planners. ALA in a nationwide poll found that volunteers were preferred. Milla and Lyn will bring recommendations to the April board meeting.

Unfinished Business:

License Plates: Lyn reported that Matt Beckstom has been very busy but is looking at having a contest to design the plate. Probably something more generic to do with reading as opposed to strictly library related. This would pull in people that were not specifically associated with libraries.

PayPal: Debbi Kramer has a new email address: mla_dkramer@mtlib.org. She only picks up the mail from Manhattan once a week so if you need to get something to her immediately use her home address:

169 West River Rock Road
Belgrade, MT 59714

We should be paying only the Belgrade bulk mailing fee, not the Missoula fee. Debbi said she will send the list of interest group members to the Chairs of those groups. Debbi investigated two electronic processing services, PayPal and Card Service International. After hearing the comparisons, Milla made a motion that

the MLA Board authorizes the Executive Committee to select a vendor for electronic processing services. This service should provide for online registration and credit card access for the MLA Bookstore. Motion carried.

Strategic Planning: Della will bring this to the August retreat. Honore will add it to that agenda.

Our next meeting is at 1:00 on Wednesday, April 25, 2007. we will meet at the Red Lion Colonial at the Helena MLA conference. We will not order lunch for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.