

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 25, 2007

Lyn McKinney called the April board meeting of the MLA Board of Directors to order at 1:08 at the 2007 MLA Conference held at the Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena. In attendance were: Lyn McKinney, Debbi Kramer, Honore Bray, Peggy Smith, Gail Wilkerson, Carlene Engstrom, Milla Cummins, Suzi Watne, Margy Kernan, Martha Thayer, Della Dubbe, Beth Boyson, Norma Glock, and Darlene Staffeldt. Guests attending: Lois Fitzpatrick, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Karen Gonzales, Marje Doyle, Carol Grover and Judy Hart.

Additions to the agenda: Elections was added to new business.

Approval of Minutes: Suzi Watne made a motion to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Submitted by Debbi Kramer, written report attached. Debbi has completed the Annual Report required by the State and the quarterly report. The credit card set up with Card Service International is working well. It will allow us to renew memberships online. Thank you to Lisa for creating the stationary for receipts.

Conference Planning Co-chairs Judy Hart and Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson: Written report attached. They reported that registration is up from last year with 402 registrants. Fifty-five sessions are scheduled with 60 speakers. There are 24 exhibitors and 11 non-profit exhibitors. Thanks to all the committee chairs for doing a great job. Debbi thanked the Registration and Exhibitor committee chairs for all their hard work and cooperation that made her job easier.

Government Affairs Chair Lois Fitzpatrick: Lois reported that it has been a difficult session with hearings ongoing. Darlene said that currently the Montana State Library budget has been restored to the Governor's level. The recommendations for the 2009 session include preparing for the following: 1) Library construction bill; 2) Purchasing OCLC through the Montana State Library; 3) Bills dealing with libraries and internet pornography and 4) Academic diversity bills. Lyn expressed our great appreciation for a difficult job well done. Lois thanked all the librarians for responding to her requests for assistance. The grassroots support and contacts make her the envy of all.

ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Officers:

President Lyn McKinney: Lyn reminded us that the new pin is in the plastic conference bag. She encouraged all to relax and enjoy the conference. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make the conference a success.

Vice-President Honore Bray: Honore reminded us of the summer board retreat. It will be held at the Camp on the Boulder July 30 – August 1, 2007. She and Lyn will be visiting the division breakfast meetings on Friday morning.

Secretary/Treasure Peggy Smith: no report

Past President Milla Cummins: Deferred to later.

Directors at large Carlene Engstrom and Gail Wilkerson: Deferred to Membership report.

Association Representatives

ALA Counselor Beth Boyson: Written report attached. Beth's term has ended so she will be going off the Board. She thanked the Association for the opportunity to participate. Lyn extended our appreciation for her willingness to serve and thanked her for ably representing Montana.

MPLA Representative Eileen Wright: Written report attached. MPLA president Wayne Hanway is attending the conference.

PNLA Representative Norma Glock: Written report attached. Norma's term has ended so she is also going off the Board. Lyn thanked her for her able representation and hard work on MLA's behalf. The Chair of the Young Reader's Choice Award Committee Barb Meisenheimer is attending the conference.

Divisions:

ASLD Chair Martha Thayer: Written report attached. Martha has a new slate of officers for next year.

PLD Chair Della Dubbe: Written report attached. Della will be recruiting at the Division breakfast for candidates for next year. She has submitted the ASL/PLD Fall retreat report.

SLMD Co-Chairs Suzi Watne and Margy Kernan: Written report attached. Suzi has recruited a slate of officers for the next year. Helena has many school librarians who are presenting at the conference. Debbi reports that there are a lot of new SLMD members this year.

Standing committees:

Awards Chair Suzanne Goodman: Written report attached. Suzanne reports that everything is ready for the Awards Luncheon. She is looking for a chair for

the committee for next year. Norma Glock has been named the Sheila Cates Librarian of the Year – Congratulations to Norma.

Bylaws Chair Lois Fitzpatrick: No report.

Cates Scholarship Chair Mary Anne Hansen: Written report attached. Mary Anne reports that many of the current member's terms are up so they will be going off the committee. Anyone interested in working on this committee can contact Mary Anne or Honore.

Communications/Publications Chair Milla Cummins: Written report attached. Milla complimented John Finn on the excellent job he is doing with Focus. She has several goals: Goal 1 - direct email of the Focus to members. Because Matt Beckstom owns the MLA domain he must implement this process. Milla will contact Matt to get this done. Goal 2 – Publish the officers and committee members in the Focus. She will try to get this done next fall. Goal 3 – Get the MLA handbooks up to date in both print form and on the web. They currently do not match. Milla will ask for help with this task if and when she needs it. There was some discussion about how information should be updated on the web page and who should do it. Lyn will invite John Finn, Steve McCann and Pam Henley to the August Board retreat to discuss this.

Nominating Committee Chair Milla Cummins: Written report attached – correction to the report, Terri Dood is the candidate for Vice President/President elect. Milla was able to recruit a full slate of candidates for next year. She found much reluctance on the part of people she contacted as they felt they could not do an adequate job if elected even though she assured them that it was a case of doing “the best you can”. Milla also has concerns about the structure of the nominating committee. It is comprised of the Past President and the current chairs of the 3 divisions who also are recruiting officers for their own divisions. Gail suggested that committee chairs would have more connections and provide a way for people to step up their involvement in MLA.

Past Presidents Committee Chair Milla Cummins: Written report attached. Milla is questioning the need for the committee. It was originally formed to serve as a resource for the 100th anniversary in 2002. Her recommendation is to dissolve the committee. Gail made a motion to dissolve the Past Presidents Committee. Motion carried.

The board took a 15 minute recess and reconvened at 2:45 without Lois Fitzpatrick.

John Finn was moved up on the agenda at this point as he had other commitments. He has been using Adobe PageMaker to publish the Focus and it is no longer being supported. He has investigated a new program called End Design Creative Suite, a \$1200 program that is available to non-profits for \$140. It requires 1 GB of RAM and he is currently running on ½ GB. Honore Bray made a motion to provide up to \$400 to John for the purchase of software and hardware

to update Focus and conference publications. Motion carried. Lyn thanked John before he left for his hard work and expertise in the publication of our newsletter. **Public Relations & Marketing Chair Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson:** Written report attached. Lisa gave us a preview of the new *Montana's Book Babes* calendar. They were created as a fundraiser with 500 ordered and 250 sales required to break even. It was a huge undertaking and Lyn expressed the board's appreciation for a job well done. Lisa left the meeting to take care of conference issues.

At this point, Honore brought to our attention a problem with the slate of candidates that Milla presented. Samantha Hines is the incoming ASLD Chair and is a candidate for PNLA Representative. Our bylaws prohibit a member from holding more than one voting position on the MLA Board of Directors. Milla and Norma will communicate the problem to Samantha and resolve the difficulty immediately. There was some discussion of the terms of both ALA and PNLA representatives. PNLA is a 2 year term. The new representative will be responsible for helping to plan the 100th anniversary conference in Missoula in 2009. The ALA Counselor is 3 years this time. It had been adjusted to stagger the terms of the board members.

Intellectual Freedom Chair Karen Gonzales: Written report attached. Karen reported that no one attended the Lawyers for Libraries training in Philadelphia this year. She is hoping to send someone when the training is held closer to Montana so she recommends leaving the money in the budget next year. Book challenges: in Billings - Grandpa Claus reviewed and recommended to retain, no appeal. Red Sky at Morning reviewed, recommended to retain and appealed. That committee is scheduled to meet soon. In Helena - Fool's Crow reviewed with hearing scheduled. Yoga video challenged and pending. Karen's term as chair is up but she will remain on the committee. Johanna Friesvold from Lockwood is at the conference and will receive the Intellectual Freedom award.

Membership Co-Chairs Gail Wilkerson and Carlene Engstrom: Written report attached. They will follow up on the overdue memberships. The new MLA pins are in the conference bags. OCLC paid half the cost of these and a sign thanking them is at the registration table. The board will be introduced at the New Members breakfast. A short program will encourage new members to get involved and a free membership will be given away along with other door prizes. Gail asked us to sit with someone we don't know. Gail's term is up and the board expressed their appreciation for her efforts to revitalize the old membership and recruit new members.

Professional Development Chair Marje Doyle: Written report attached. The application form for travel grants has been revised to remove the request for Social Security number as approved 2 years ago. Marje presented the revised guidelines for awarding leadership grants. The mentor program is not currently functioning but is seen as a worthwhile project. Martha suggested that "reverse

mentoring” should be a part of this as well so that new librarians with current technology skills would mentor “old” librarians who need help with technology. Norma mentioned the disparity between the two leadership institutes that we participate in; one is every year while the other is every 2 year. Norma made a motion to accept the proposed guidelines for Leadership Grant awardees. Motion carried.

Interest Groups

Children’s and YA Services Chair Ginny Cowan: Written report attached.

Public Library Directors Chair Jean Nielsen: Written report attached.

Trustees Chair Carol Groves: Written report attached. Carol requested that the \$200 budgeted and not used this year remain in the budget. 25 trustees have registered for the conference.

Report of the State Library, State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt: Written report attached.

Task Forces

Central Asia Institute Chair Norma Glock: Written report attached. Norma was very pleased to report that MLA has met its goal of \$20,000 to build a school. The MLA job#12 will remain open if anyone is interested in continuing to contribute to this project. She recommends that the task force be discontinued and an interest group be formed. She will report further when the location of the school is available.

Conference Solutions Co-Chairs Lyn McKinney and Milla Cummins: Next year the conference is in Great Falls April 9-12, 2008. It will be at the Heritage Inn with Kathy Mora and Sheila Bonard as Conference Co-chairs. Lyn has asked people at the proposed cities to investigate potential locations. The concern is getting locked into an existing facility when there is so much new construction going on. She recommends planning 3 years out. The proposed schedule is 2008-Great Falls, 2009-Kalispell, 2010-Bozeman and 2011-Billings. They will have a report at the Board retreat in August. Milla presented a survey of State Library Association Conferences showing the use of volunteers and professional planners. It was suggested that the Executive Director could assume the conference planning as part of that position. Debbi said that she is very involved in the registration process already since membership status must be verified for each person. She will bring a recommendation to the Board at the August retreat. Both thought that registration for the retreats could continue to go to the retreat planners since they are smaller meetings and not dependant on membership to determine cost. Lyn suggested that the chair of the MLA store should serve a 3

year term so there is some continuity and that the Association should have a credit card to simplify many of the Association transactions.

Unfinished Business

Legislative agenda: Darlene said that we will again take our proposals to the Governor for inclusion in his budget and if that is not successful the Association will take the requests to the legislature.

Terms for MPLA and PNLA: Milla remarked that since Eileen was not able to attend the meeting we should wait and consult with her on what changes are possible. Darlene said that when she was MPLA Representative this same issue arose and they were unwilling to make any changes at that time. Norma felt that 3 year terms for all our representatives would make it easy to stagger the terms on the board. This will be an agenda item at the August Board retreat.

License Plates: Matt Beckstrom suggested this fund raiser 2 years ago and is still interested in doing the paperwork to make it happen. He would like some help in developing a contest to solicit designs for the plate. A set of criteria and team of judges need to be in place. Lyn, Matt and Lisa will develop a proposal to present at the August Board meeting.

Credit Card Service: Debbi said that our bank, Big Sky Western Bank in Bozeman does not charge for payments coming in from credit cards since we are a non-profit. She will check into corporate sponsorships. The Association can get a card from our bank. This would make many purchases much simpler for both Debbi and members who need to purchase plane tickets, etc. Beth made a motion to get a credit card for Montana Library Association. Motion carried. There was some discussion of the importance of keeping Debbi in the loop when purchases are made for MLA. She should have a copy of the order or at least an email indicating that she can expect an invoice that will need to be paid. She will work on a procedure for using the credit card and making purchases to present to the Board at the August meeting.

New Business

Membership card: Debbi will work on creating a membership form that can be emailed or mailed to members when dues are paid. She will present this at the August Board meeting.

Norma said she was very honored to receive the Sheila Cates award and expressed some concern about the Life-time Membership Award. She suggested a pin or some form of recognition to librarians who had been members for 20+ years; that is, a longevity award. PNLA has a "President's Award" for exceptional service that may be awarded, but not necessarily every year. Margy left at 4:15. Milla reminded us the Montana State Library will create certificates of recognition for years of service. The Public library director has only to write to

Darlene to request it. Darlene said that historically the Life-Time Membership Award is not presented every year. Criteria for both the Sheila Cates Award and the Life-Time award need to be evaluated. Gail made a motion to have the Awards Committee re-address the criteria for the Honorary Life Membership Award to establish criteria that reflect contributions to MLA and Montana libraries. It will be presented at the August Board meeting. After some discussion Gail amended the motion to include revisiting the criteria for the Sheila Cates Award as well. Motion carried. Beth and Norma will work with the Awards committee on this.

Lyn reminded the outgoing Board members to send their handbooks to pass off to the new members at the August Board retreat.

Elections: Suzi asked about procedures for the elections. Debbi does the mailing and the ballots are returned to the Division chair. There was some question of procedure if the election is uncontested. Lois returned to the meeting at this point and explained the process. The slate of nominees is presented; the chair asks for nominations from the floor; chair entertains a motion to close nominations and elect by acclamation.

Lyn confirmed that the Vice-Chair and Chair of Divisions could attend the August retreat so there would be some continuity.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50.