

Montana Library Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Conference Call January 8, 2008

President Honore Bray called the meeting to order at 1:04. Present were Honore Bray, Peggy Smith, Lyn McKinney, Mary Lou Mires, Samantha Hines, Kathy Mora, Lois Fitzpatrick, Gail Nagle, Lauren McMullen, Judy Hart, Sheila Bonnard, Marge Doyle, Karen Gonzales, Carlene Engstrom, Della Dubbe, Norma Glock and Debbi Kramer.

Board Protocol: Lois reviewed procedure for conference call meetings. She reiterated that Board members are voted representatives of the association and have an obligation to attend board meetings to carry out that charge. She also recommended that we institute a consensus agenda to expedite our meetings. Non-controversial issues such as our reports would be distributed prior to the meeting. If there is a question about something in one of the reports it can be pulled out for discussion. If there is no question, the rest of the consensus agenda is moved for acceptance. Only Board members can make motions and vote so a quorum is very important. If Board members do not attend meetings, our By-Laws require their removal from office. Standing Committee chairs may send a report if they are not able to attend.

Lois signed off at 1:15 as she was driving in a snowstorm.

Additions to the minutes: Kathy Mora asked for consideration of waiving conference fees for Conference planning Chairs. It was added under Conference Planning.

Approval of the Minutes: Lyn McKinney moved to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Report attached. Debbi is having trouble getting access to the Ameriprise MLA money market account. They do not acknowledge her authority as Executive Director to have access to the MLA account. At the last Executive Board meeting, she was specifically given authority over all MLA accounts so Peggy will follow up with them to clarify the situation. Debbi will send Lyn the OCLC bills that MLA has been getting. Lyn will check with OCLC to see why they are being sent to MLA. Debbi borrowed \$5000 from the Cates DA Davidson account to cover the incoming bills and will repay that account including interest that would have accrued as soon as possible. MLA is experiencing a cash flow problem due in part to the change made in the way dues are paid. Since they are not due at a specific time, there is no longer in influx of money in the summer; it is spread out over the year. This problem has been discussed before and will be brought to the membership meeting. Karen will be reimbursed for ALA conference expenses as soon as possible. Debbi will check with the Cates Committee to see if money is being awarded and when. She will access the Ameriprise account to solve the cash flow problem. Peggy moved to accept the Financial Report. Motion carried

Association Reports:

Officers:

President Honore Bray: no report

Vice President Della Dubbe: Report attached. The 2009 MLA conference is scheduled for April 22-25 in Kalispell. Bozeman is 2010 and 2011 is tentatively set for Billings. Lyn asked about the joint conference with MPLA and Della will check on that. The August Board Retreat is set for Boulder Hot Springs August 4-6, 2008. Della will send out more information in June with a July 18 deadline. Della suggested that we highlight various Board reports in the Focus and on Wired to give all members and idea of what is happening in the association and encourage participation.

Secretary/Treasurer Peggy Smith: Peggy suggested the minutes with all attached reports could be posted to Wired for those who were interested. Since that could bog down some email accounts, it was decided that the minutes and reports would be sent to Steve McCann or Pam Henley for posting on the web page and then Peggy will send a note to Wired with the link for anyone who is interested.

Past President Lyn McKinney: Report attached. John Finn will post the results of the Focus Survey. The Web Page templates for each group were created by Steve McCann, Pam Henley and Matt McCann during their December work session at Fairmont. A training session will be added to the agenda for the April Board Meeting. Online tutorials will also be available. It is important to have a member of each group be responsible for updating their own webpage. It doesn't necessarily have to be the Chair; someone else may be designated. Lyn is working on getting nominations for the open positions on the Board. She expects to have 2 candidates for each position by next week to present to the Executive Board for approval. Open positions are: Vice president, Secretary/Treasurer, Director-at-large West and MPLA Representative. The bookstore is working on getting ready for conference. Patricia Spencer is Chair of that Standing committee.

The Awards Criteria Taskforce was moved up on the agenda so Norma could leave.

Awards Criteria Review- Norma Glock: Report attached. Consensus of the members was to leave things as they stand with the understanding that all categories may not be awarded every year. The committee may feel that candidates do not meet all requirements so will not make the award. A virtual "Hall of Fame" on the MLA webpage would be a nice way to recognize all the past winners. Some kind of recognition for "longevity" is recommended. Their job completed, the taskforce was dissolved.

Central Asia Institute: Report attached. MLA's Account #12 is still open with the CAI and has over \$2000 above the cost of the school. The interest group will meet at the April conference to determine how to spend the additional money.

Norma Glock left the meeting at 2:18

Directors-at-large Carlene Engstrom and Gayle Nagle: Report attached. A current membership list has been posted on the webpage. They will continue to promote membership as the conference approaches.

Executive Directory Debbi Kramer: Information has gone out to conference exhibitors. If others are interested please let Debbi know and she will send them the information. She was approached by a company that does conference site selection and arrangements. We have a conference taskforce that will be making recommendations so until that happens the Board is not interested.

Association Representatives:

ALA Counselor Karen Gonzales: Report attached.

MPLA Representative Eileen Wright: Report attached.

PNLA Representative Mary Lou Mires: She will be attending the February board meeting. Confusion has been cleared up about who pays for attendance at the board meetings: MLA pays for the first and PNLA pays for the second. The annual conference is August 6-9 in Post Falls, ID. Samantha is working on this conference.

Divisions:

ASLD Chair Samantha Hines: Report attached.

PLD Chair Judy Hart: Report attached. Judy will be contacting PLD members to see if there is interest in a separate PLD listserv. Debbi will provide her with a list of PLD members.

Standing Committees:

Awards Chair Cindy Patterson: Report attached.

Cates Chair Diane Van Gordon: Report attached. In answer to her questions, a post to Wired to recruit members is entirely appropriate and Debbi confirms that Cates has 2 tables for the raffle.

Communications Chair Lyn McKinney: see Past Presidents report

Conference Planning Co-Chairs Sheila Bonnand and Kathy Mora: Report attached. Information on registration will be sent to the Webmasters to be posted as soon as possible since the early registration deadline is February 22, 2008. Gale has donated 450 nice canvas bags and OCLC has donated \$500 for one of the breaks. Arrangements have been made to videotape Stephen Abram for the Shared Catalog group and it will be posted to the web. Kathy asked about waiving the \$85 registration fee for the Co-Chairs. Judy Hart moved to waive conference registration fees for Conference Co-Chairs. Lyn read the 1994 Service to the Association policy that explicitly states, "dues or fees will not be waived for any member of the Association as compensation for services provided." Honore said that in 2002 the Board a similar discussion and since all committee chairs do a lot of work for conference so it is difficult to waive fees for some and not others. Della suggested that this should be investigated by the Conference Solutions Taskforce. Kathy asked to withdraw her request. Motion failed.

Government Affairs Chair Lois Fitzpatrick: no report.

Intellectual Freedom Chair Lauren McMullen: Report attached. Karen moved to adopt the ALA Resolution on the Use and Abuse of National Security Letters (attached). Motion carried. The Exhibitor Guidelines Taskforce is dissolved.

Lauren McMullen and Sheila Bonnand left the meeting

Honore expressed her appreciation to Samantha for doing all the work to organize and carry out the conference call.

Marketing & Public Relations Chair Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson: Report attached.

Professional Development Chair Marje Doyle: Report attached. Pam Henley has been awarded an \$800 grant to attend the Computers in Libraries conference in April.

Interest Groups:

American Indian Chair Carlene Engstrom: No report.

Book club Chair Beth Boyson: No report.

Children & Young Adult Services Chair Linda Blomquist: No report.

Health Services Chair Laurel Eagan: No report.

Interlibrary Loan Chair David Ketchum: No report.

Paraprofessionals Chair Carolyn Kamrud: No report.

Public Library Directors Chair Jean Nielsen: No report.

Technical Services Co-Chair Lois Disley and Joan Bishop: No report.

Trustees Co-Chairs Carol Grover and Joan Bishop: No report.

State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt: No report.

Taskforces:

MLA Handbook Update - Debbi Kramer & Honore Bray: Honore has gotten updates back from PNLA, Professional development, MLA Awards, Vice President, Conference planning, ASLD, Sec/Treas, and ALA. All others need to get their updates to her as soon as possible. If Chairs do not have the old handbook information, they may get the files from either Debbi or Peggy. Debbi will send Peggy the files required to update the Association History in the handbook.

Conference Planning Chair Bruce Newell: No report.

Jim Semmelroth joined the conference call at 3:05.

Offline Chair Jim Semmelroth: Report attached. So far, 50 people have signed up for the conference; two are from Idaho. The format will differ this year. Sessions will be held in two different buildings. Problems with online registration have been resolved. If more than one person is using the same credit card to register, they must put everyone's registration in the shopping cart and then enter the credit card information. Debbi will get this information out on Wired and put it on the webpage.

Unfinished Business:

License plates – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson: see the Marketing report.

Webpage – Lyn McKinney: see the Past President report.

New Business:

Website for vendor's products – Sarah McHugh: Lyn moved to make available a link off the MLA website for vendor products and trials. Vendors are being directed to Sarah McHugh if they have something that is of interest to Montana Librarians. She does not feel comfortable sending this information on to Wired as it may have the appearance that the State Library is endorsing the products and wondered if MLA might provide a place on the MLA webpage that would make the information available to those who may be interested in free trials, etc. Newsbank is one of the vendors and has a free trial for Montana libraries. It would make available products that libraries may wish to recommend for statewide purchase or that a group may wish to purchase after preview. The State Library can't appear to promote vendor products so they cannot host the site. Impact on our non-profit status needs to be investigated. Motion failed. Sarah has agreed to Chair a taskforce to investigate this. Mary Lou has agreed to serve on the taskforce. Sarah will post to Wired to see who else is interested in serving on the taskforce.

Other new business: Karen asked about the Freedom to Read Foundation fees. Debbi assured her that the membership dues have been paid.

Our next meeting is Wednesday April 9, 2008 at The MLA Conference held at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls. The post-conference meeting will be Saturday April 12, 2008 at the Heritage Inn. Please bring MLA Handbooks so they may be updated and be ready to pass on at the August Board Retreat.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:25.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Smith