

Montana Library Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls
April 9, 2008

President Honore Bray called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm. Voting Board members present: Honore Bray, Peggy Smith, Lyn McKinney Mary Lou Mires, Gail Nagle, Karen Gonzales, Carlene Engstrom, Judy Hart, Marge Doyle and Anita Scheetz (proxy for Samantha Hines, ASLD Chair). MLA Council members present: Marje Doyle, Kathy Mora and Sheila Bonnard, State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt and Executive Director Debbi Kramer. Guests present: Bruce Newell and Steve McCann.

Additions to the agenda: Legislative day

Approval of the minutes: The January 8, 2008 minutes were amended as follows: voting Board members present: Honore Bray, Peggy Smith, Della Dubbe, Lyn McKinney Mary Lou Mires, Samantha Hines, Gail Nagle, Judy Hart, Karen Gonzales and Carlene Engstrom. MLA Council members present: Kathy Mora, Lois Fitzpatrick, Lauren McMullen, Sheila Bonnard, Marje Doyle, Norma Glock and Executive Director Debbi Kramer. Guest Sarah McHugh joined the meeting at 1:20. SLMD had no report. Lyn McKinney moved to accept the minutes of the January 2008 Board meeting as amended. Motion carried.

Financial report: Total operating budget for MLA is \$103,868.00. As of March 31, 2008 the Cates Scholarship fund balance is \$33,325.92; the Ameriprise Fund balance is \$35,173.35; the Reserve fund is \$10,890.00 and the checking account balance is \$37,162.53. Difficulties with multiple registrations online are being worked out and hopefully that will be resolved soon. Mary Lou Mires moved to accept the financial report FY 2008 YTD. Motion carried. Report attached.

Legislative Days: Lois Fitzpatrick is not able to attend ALA Legislative Day May 12-15, 2008 in Washington D.C. Darlene, Honore and Nora Smith are attending and Darlene would like to have another representative from MLA go if possible.

Eileen Wright joined us at 1:15 and Della Dubbe joined us at 1:32.

Lyn moved to send someone in Lois's place to ALA Legislative Days May 12-15, 2008 in Washington D.C. Darlene explained that the actual days are May 13-14 but travel time may vary. Motion carried.

Association Reports

Officers:

Vice-President Della Dubbe: Conference Planning Co-Chairs for the 2009 Kalispell conference April 22-25 are Kim Crowley, Lynn Kelly and John York. It will be held at

the Hilton Garden Inn. The Board retreat is August 4-6, 2008 at Boulder Hot Springs. She would like the Board members and the Council to contribute to the Focus on a rotating basis. These “highlights” would give the membership an opportunity to see who is serving, what their responsibilities are and how much fun it is. This will go on the August agenda. Report attached.

Secretary/Treasurer Peggy Smith: Point of clarification; when minutes have been approved they may be posted to the web page. Peggy will work with Debbi to make sure that appropriate information is delivered to the Montana Historical Society.

Past President Lyn McKinney: Candidates for the upcoming election are: Eva English, Vice President/ President Elect; Dee Ann Redman, Secretary; Pam Henley, MPLA Representative; Jennie Burroughs, Representative at large – West. The consent agenda will go to the August meeting as well. John Finn is very happy with the new software that he uses to publish the Focus and sends his thanks to the Board for allowing him to purchase it. Report attached.

Lauren McMullen joined us at 1:45.

MLA Website - Steve McCann: The group looking at updating the MLA Web page wanted to provide something more interactive than the one we have now. They chose Drupal, an open source management program. With this product the content and navigation are on separate tracks and this allows content to be changed with a login. There are three types of users: 1. Reader – allowed to read only; 2. Officer – allows for content editing; and 3. Webmaster – allows for total access. There is some search capability built in. Pam Henley and Steve McCann are stepping down as webmasters. Stacy Bruhn, Debbi Kramer, Charlie Potter and Steph Johnson (back up) have volunteered to replace them. The web page will be up and running by the August retreat where Steve will do training on maintenance of the individual pages. Each Division and committee chair will be responsible for naming someone to maintain their page. The Communication Committee will set guidelines for the information that should appear.

Directors-at-large Carlene Engstrom & Gale Nagle: 75 people signed up for the New Members Breakfast at conference. Door prizes and good food are promised. Report attached.

Association Representatives

ALA Councilor Karen Gonzales: Karen thanked MLA for giving her the opportunity to participate in ALA. She attended ALA Mid-Winter in Philadelphia. It was clarified that Debbi will provide the MLA debit card when purchasing airline tickets months ahead to get a good price so our representatives are not carrying the balance on their own credit cards. Report attached.

MPLA Representative Eileen Wright: Eileen thanked MLA for the opportunity to represent the association. She has been elected the Vice-President/President elect of

MPLA. The MPLA conference is April 29-May 2, 2008 in Salt Lake. The Ghost Ranch leadership retreat is not being offered this year due to lack of corporate sponsorship. In addition, Mary Bushing who has been the retreat coordinator has resigned this year. Report attached.

PNLA Representative Mary Lou Mires: The 2008 conference is in Post Falls, Idaho August 5-9. The 2009 conference is the 100th anniversary and will be in Missoula. Jane Howell has been nominated and selected as a LEADS Institute Mentor. Mary Lou requested that MLA provide some support for her participation. Mary Lou moved that the MLA Board support the LEADS Mentor training by allocating \$500 for mentor support. Motion carried. Report attached.

Divisions:

ASLD: Anita Scheetz, incoming chair sat in for Samantha Hines who was unable to attend. They will be electing their new slate of officers at the Division meeting. Report attached.

PLD Chair Judy Hart: The ASLD/PLD retreat is scheduled for Chico October 14-15, 2008. Incoming Chair is Liz Babbitt. Report attached.

SLMD: Jodi Teeples has stepped down as Chair. Honore reiterated the importance of being able to attend MLA Board meetings so that the membership has representation. Teresa Marchant, SLMD Vice-Chair/Chair elect reported. There is now a listserv available for school librarians created with the help of Colet Bartow from OPI. The 2008 MEA conference is in Missoula in October. Plans are underway for a winter/spring SLMD retreat. Report attached.

The Board recessed at 1:23 and reconvened at 1:32.

Standing Committees:

Awards Chair Cindy Patterson: The Awards committee used a wiki to communicate and felt it was much better than Email. Award recipients are: Sheila Cates Librarian of the Year, Sue Jackson, MSL; Special Friend to libraries, Mark Sherouse, Humanities MT and Ted Almgren, Darby Community Public Library; Trustee of the Year, Lloyd Mickelson, Parmly Billings Library; Honorary Life Membership, Andrine Haas, Jane Carey Memorial Library; Pat Williams Intellectual Freedom Award, Diane Thompson, Jefferson HS, Boulder, MT. Report attached.

Book Store - Lyn McKinney: Merchandise from ALA and books by the conference speakers were ordered for sale at the conference. They will have a plan to present at the August retreat for next year.

Bylaws Chair Lois Fitzpatrick: no report. Lois was unable to attend due to health. We are all wishing her a speedy recovery.

Cates Chair Diane Van Gorden: Diane will have a formal report after the conference fundraiser. She will not be able to serve as Chair next year due to commitments at her school. The Cates Scholarship is awarded every other year so there is no award in 2008.

Communications Chair Lyn McKinney: see the Past President's report.

Nominating Chair Lyn McKinney: Although each office has only one candidate, an election must take place with the allowance for a write-in candidate. Debbi Kramer will send out the ballots. See Past Presidents report.

Conference Planning Co-Chairs Sheila Bonnard & Kathy Mora: There are 290 registrations and some cancellations of workshops. Fifteen vendors were turned down for lack of exhibit space. The hotel has been great to work with. The keynote speakers who were brought in with the help of the ACLU will be traveling to Billings for a presentation on Saturday. The ACLU will be filming their presentation and workshop for a presentation at their National meeting.

Government Affairs: Darlene presented a proposed legislative agenda. These items were in the formal letter that was reviewed for the Governor's budget and turned down. They are: 1. Money to pay one half of the OCLC costs for the state; 2. Money for public library construction; 3. Money for Trustee training (LSTA money can no longer be used for this). If there are other items that should be considered please contact Lois.

Intellectual Freedom Chair Lauren McMullen: Members continue to post to the IFC blog and add resources to the wiki. They are presenting a panel discussion at conference on surviving a book challenge. Helena has a challenge to a WWII book in the elementary. Report attached.

Marketing & Public Relations Chair Lisa Mecklenberg: The license plates are on display at the MLA table and voting will take place during the conference (with a freebie for doing so). Calendars are still available at a reduced price. A PR Hints blog has been created thanks to Heidi Sue Adams and Suzanne Reimer. It has past PR hints and will be added to with new ideas. Report attached.

Membership Co-Chairs Carlene Engstrom & Gale Nagle: see Members-at-Large report.

Professional Development Chair Marje Doyle: The fall round of grants awarded \$800 to Roberta Gebhardt to attend OLAC (Online AV Catalogers). All travel grants were awarded. There was some confusion because the online application form had a different deadline. The webmasters have been asked to update the website. Report attached.

Interest Groups

American Indian Chair Carlene Engstrom: They will be meeting for only the second time on Thursday.

Book Club Chair Beth Boyson: No report.

Central Asia Institute: Lyn reported that Norma is looking for a new chair. There is some question about continuing with fundraising. This will go to the August retreat agenda.

Children & Youth Services Chair Linda Blomquist: Cindy Patterson will be attending the meeting for the Public Library summer reading program. Cindy was instrumental in getting an MLA representative to go but had never attended herself so was chosen to go as Linda is not able to go.

Health Sciences: Mary Lou invited anyone interested to attend their meeting for a presentation on Disaster Emergency Preparedness.

Interlibrary Loan: no report

Offline Chair Jim Semmelroth: The Hearst Free Public Library in Anaconda will be hosting Offline 2009. Report attached.

Paraprofessional: No report.

Public Library Directors: No report.

Technical Services: No report.

Trustees: No report.

Executive Director Debbi Kramer: The OCLC bill has been resolved. MLA has an account with OCLC with \$4000 in it to pay for QuestionPoint software for member libraries. This money was contributed by the libraries participating in the project. Because it hadn't been used for some time the account went dormant. When the bill came due, instead of being paid from the money in the account it was sent to MLA. Since all libraries are now billed individually, Debbi will work with Betsy Harper-Garlish, Barb Conger (OCLC) and Tracey Cook to decide what to do with the money on account with OCLC. Registration worked very well; Debbi got them first to check for current membership, then she scanned and sent them to registration. The new equipment has been great. Debbi has a new computer with Tech Soup and Microsoft Office Suite, a fax and copier which have greatly helped in doing her work. Please let Debbi know if you purchase something for the organization so that she will know to pay the bill when it arrives. She has a form that you can fill out to make it easier to track the bills.

State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt: MSL provided small scholarships to help 3 new library directors and 3 new trustees attend the MLA Conference. The State Library commissioners will be available in a Saturday morning session to discuss library issues. Darlene invited everyone to attend the Commission meeting Saturday afternoon at Carroll College. Public members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor. There are currently two openings and you may sign up on the government website. It is a

three year term. Responsibilities include a meeting every other month, coming prepared to the meetings, attending the MLA Conference, attending two or three Federation meetings a year and being available during the legislative session. Travel expenses and a per diem are paid. Report attached.

Taskforces:

MLA Handbook: The handbooks are done. All red notebooks should be turned in to Debbi for the updates. The history has not been updated yet. Materials need to be placed at the Montana Historical Society.

Conference Planning – Bruce Newell: Bruce presented a very complete report from the taskforce. The recommendations are: 1. Speak to the membership very frankly about the difficulty of managing local arrangements and keeping their day jobs; 2. Continue with the current conference model while experimenting with other options; 3. Secure a single multi-year venue; 4. Hire a professional conference planner; 5. Pay for the additional expenses by increasing registration and exhibit fees. A planner would cost an estimated \$10,000 to \$15,000. Conference requirements from the 1997 report need to be updated with an eye to technical assistance on site and more room for vendors.

Lauren left at 3:40

There is some question about the number of venues that can accommodate our conference requirements. Big Sky and Billings are the obvious possibilities.

Della suggested that because of geography we may want to consider smaller retreats one year and a big conference every other year. Honore said that the conference is expected to fund our annual budget. Lyn moved to accept the report from the Conference Planning Task Force and request Bruce Newell to report at the membership meeting Friday morning.

Carol Groves joined us at 3:45

The proposed sites for the conference for the next four years: Kalispell 2009, Bozeman 2010, Billings 2011, and Missoula 2012. This will be revisited on Saturday after the membership has had an opportunity to hear the report. Motion carried. Report attached.

Vendor information link: Sarah was not available to report. Mary Lou is in contact with Lois to consider the legality of putting links on the MLA site.

Bruce left at 4:15

Unfinished business:

Retired Librarians – Mary Bushing: Mary was unable to attend but submitted a report with some suggestions and recommendations for keeping retired librarians active in the organization. Report attached.

Postage costs – Debbi Kramer: It costs \$145 to mail the Focus out. 98 copies are printed at the cost of \$81 per issue. It is not possible to individually email each member a

copy because of the size of the file. An email notice can be sent to each member when it becomes available. Pins not picked up at conference will be sent out in May and June.

Dues/cash flow problem – Honore Bray: Having the dues spread out over the year has created a cash flow problem for the Association. Della moved that we go back to membership renewals being due July 1 of every year. While some members like the 12 month from date of payment cycle, others liked having a set date when they were due. Motion carried.

Kathy left at 4:28.

Consent Agenda: moved to the August retreat.

New Business:

Awards committee: Della moved that the Awards Committee should select only one recipient for each award presented at the annual conference. Motion carried.

Alcohol purchase for conference: Jennie requested that MLA purchase the drinks for their conference since as a state agency they can not purchase alcohol. If we bill them for “catering services” they can pay for that. Put off until Saturday.

Emerging Leader sponsorship – Karen Gonzales: Karen asked that MLA consider supporting another ALA Emerging Leader candidate. Although initially it was only a one year the program, because of its success last year it has been continued. Karen moved to give \$1000 to sponsor the 2009 Emerging Leader program of ALA. Last year MLA used \$500 from the ALA Councilors budget and \$500 from the Executive Director’s budget to sponsor our candidate for 2008. Much discussion centered on the Association cash flow difficulties. We are currently supporting the MPLA and PNLA leadership retreats and adding another could present difficulties. Motion failed. We can look at this again for the 2010 program.

Board adjourned at 5:00.