

Montana Library Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls
April 12, 2008

President Honore Bray called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Voting Board members present: Honore Bray, Della Dubbe, Peggy Smith, Lyn McKinney, Mary Lou Mires, Liz Babbitt, Karen Gonzales and Teresa Marchant. MLA Council members present: Jean Nielsen, Marje Doyle, Kathy Mora, Kim Crowley, Cindy Pattersen and Executive Director Debbi Kramer. Guests present: Johanna Freivalds and Eva English.

Honore expressed our thanks for a wonderful conference. The workshops were great and the speakers were inspirational. MLA partnered with the Montana Shared Catalog to bring in Stephen Abrams and the ACLU to bring in Peter Chase and George Christian which made those costs very reasonable.

New Business:

Legislative agenda: Lyn moved to accept the legislative agenda as presented. This includes: \$300,000 to help pay OCLC costs, money for Public library construction, money for Trustee training, support for the State Library budget, support as appropriate and as requested for School library and Academic library budgets, and support for intellectual freedom issues including watching for and helping to defeat inappropriate censorship/filtering legislation. Motion carried.

Conference planning taskforce:

Gail and Carlene joined us at 1:44

Lyn moved that MLA hire a conference planner to help with the annual conference. There were many concerns and suggestions expressed including: a sliding scale for registration based on distance from the conference, ASLD/PLD retreat should move around the state if a single site is chosen for MLA conference, it takes over 400 hrs per person to plan the conference now, the conference planner should investigate all site possibilities, Bozeman was preferred by some to Big Sky, travel grants could be based on distance from the conference (less if close, more if far), and if a single site is chosen it should not be for more than 3 years so MLA can re-evaluate this decision. Content would remain the responsibility of the Association. We need to be very clear on what the responsibilities of a conference planner would be. Honore would add to the current taskforce and give them the charge to meet with a planner to investigate the job, write a job description, advertise the position and hire by June 30, 2008. They would not be planning the Kalispell conference but could hopefully observe and see what our expectations would be. The cost of the planner for 2010 would be covered by raising conference fees in 2009. Conference planners are usually paid in one of three ways: 1. the planner is free because the hotels pay them a commission for the booking; 2. they are paid a percentage of the conference; 3. a flat fee. Motion carried. Honore added Kathy

Mora, Liz Babbitt, Lyn McKinney and Kim Crowley to the existing taskforce. They will meet in Helena in May.

MLA Handbook – Debbi Kramer: The red MLA handbooks were collected. They will be updated and handed out at the August retreat.

Committee Chairs and Interest Groups: Mary Lou moved to certify the Interest Groups. They are as follows: American Indian, Co-Chairs Teresa Gilham and Carlene Engstrom; Book Club, Chair Beth Boyson; Central Asia Institute, Co-Chairs Nancy Veneble and Norma Glock; Children's and Young Adult Services, Chair Linda Blomquist; Health Science, Chair Laurel Egan; Offline, Chair John Finn; Public Library Directors, Chair Jean Nielsen; Technical Services, Co-Chairs Darlene Hert and Lois Dissly. Motion carried. No ILL, Paraprofessional or Trustee group certified. Trustees expect to be certified in August. The new Division chairs are ASLD Chair Anita Scheetz, PLD Chair Liz Babbitt, and SLMD Chair Teresa Marchant.

Conference Final report – Kathy Mora: 300 people were registered for the conference. With the exception of some internet problems it went fairly smoothly. The hotel staff was universally pleasant to work with and they in turn said that it was a pleasure to work with all the librarians. The food was excellent. Honore gave high praise to Kathy and Sheila for all their work to make this a great conference.

Budget request forms: Please have all budget request forms to Debbi by June 15 so the budget committee can have a proposed budget for the August retreat. Please let Debbi know when you make a purchase for the committee. If you need a Claim Form contact her and she can email it to you. Her FAX number is 406-388-0208.

Other:

Debbi was directed to send a \$500 check to Mary Drew Powers for the PEEL scholarship.

Lyn moved that the Professional Development committee develop guidelines for scholarship help given to members attending the leadership institutes of ALA, PNLA and MPLA by the August retreat. The Board would like to have a report from those who attend; they would also like to have a list of all attendees. The intent of the Board is that the recipients will give back to the organization in some way. The ALA Emerging Leader program will be considered for the budget in 2010. Funding need not be for the full amount required. Some support should be expected from the candidate's institution. Motion carried.

Mary Lou Mires announced that Diane Thompson won the free PNLA membership. The Board meetings next year include the Board retreat August 4-6, the October meeting in Livingston following the ASLD/PLD retreat, a meeting in January at the time of the Legislative Day in Helena and the two at the annual conference in April. Lyn reminded us that a proxy may be designated to attend so that each Division is represented. Offline is February 20 & 21, 2009 at the Hearst Free Library in Anaconda. John Finn is conducting a survey to decide on content, food has been arranged, and rooms will be available at Fairmont.

The Communications committee will be addressing the guidelines for information to be posted on each individual web page. Many thanks to Steve, Pam and Matt for the hard work that has gone into getting a new web page developed. Our new webmasters are Stacy Bruhn, Debbi Kramer, Charlie Potter and Steph Johnson (back up).

Many thanks from the MLA Board to Honore for a job well done.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Smith