

Minutes
MLA Board Meeting
January 18, 2011
Grizzly Room / Montana State Library
Helena, Montana

Call to Order

Sami Pierson called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Introductions

Present: President Sami Pierson, Vice President Kim Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Daviau, Director-at-Large East Bridgett Johnson, Director-at-Large West Marje Doyle, State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt, Government Affairs Chair and Bylaws Chair Judy Hart, Executive Assistant Debbi Kramer, MPLA Representative Pam Henley, ASLD Chair Anne Kish, Cates Committee Co-Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, PDC Chair Mary Drew Powers via Skype

Changes to Agenda

- No changes

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the October 18, 2010 Board Meeting

Marje Doyle moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2010 meeting of the Board. Motion carried.

Financial Report

FY 2011 YTD Report

Debbi Kramer said that MLA has received approximately \$3,000 from conference vendors so far, \$1,575 in donations for the legislative reception, and \$13,973.63 in membership dues. MLA has made one payment to the lobbyists, with the next due at the end of January. Debbi said money has starting coming in for the April conference. She said MLA is in good standing this year as it is still operating with funds from last year's conference and membership.

Association Reports

Officers

President – Sami Pierson

Sami reported that all speakers have been organized for MLA Annual Conference. Entertainment and receptions have also been set and early registration is open. Sami thanked Johanna Freivalds for her wonderful efforts.

Vice-President – Kim Crowley

Secretary/Treasurer – Sarah Daviau

Past President – Eva English

Because Eva could not attend the meeting due to poor weather, Sami asked for help with nominations for Board positions that are up for election in April. Marje Doyle said all nominations are due by February 1.

Directors-at-Large – Bridgett Johnson and Marjorie Doyle

Marje asked for help finding baskets for the New Member Breakfast. She also asked that any committee chairs include committee members' names on their reports to make it easier to verify that all committee members are also members of MLA.

Executive Assistant – Debbie Kramer

Debbi said the state annual report has been filed and accepted. She has visited with Mark and Janel Trowbridge and everything for the conference is going well. Debbi said she has noticed some discrepancies with the information the MLA website. For example, some dates are inaccurate and no secretary is listed for PLD. Debbi said she will contact Stacy and ask that updates be made.

Association Representatives

ALA – Suzanne Goodman

MPLA – Pam Henley

Pam said that the MPLA board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, so she had nothing new to report. She stated she is still looking for a nominee for MPLA representative.

PNLA – Mary Lou Mires

Divisions

ASLD – Anne Kish

Anne said that there have been few proposals for Significant Tidings. Anne mentioned she needs a flashdrive, but does not have the funds. Sami said the board will find the money. Debbi said she would purchase and send the flashdrive to Anne.

PLD – John Heldt

SLMD – Nancy Pensa

Standing Committees

Awards and Honors – Molly Ledermann

Sami said that the committee has submitted a report but a question has been raised by the Intellectual Freedom Committee with regard to the Intellectual Freedom Award. The IFC would like to give two awards this year because there are two worthy challenges, one which occurred this year and one from the previous year. The IFC did not give an award last year, but would like to give two awards this year even though one would be post date. They requested a decision from the Board. Sami said she was concerned that the situation would create a slippery slope with regard to distributing awards in coming years. Kim asked which challenges were being considered. Judy said one from Helena which is currently ongoing and one from Deer Lodge last year. Sarah asked whether a specific time period was stated in the criteria for the award. Debbi read the requirements, which required the event to have happened specifically in the past year. Sami said she would tell the committee that the criteria need to be followed. Kim suggested letting the committee mention the other incident in the introduction to the award.

Book Store – Beth Boyson

Sami said the bookstore will be selling book titles for authors presenting at the April conference. Montana State University – Billings will be hosting the reception for the Montana Book Award.

Bylaws – Judy Hart

Sami said Eva sent out recommendations for changes to MLA Bylaws and that the changes must be distributed to membership by March 8 so the changes may be voted on at the membership meeting in April. Sami asked if anyone had any questions about the proposed changes, but none were raised. Kim asked how the changes would be presented to membership. Lisa said that in previous years, a presentation was made using PowerPoint, during which the membership voted on each individual section and on the overall proposal at the end. Sami agreed to the presentation and said the proposed changes would be distributed via Wired by March 8.

Cates Scholarship – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Lisa said the Cates event for the conference will be a melodrama with a script written by Cherie Hesper.

Communications – Eva English

Finance – Eva English

Nominating – Eva English

Conference Planning – Johanna Freivalds

Government Affairs – Judy Hart

Judy said that the legislative session has been very busy. Darlene has presented on the needs of State Library and all libraries three times. Darlene said presentations have been made to the three education committees, to a global executive action session and at the regular budget hearing. Judy thanked Sami, Honore Bray, Kathy Mora, and Lewis and Clark Library Trustee Sandra Conrady for testifying before the legislature last week. Judy said things are going better than expected and that legislators are listening to the needs of libraries. She has put out talking points via Wired and encourages everyone to contact their local legislators because library funding from the state will have a direct impact on services and users at the local level.

Intellectual Freedom – Sheila Bonnard

Marketing and Public Relations – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Lisa said the cookbooks will be ready for the conference in April. Debbi added that license plate sales have raised \$1,250 so far this fiscal year.

Professional Development – Mary Drew Powers

Mary Drew suggested obtaining an external microphone for future Skype call-ins. She said the Professional Development Committee will meet during the April conference.

Interest Groups

American Indian – Teresa Gilham

Central Asia Institute – Nancy Venable & Norma Glock

Children & Youth Services – Linette Greene

Friends – Della Dubbe

Health Sciences – Martha Thayer

Interlibrary Loan – Chris Vance

Offline – Matt Beckstrom

Public Library Directors – Joanne Erdall

Technical Services – Megan Dazey

Trustees – Carol Grover

Report of State Library – Darlene Staffeldt

Darlene said things are going well with the legislature, everyone is working hard and that lately, she has been receiving more inquiries from legislators. She hoped to send a written report within the next week.

MLA Website – Stacy Bruhn

Focus Newsletter – Suzanne Schwichtenberg

Kim Crowley moved that the Board accept all reports as submitted. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Handbook Update

Eva went through the MLA Handbook to find any discrepancies between the handbook and the bylaws. Sami said that because changes to the handbook do not require membership approval, the board should wait to discuss handbook changes until after the changes to the bylaws have been voted on by membership at the April conference. Lisa asked if the handbook includes job descriptions and a process for helping new officers become acquainted with their jobs. Sami said Eva is going through the current job descriptions to make certain they are up to date. Lisa asked if the process is simply that the outgoing committee chair or officer takes it upon himself or herself to work with the new officer. Sami said yes. Darlene suggested having the new officers and old officers attend the summer retreat. Kim suggested amending the handbook to state that past officers are expected to attend the summer retreat to help the changeover. Sarah suggested adding that if the past officer cannot attend the retreat, he or she should be required to meet with the new officer in person or through telecommunication. Sami said she would add the matter of past officers meeting with new officers to the list of handbook changes to be discussed.

New Business

Government Affairs – Bill Draft Proposing Amendments to MCA 22 - Library Law

Judy said that on January 10, Senator Ryan Zinke of Whitefish put forth a bill draft request, LC2032, to generally revise library law. The bill was in the draft process. The impetus of the bill appears to be Whitefish Library; Kim gave background on the situation involving the Whitefish Library and its move to leave the Flathead County Library System as of July 1. Judy and Darlene gave background on where the bill currently stands at the state level.

Judy said she and Darlene had met with Senator Zinke and the biggest issue appears to be arbitration of interlocal agreements. The bill would add amendments that would have the State Librarian serve as arbiter, thereby requiring the State Library to become involved at the local level. Kim said that another proposed change is disconcerting because it would influence any kind of district that is county-based, including fire districts and more. Judy asked for a motion directing her to oppose the bill should it move forward.

Marje Doyle moved that MLA not support the bill draft proposing amendments to MCA 22 – Library Law. Motion carried.

Courier Delivery Service Request for Funding

On behalf of MLA, a request has been put forward for funding for the statewide courier project so that it may be moved from pilot to full implementation. The project had been

funded at \$80,000 per year for the 2011 biennium. The new request is for \$200,000 per year. Judy tried to communicate the importance and success of the project and said that with the greater funding, more libraries, including small rural libraries, would be able to participate.

Judy said that there is some interest among legislators. Senator Bradley Hamlett brought forth a motion to fund the project at \$50,000 per year. The motion was voted down, but the courier will be added to a decision package with the intention of revisiting it when the budget becomes clearer. Three senators thought that, in addition to state money, libraries should contribute money to the project.

Judy asked whether libraries should accept the funding at a lower level, such as \$50,000. She asked if the courier project can continue and grow with reduced funding. Judy said that she will speak with Sarah McHugh to find out how the costs were broken down in the original proposal for \$200,000. The idea of joining the Orbis system has also been raised and would potentially cut the cost of a courier in half for Montana libraries if they joined. The important thing is getting funding for the second tier sites and small libraries, which would need to mail some items and get items to and from the main drop sites. Judy said she needs to communicate with the twelve main drop site hubs to see if they can commit any money so legislators know how invested libraries are and how much libraries can contribute to funding.

Judy requested MLA guidance regarding how to act if libraries are offered less money than the requested \$200,000. Sami asked if \$50,000 would do any good. Judy said the courier cannot be sustained with \$50,000 and \$80,000 only sustains twelve drop sites for fifteen months, not two years. It would not be enough money to support involvement by second tier libraries. Judy said that on a positive note, she has found out that coal tax monies will be going back into the general fund, which is where funding for the courier would come.

Darlene said that libraries need to be careful about refusing money; refusing money now can result in difficulty getting approval for money in the future. Darlene would prefer that any statement from MLA not advise complete refusal.

Kim moves that MLA supports the legislative committee in moving forward to secure money for the statewide courier project. Motion carried.

Website Hosting Change

Sami said that Stacy Bruhn sent out a request to move the hosting of the MLA website from the Lewis and Clark Library's servers to a paid hosting account such as GoDaddy. Stacy feels the hosting change is necessary because in its current situation, the technological needs of the MLA website cannot be met without significant staff time and server space from the Lewis and Clark Library. The main concern with the change of hosting is the email addresses hosted at the mtlib.org domain name. Matt Beckstrom has

repeatedly inquired those supposedly using the email addresses whether the addresses still hosted at mtlib.org are necessary, but has never received replies. Hosting email addresses through mtlib.org made sense years ago when there were fewer options. Now, however, with so many free options available for libraries, MLA hosting email addresses is unnecessary.

Debbi said that Stacy is concerned about the cost of a paid hosting site, which has been quoted as \$84 per year. The change to GoDaddy might save MLA money, however, because as it currently stands, MLA must use two separate credit card processors: one for the bookstore and one for the conference. If MLA moves to a different service, only one credit card processor would likely be necessary, which would likely save money and more than make up for the \$84 expenditure.

Bridgett Johnson moved to change the MLA email host from Lewis and Clark Library to a recommended host site. Motion carried.

Debbi asked how long claims must be kept. Sami said claims are kept for seven years.

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Daviau.