

**Minutes**  
**MLA Board Meeting**  
**April 9, 2011 2:30-5:00 PM**  
**2011 MLA Annual Conference, Billings, Montana**

**Call to Order**

Sami Pierson called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm.

Introductions

Present: President Sami Pierson, Vice President Kim Crowley, Past President Eva English, Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Daviau, Director-at-Large East Bridgett Johnson, Director-at-Large West Marje Doyle, Executive Assistant Debbi Kramer, MPLA Representative Pam Henley, PNLA Representative Mary Lou Mires, ALA Representative Suzanne Goodman, ASLD Chair Anne Kish, PDC Chair Mary Drew Powers, State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt, Central Asia Institute Co-Chair Norma Glock, Kari Eliason, Janel Trowbridge

Changes to the agenda

Bridgett Johnson requested that discussion of a speaker for the 2012 MLA conference be added to new business.

**Consent Agenda**

Minutes of the April 6, 2011 board meeting

Pam Henley moved to accept the minutes for the April 6, 2011 board meeting. Motion carried.

Conference Report

Johanna said that it has been a pleasure hosting and planning the conference, thanked Eva and Janel for their support, and wished Kim luck with getting volunteers to help. Johanna said that hosting an author via Skype had worked very well. Sami thanked Johanna for her outstanding effort and said that the conference planning handbook is slowly being revised to it can be passed along next year.

Janel said that numbers-wise, the conference went well. MLA had planned for 500-550 total people, including speakers and vendors. A total of 498 people attended. MPLA had 86 members attend, 7 of whom were new members. MLA had 267 members attend, 43 of whom were new. 45 people who were not members of either organization attended and only 7 people who had planned to attend did not come. The gross revenue from registration is slightly under \$70,000. Vendors from 35 different companies attended, 7 of which were given complimentary spaces. There were 30 paid booths. A total of \$15,200 came from the vendors and the ads in the booklets. The Parmly Billings Friends of the Library organization very generously sponsored the entire welcome reception, a total of approximately \$4,000. Exxon gave \$1,000 in sponsorship.

Total sponsorship was \$7,060. When all sources were totaled together, the gross revenue for the conference was just under \$92,000, which will be split with MPLA because it was a joint conference. The amount of the split will be determined based on the number of registrants.

Janel received many compliments about the program booklet and said Eva did an excellent job of putting it together. The Trash and Treasure Room was popular, but due to space limitations in Big Sky and Missoula, this feature may only be possible every three years. The Sheila Cates melodrama event sold 130 tickets, with over 100 people attending the event. At least \$2,000 was made between tickets and donations made during the event. That amount does not include the Cates auction.

Janel said that the Skype session with Adriana Trigiani went well. Both the video and audio were great. Janel said that people were threatening to request refunds if Skype had not worked but she thought there would not be any problems. Bridgett recognized Mark Trowbridge's and Jim Semmelroth's hard work in getting Skype to work despite the internet problems. Janel said that Jim did an excellent job and that he has volunteered to work at the 2012 conference in Big Sky.

Janel said she had met with the hotel's manager the previous evening regarding the challenges from the conference. The hotel would really like to have MLA back in 2014. Janel told them that unless the technology has greatly improved, MLA would be disinclined to return. The manager said the hotel would be upgrading the technology system in two weeks. Janel felt that despite the faults and the internet issues, the hotel staff was accommodating and worked hard. Janel feels that with direction, a lot of the mistakes could be overcome. Because this hotel charges a much lower amount than any other option in Billings, Janel felt that this hotel should remain in contention for 2014. Kim said that the food would also need to be improved before MLA would return. Janel said she will be speaking with Big Sky about their available technology for next year.

Janel said that a survey for the conference will be distributed. Suzanne asked if it would be possible to track how school librarians responded. Janel said she would look into whether the survey function of Sharepoint can provide that information. Janel said that the conference website would be changing to accommodate handheld devices, as was discussed at the board meeting on April 6. Janel asked that the board please submit any comments about the conference experience and she will forward it on to the hotel.

## **Unfinished Business**

### Dates for MLA Leadership Retreat

Kim said that the dates previously discussed were unavailable at the Ursuline Center. General discussion resulted in an agreement to keep the same dates, June 19-21, but change venues. Kim will work on obtaining a different venue.

### Student definition for MLA Conference registration

Pam said that she visited the MPLA website and that their student definition limits its availability to people enrolled in a library science program and the rate is available for a maximum of two years. Kim said that two years is too narrow, but liked the idea of a time limit. Kim suggested wording allowing for any academic program with a three-year window.

Bridgett Johnson moved that language of the MLA student rate be changed to read: “The MLA student rate is available to a person enrolled in an academic program. The student rate is limited to a maximum of three years.” Motion carried.

### Affiliation with the American Indian Library Association

Suzanne said that she had attempted to attend the American Indian Interest Group meeting, as had been discussed at the April 6 board meeting, but the interest group did not meet. Suzanne did not have any new information. Sami said that the budget is currently set, but suggested submitting the funding request for consideration during the next budgetary process. Eva asked if funding for affiliation could be submitted by the interest group. Sami said yes, but there does not appear to be an interest group at this time. Mary Lou asked for Teresa Gilham’s contact information. Teresa is listed as the contact for MLA’s American Indian Interest Group. Mary Lou volunteered to contact her.

### Affiliation with the American Association of School Librarians

Sarah read aloud minutes from August 2009 board meeting. At that time, it had been decided that affiliation with AASL could not be funded. Sami asked if travel funding for SLMD and OPI events could come from grants through the Professional Development Committee. Mary Drew said that the deadlines for grants are April 1 and October 1 and that yes, those events would qualify for travel grants because they are regional workshops. Kari said that she would let teacher librarians know that travel grants are available through the school library listserv. Kari said she will do a booth at the MEA-MFTA conference next year.

### Adding a privacy policy regarding distribution of MLA members’ email addresses

Sami said the overwhelming response from the board has been negative, but suggested that a blanket “no” could be amended for certain circumstances, such as distribution of materials to attendees of specific sessions. Eva suggested that a presenter send Mark and Janel Trowbridge the information and that Mark and Janel would then distribute it to attendees.

## **New Business**

### Cates Scholarship fundraiser

The Cates Scholarship melodrama event and the silent auction were huge successes. Aside from the total previously given by Janel, the exact total raised by the events is forthcoming.

### Suggested speaker for 2012 MLA Conference

Bridgett attended a conference where Dan Thurmon spoke. Bridgett thinks he would be a dynamic speaker for the 2012 MLA Conference. He speaks about themes relevant to libraries, including technology and self-esteem. His speaker's fee would be approximately \$3,000.

Suzanne suggested asking Blythe Woolston to speak at the next conference. Blythe, a Montana author, won the William C. Morris Award for YA debut fiction in January 2011. Sami said that any suggestions for speakers be directed to Kim.

Pam tentatively volunteered to co-chair the 2012 MLA conference, pending approval from her supervisor. Kathy House from Big Sky has agreed to serve as co-chair.

Meeting adjourned at 3:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Daviau