

Draft Minutes  
MLA Board Meeting  
June 19, 2011  
Great Falls Public Library  
Great Falls, Montana

**Call to Order**

Sami Pierson called the meeting to order at 12:59 pm.

Introductions

Present: President Sami Pierson, President-Elect Kim Crowley, Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Daviau, Director-at-Large West Marje Doyle, ASLD Chair Anne Kish, Government Affairs and Bylaws Chair Judy Hart, Administrative Director Debbi Kramer, SLMD Chair Nancy Pensa, PNLA Representative Mary Lou Mires, PLD Chair Kathy Mora, PDC Chair Mary Drew Powers, ALA Representative Suzanne Goodman, Incoming SLMD Chair Kari Eliason, Incoming ASLD Chair Jim Kammerer, Incoming MPLA Representative Norma Glock

Changes to Agenda

Marje Doyle requested that membership renewal dates be added to new business.

Sami Pierson said that because the leadership retreat is being held in June this year instead of the traditional August, she will abdicate running the meeting to President-Elect Kim Crowley.

**Consent Agenda**

Minutes of the April 9, 2011 Board Meeting

Anne Kish moved to approve the April 9, 2011 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

FY 2011 Report

Debbi said that ASLD-PLD made \$42.08 profit, the cookbooks have made \$357.81, the bookstore made \$466.32, Offline made \$1,755.64 this year and memberships made \$17,120.31. MLA has accrued \$1,471.75 in interest. Ad sales for Focus made \$125. After the conference, MLA received \$150 in memorials. After the split with MPLA in conference revenue, MLA will make a tentative \$18,907.92, but Debbi said she has questions and will meet with Sami before meeting with Mark Trowbridge for a final accounting. Debbi said MLA has met its goal and then some this year with regard to budget.

Suzanne Goodman, Norma Glock, and Kari Eliason came into the meeting at 1:15 pm.

Judy asked about any funds remaining from the donations foundations and friends groups gave for the MLA Library Day soirée. Debbi said any extra money will be rolled over for the next library legislative day in 2013.

### Approval of FY 2012 Budget

Debbi drew attention to the funds allocated in the budget to cover what it costs to allow membership renewal and conference registration by credit card. Kari asked about passing on the credit card surcharge to the user. Marje asked how much the cost is per membership. Debbi said it is based on a percentage which varies from card to card, about \$1- \$2.50. MLA pays a portal fee of \$45 per month additionally. Kari asked about charging a flat \$2 fee for using a credit card to offset the expenditure. Jim asked how many people pay for membership renewal with a credit card; Debbi said about 60%. Sarah suggested bringing the matter to membership in April. Debbi thinks that members don't necessarily realize MLA only gets a portion of the membership dues when dues are paid online. Kim asked about putting the question to membership before conference. Debbi said she would put the matter out on WIRED and write an article for Focus.

Kim asked about possibly adding a line item to pay for strategic planning facilitation. Kim was concerned because, due to moving the meeting from August to June, two leadership retreats will have taken place in the same fiscal year. Debbi said that \$4,000 had been allocated for the board retreat in FY 2011, of which only \$2,000 was spent. Debbi said that between the remaining money from last year, and other funds from FY 2011 which had not been spent, MLA has enough money to cover the extra retreat and the facilitator. Kim proposed adding a line item for Ned Cooney's services, increasing funds for the leadership retreat in FY 2012 to \$5,000 and taking part of Mr. Cooney's fees from money remaining from FY 2011 and part from money for FY 2012. Debbi said she would pay \$2,000 out of the FY 2011 budget and \$1,000 out of the budget for FY 2012.

Debbi asked if it would be all right to roll the \$200 annual donation to ALA Freedom to Read into the budget for Intellectual Freedom. No objections were raised.

Kim tabled voting on the budget until the end of the meeting.

### Association Reports

#### Officers

#### **President** – Sami Pierson

Sami said that because planning the annual conference has changed drastically these last few years, she and Johanna Frievalds are working on a new conference manual.

**President-Elect** – Kim Crowley

Kim said she met with Mark and Janelle Trowbridge and three librarians from the Big Sky School-Community Library to tour the Big Sky facilities for next April. She said the location is beautiful, the rooms and facility look good, and that Big Sky had recently redone its network for an APEC conference so MLA probably won't overload the facility's internet servers next year. Kim is still looking for a conference co-chair for Kathy House, and will be asking librarians in Butte, Deer Lodge, and Lewistown to see if anyone is interested.

Kim said the Ned Cooney will be facilitating the strategic planning for the next few days and that MLA will have an action plan by the end of the process. He will be available next year to look at how things have gone.

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Sarah Daviau

**Past President** – Eva English

**Directors-at-Large** – Marjorie Doyle and Bridgett Johnson

Marje said that she is working to remove the names of those who have passed away, moved out of state, or are no longer trustees from the inactive membership list.

**Administrative Director** – Debbi Kramer

Debbi said that MLA is \$475 from meeting the initial \$4,000 investment from the license plates, after which any money received would be profit.

Association Representatives

**ALA** – Suzanne Goodman

Suzanne said she would be going to the ALA annual conference on Friday and wondered if the board had any issues or concerns. She stated that her main concern was school libraries not meeting accreditation standards. Marje asked about the Traditional Cultural Expressions (TCE) Resolution. Suzanne said she is going to join the American Indian Library Association personally in the next fiscal year so she can learn more about the group.

**MPLA** – Pam Henley

Norma Glock said that she participated in the MPLA conference call in May and is excited to have the opportunity to work with so many states. She encouraged everyone to consider joining.

**PNLA** – Mary Lou Mires

Mary Lou said the PNLA annual conference is in Spokane in August and that the PNLA journal is now peer-reviewed and encouraged anyone interested to submit articles for publication. Mary Drew asked about the PNLA Leads Institute. Mary Lou said that, in August, the PNLA board will be discussing the possibility

of skipping one year so that the MPLA and PNLA leadership institutes will be on alternating years.

#### Divisions

##### **ASLD** – Anne Kish

Jim Kammerer thanked Anne for organizing the ASLD files onto a flashdrive and for creating a schedule for planning Chico. He and Kathy have already been working on Chico and they would like a few suggestions for academic topics. Kathy said that a few programs have been confirmed and that Beth Boyson is working with Chico on arrangements.

##### **PLD** – Kathy Mora

##### **SLMD** – Nancy Pensa

Kari Eliason said that, through OPI, there are many opportunities this summer for continuing education and credits for school librarians. Kari said her goal as SLMD Chair is to recruit more school librarians for MLA.

Nancy said that the Chapter 55 review process regarding school accreditation standards was coming to a close. One of the review committee members approached Nancy and expressed concern that the standards regarding school librarians will drop. The committee wants to lower the standard from requiring a school population of 250-500 children to have 1 FTE teacher-librarian, to having classroom teachers teach library media skills. Test scores statewide have been good, so the committee feels it is all right to not require school librarians as a mandatory presence. Kari said test scores are high because of libraries but if test scores remain high, librarians lose their jobs. Nancy said that she testified in September and the committee is now ready to make a decision concerning numbers for school librarians. Nancy asked if the incoming MLA President and incoming SLMD Chair would be willing to address the committee in Helena. Suzanne asked if the visits would need to be in person or in writing. Nancy said both would be preferred. Judy said she will attend. Kim suggested asking a school librarian to attend accompanied by students, and suggested Niki Whearty. Nancy will send out an email about the upcoming committee meetings and the website.

Anne suggested having a letter from MLA encouraging MLA participation to give to school librarians and people in the process of becoming certified for Kari to pass on. She said that Sue Jackson, who works with SWIM scholarship recipients, could also pass along letters from MLA.

Marje offered to help staff the MLA table at MEA in the fall.

## Standing Committees

**Awards and Honors** – Molly Ledermann

**Book Store** – Beth Boyson

**Bylaws** – Judy Hart

Judy said that the bylaws changes have been updated on the website. Kim asked how MLA can ensure that only votes of current members are counted. Sami said that Eva recommended that there be an electronically available ballot to which only MLA members receive the password. Debbi said in this past election, she emailed members the information and mailed ballots to those members without email addresses. Sami said that Eva is working on handbook updates now that bylaws are done.

**Cates Scholarship** – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

**Communications**

**Nominating**

**Conference Planning**

**Government Affairs** – Judy Hart

Judy said that she, Darlene Staffeldt, and Richard Quillin traveled to Washington, DC for Library Legislative Day. They met with representatives from all three Montana Congressmen, but only met with Senator Tester in person. None of the delegates signed off on LSTA funds. Judy said that some libraries may see a dip in entitlement funds from the state as well. She urged that MLA be more involved with the state legislature during the interim.

**Intellectual Freedom** – Sheila Bonnard

Judy said that there is a banned books presentation that has been put together based on the poster collaboration between the ACLU of Montana and MLA. Please contact Judy or Sheila for more information.

**Marketing and Public Relations** – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

**Membership**

**Professional Development** – Mary Drew Powers

Mary Drew said she needs a school librarian for the PDC, and that she had gotten some interest based on an article she wrote for Focus and will send out a notice through WIRED.

## Interest Groups

**Report of State Library** – Darlene Staffeldt

**MLA Website** – Stacy Bruhn

Sami said that Stacy is working on moving MLA's website from Lewis and Clark Library to GoDaddy.com, but the migration is going slowly because the process is more involved than previously thought. Debbi said that all names in the governance section are up to date except for the information for the divisions. Kim said that Mark Trowbridge is working on the conference part of the

website so program proposals may be submitted before fall workshop.

Focus Newsletter – Suzanne Schwichtenberg

### **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business

### **New Business**

Lobbyists – Judy Hart

Judy said that MLA's lobbyists, Smith and McGowan, suggested that MLA consider having an ongoing contract because so much happens in the interim between legislative years. The contract for the interim would likely be at a discount as opposed to the usual legislative year fee. Judy feels it is important to maintain contact with legislators so it won't feel like such an uphill battle every two years. She will forward a proposal for funding an interim contract to Kim as soon as she can. If the proposal is acceptable, the budget can be left as-is because a line item already exists.

Printing the Focus newsletter

Debbi said that she has been speaking with Suzanne Schwichtenberg about only producing an electronic copy of Focus and not producing a print copy anymore. \$400 is allocated annually for printing and mailing Focus. Suzanne has to redesign the electronic version so a print version of only 8 pages may be produced for the 30 MLA members who need a copy mailed to them.

Sami Pierson moved to eliminate printing and mailing of Focus. Motion carried.

Request to change of the length of the SLMD chair from 1 to 2 years – Nancy Pensa

Sarah said that the length of term for a division chair is not regulated at the MLA board level. To change the length of a division chair's term, changes must be made to the division bylaws.

Request that an SLMD member be on the awards committee – Nancy Pensa

Sarah said that two SLMD members currently serve on the awards committee: Jodi Oberweiser and Nancy Venable. Also, according to the MLA handbook, under the section on divisions, division chairs are encouraged to recommend members of their division to the President for appointment to standing committees.

Debbi asked that the awards committee let her know how many complimentary meals are being given at the awards luncheon so that the proper amount of money may be taken out

of the awards budget, not the conference budget. Marje said she will let Molly know that receipts should go to Debbi.

#### Renewal dates for membership dues – Marje Doyle

Marje said that there had been discussion on WIRED about why membership renewal is set at July 1 because if someone joins in April, then they owe dues again three months later. Marje emailed the person who raised the concern to say that individual due dates for renewal had been tried in previous years, but that had resulted in most people forgetting when to pay their dues and a major cash flow issue for MLA. Kim said that if dues are due once per year, it doesn't matter when MLA schedules it; someone will always owe a few months later. Suzanne said to keep the due date at July 1<sup>st</sup> because that is when new officers take positions and the budget year starts. General consensus of the board was to maintain the current renewal date. Marje will send a renewal reminder out to WIRED after July 1.

Kim asked Norma for an update on the Central Asia Institute situation regarding the allegations against Greg Mortenson. Norma said she hadn't heard much, yet, as Mr. Mortenson is still recuperating from surgery. She also hadn't heard much about the class action lawsuit. Anne asked if MLA had ever seen a picture of the school it sponsors. Norma said that a picture was available on the website, but that the picture was from awhile ago. Kim expressed concern because MLA hasn't seen more pictures. Norma said village is remote and doesn't think Mr. Mortenson had been there in awhile, but as far as she knows everything is legitimate. Kari said that she would like a report or confirmation from whomever takes MLA's \$5,000 donation and allocates it.

#### Vote on FY 2012 Budget

Anne Kish moved to approve the budget with two changes: the removal of \$400 for Focus printing and the addition of \$1,000 to the summer retreat budget. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Daviau