

Draft Minutes
MLA Board Meeting
January 9, 2012
Telephone Conference Call

Call to Order

President Kim Crowley called the meeting to order at 11:01 am.

Introductions

Present: President Kim Crowley, Vice-President Anne Kish, Secretary-Treasurer Sarah Daviau, SLMD Chair Kari Eliason, PLD Chair Kathy Mora, ALA Representative Suzanne Goodman, PNLA Representative Mary Lou Mires, MPLA Representative Norma Glock, Government Affairs Chair Judy Hart, PDC Chair Mary Drew Powers, Awards and Honors Committee Chair Anita Scheetz, Administrative Director Debbi Kramer, State Librarian Jennie Stapp

Recognition of guests

Nannette Gilbertson, lobbyist with Smith & McGowan

Changes to agenda

Mary Lou Mires requested that the matter of appointing a new Montana Young Readers Choice Awards (YRCA) representative be added to new business.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the October 17, 2011 Board Meeting

Anne Kish moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2011 board meeting.
Motion carried.

Financial Report

FY 2012 YTD Report

Debbi Kramer reported that MLA has started to pay bills for April's conference, but that MLA is also receiving conference money. She asked if the division chairs would like monthly updates regarding number of division members. Debbi said she has been able to save MLA \$200 per year in printing costs by hooking up the copier to the computer.

Association Reports

Officers

President – Kim Crowley

Kim read thank you letters from Diane Papineau regarding Diane's participation in Chico and from Cathy Warner regarding Kari Eliason's and Nancy Pensa's efforts for the MEA-MFT Educators Conference.

Vice-President – Anne Kish

Anne said that she is working on the campaign to recruit trustees to MLA and is doing a mailing campaign, for which she is using Debbi's new brochure.

Secretary/Treasurer – Sarah Daviau

Directors-at-Large – Marjorie Doyle and Dawn Kingstad

Executive Assistant – Debbi Kramer

Debbi said that the front page of MLA's website has had out-of-date material removed and that she will make certain the new MLA brochure is posted.

Association Representatives

ALA – Suzanne Goodman

Suzanne said she will be leaving for the ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas on January 20.

MPLA – Norma Glock

PNLA – Mary Lou Mires

Mary Lou said PNLA did not have a November meeting in an attempt to save money for its conference in Alaska.

Divisions

ASLD – Jim Kammerer

PLD – Kathy Mora

Kathy said some of PLD's bylaws are in need of revision and she will be working on that for the upcoming conference.

SLMD – Kari Eliason

Standing Committees

Awards and Honors – Anita Scheetz

Anita said she had forty people volunteer when she put out a call for new committee members. Andrea Hayes and Sue Jackson were chosen. The call for award nominations has been put out through WIRED.

Book Store – Beth Boyson

Bylaws – Judy Hart

Cates Scholarship – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Communications

Nominating

Sami gave Kim two possible candidates for upcoming office: Della Dubbe for PNLA representative and Cherie Hesel for Secretary/Treasurer. Kim has contacted both people. Della replied that yes, she was interested and Cherie had yet to reply. Anne said Beth Boyson had expressed interest in running for president-elect, but due to the director search in Bozeman, had not been able to obtain permission at the time. Anne will contact Beth and find out if Beth is still interested. Mary Lou said Sheila Bonnard had expressed interest in the PNLA representative position. It was suggested that a call to membership be put out through WIRED. Kim said she would put out the call and would ask Della about possibly running for Director-at-Large West.

Conference Planning

Kim said she met with Mark and Janel and everything is going well.

Government Affairs – Judy Hart

Judy said she and Nannette have already met to plan for next year's session. She is hoping to get the first term agenda approved before June. Judy has met with Sarah McHugh and Jennie Stapp to discuss the State Library's interests and plans for the next session. Judy has been working with Donci Bardash and Tracy Cook to develop a survey which will solicit feedback from Montana librarians regarding how they hope state library funds will be applied. The survey will be released in early February.

Judy said MLA needs to be aware of oil and gas revenues. The funds will be available and various organizations will be trying to secure the funding; MLA should pursue it as well. Nannette said that much of what happens funding-wise will depend on who is elected governor and the make-up of the State House and State Senate.

Intellectual Freedom – B.J. McCracken

Marketing and Public Relations – Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Membership

Professional Development – Mary Drew Powers

Interest Groups

Report of State Library – Jennie Stapp

Jennie said that she has met with Judy, Nannette, and Sarah McHugh about MLA's priorities for the next session. The State Library has not received any direction from the Governor's office with regard to their budget request for the upcoming session. Jennie encouraged the board members to attend meetings with the State Library Commissioners. This week, surveys regarding LSTA evaluation will be distributed. The

surveys will help with the five-year LSTA evaluation of how the funds have been used. Jennie said the State Library Commission will be developing its own goals as part of a long term plan. Richard Quillin wants to know what the libraries think the Commission can do for them. The survey Judy is distributing will help identify needs and coordinate State Library plans and MLA plans.

Kim asked if a position is opening on the State Library Commission. Jennie said two positions are up for renewal in May. Anita Scheetz will be seeking reappointment, but Donald Allen will not.

MLA Website
Focus Newsletter

Unfinished Business

Strategic Plan Update

Kim said the first and second quarters are looking okay. The biggest outstanding project is updating the handbook. Sami is no longer in the state, but Eva is working on the timeline and responsibilities of the officers and will get them done before the April meeting. The missions and goals still need to be completed, too. Kim encouraged everyone to review their third quarter assignments.

Anne said she would get Ned's contact information from Kim and contact Ned about his availability for a half-day meeting in June. Anne and Kim will coordinate in April to plan the June retreat. Kathy said Great Falls would be willing to host the meeting.

Government Affairs

All issues were discussed during the Government Affairs report.

New Business

Bylaws Change (moving officer installation from July 1 to June 1)

Kim said that, in order to make the signing of contracts for the new fiscal year each June coordinate with incoming officers, the language of Article XIII, Section 4 of the MLA bylaws must be changed from an inauguration date of July 1 to June 1 for incoming officers. Kim and Sarah had hoped to have the language done today, but due to issues with the MLA website, were unable to access the bylaws. Kim and Sarah will write a draft of the bylaw reflecting the new language and present it to the board for electronic vote. The language change will then be presented to membership for vote in April.

Kim also said that she would like to see electronic voting happen more promptly after the annual conference and suggested opening voting immediately after the membership meeting and closing it one week after.

Mary Lou asked if it is financially feasible for both outgoing and incoming officers to attend the June retreat. Anne said it would be an excellent opportunity to encourage continuity as was discussed during the strategic plan. Kim said everyone could be invited, but not everyone usually attends.

Kathy suggested that each division review their own bylaws for possible amendment for the upcoming conference. Kim said she would contact each division chair individually to pass along the suggestion for bylaw review and that she would send out the new language for Article VIII to the board as soon as possible.

Nargis Library Recovery Interest Group

Kim said that the NLR Interest Group has asked MLA to amend its budget to reflect a \$2,000 line item for NLR. The only way the \$2,000 would be used would be if the group was able to raise the money it needs. Kim compared the process to what happens with the Sheila Cates Fund; if the money is not raised, the money is not spent.

Anne said that she was concerned that this would put MLA in a similar situation as it is with the Central Asia Institute (CAI), and that it would appear that MLA is endorsing the NLR. She felt uncomfortable endorsing an organization about which MLA does not know much. Norma said that CAI had the support of an MLA resolution. NLR does not have that support. Sarah suggested moving the final decision to the April meeting. Anne requested that Bill be present at the meeting in April to discuss NLR.

Norma Glock moved to postpone the decision to the first April board meeting. Kathy Mora seconded the motion. Motion passed, with one no vote from Mary Lou Mires.

Kim will contact Bill and let him know the board's decision and to ask him to speak in April.

Taglines – Suzanne Goodman

Suzanne said she and the ad hoc group had sent a message through WIRED with a list of possible taglines so they would be able to have input from membership. They received 57 responses. "Strengthening Montana's Libraries" was the overwhelming favorite.

MLA already has a logo and its current tagline is "Supporting Montana's Libraries from the Mountains to the Plains." Suzanne felt that "supporting" was better than "strengthening" and proposed shortening the current tagline to "Supporting Montana's Libraries." Suzanne wanted to know if membership needs to vote on the change in taglines because membership had voted on the previous slogan. Anita said that shortening the slogan and keeping the same logo would not be a major change but should

probably be brought up with membership. Mary Drew suggested the membership does not need to vote because it is essentially a minor change.

Kim said she was concerned that if the board had asked for feedback from membership, and they selected “strengthening” but if the board goes with “supporting” instead, that would not send a positive message. There is no language in the bylaws requiring a membership vote, however. For the sake of expediency and consistency of message, board consensus was to use the same graphic with the shortened tagline. No new stationary will be printed.

Kim asked if there were any developments with the elevator message. The elevator message will be added to the April board meeting agenda, but no action will be taken on it before then.

Secretary/Treasurer Position (aka Sarah causes problems)

Sarah said she had accepted a position with the Arlington Public Libraries in Virginia and will be leaving Montana in mid-February. She offered to maintain all Secretary-Treasurer duties except taking minutes until the end of her term. Debbi Kramer volunteered to take minutes at the April meetings.

Young Readers Choice Award Representative

Mary Lou said she received an email just before the meeting from Barbra Meisenheimer, a YRCA representative. Carolyn Monlux, Montana’s long-time YRCA representative, has resigned and MLA needs to select a new representative. A new appointee is due by February 1. Mary Lou said she will investigate whether the new representative must be a PNLA member and put out a message through WIRED to see if anyone would like the position. Mary Lou will email the board regarding developments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Daviau