

Draft Minutes
MLA Saturday Conference
Board Meeting
April 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Kim Crowley. Anne Kish thanked Kim for her hard work as MLA President and presented her with a card and gift certificate.

Anne announced the MLA Board Leadership Retreat will be held on June 18 & 19, 2012 at the Ursuline Center in Great Falls. The retreat will begin at 8 A.M. on Monday, June 18th and conclude at noon on Tuesday, June 19th. Attendees are encouraged to arrive in Great Falls on Sunday evening as accommodations have been made to allow a Sunday night stay. All meals and lodging will be at the Center.

Conference Report:

The 2013 contract for the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula has been signed. Dates are April 17-20, 2013. Conference co-chairs Honore Bray and Barbara Theroux were introduced and wished well on their upcoming task.

At Big Sky we have 280 registered for the conference with 22 as one day registrations. Of those 32 were new members, 203 members and 33 non-members. The average cost per attendee was \$177. As a comparison the numbers for Bozeman in 2010 were: 330 registered with 40 one day registrations, 49 were new members, 235 members and 41 non-members for an average cost of \$169 per attendee. The numbers for the 2011 Billings conference were: 259 registered of those 53 were non-members and as it was a joint conference 100 MPLA members attended, average cost was \$171.

Early positive comments: great meals, conference rooms

Negative comments: parking, muddy parking lots and distance from car to hotel with luggage

Other problems: break-out rooms, meal areas, and distance to Cates & Bookstore location

Janel and Mark have been in contact with the Billings Convention Center for the 2014 conference. The management promised to have better Internet access and tastier meals. Janel has also talking to the Crown Plaza and problems of concern include conference on three levels, smaller breakout rooms, cost of space is based on food numbers and less amenities are included in the base cost.

New business:

Norma Glock moved and Anne Kish seconded a motion to hold the 2014 annual conference at the Billings Conference Center. Motion carried.

The Awards Luncheon was discussed. It was the consensus of the group that a script should be written to be used yearly for the awards presentations to aid whoever is giving the awards. Kim will write the script.

Apparently there was some confusion as to the amount to be paid Author Luncheon speaker, Maile Meloy. After some discussion Anne moved and Dawn Kingstad seconded a motion to leave it up to Kim to complete the negotiations if more are needed. Motion carried.

With no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned.

Submitted by
Debbi Kramer