

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Board room, Billings Public Library
February 22, 2014

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Matt Beckstrom, Sheila Bonnard, Beth Boyson, Della Dubbe, Eva English, Norma Glock, Judy Hart, Cheryl Hesper, Debbi Kramer, Jan Zauha.

President Beth Boyson called the meeting to order at 11:25a.m.

Because State Librarian Jennie Stapp was connecting with the meeting by phone, the agenda was modified to begin with

STATE LIBRARY AND GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS: Judy Hart asked permission to go to Washington D.C. for National Legislative Day, May 5-6. Beth Boyson also may go. Debbi Kramer noted that there is \$2,100 available for two people, plus \$300 in the MLA President's fund.

The Government Affairs Committee is also asking to honor Mitch Tropila at the conference.

Jennie Stapp noted that in regard to library districts, the Task Force has reviewed comments on the three recommendations and has decided that legislative action is not warranted. The current statutes are working, with challenges only at the local level, requiring local action. Sheila Bonnard moved that the MLA Board accept the recommendation of the Montana State Library Task Force on Library Districts and not move ahead on changing statutes related to library district law in the 2015 session. Norma Glock seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Judy Hart also explained that there was some confusion and lack of consensus, but they had help from Harold Blatty of MACO. Nothing precludes libraries from forming districts.

The Montana State Library priorities for legislative action were included in Judy's written report, including 1) Early Literacy, with the Governor's support; 2) School Libraries, including support for certified school librarians with consideration for the issue of local control; 3) State Library's essential role for all libraries; 4) State Aid and a continued dialogue to ensure its continuation at the higher levels; 5) Library Boards' budget authority, looking forward to a legislative change. Jennie added that they are going through the executive planning process, beginning by getting items included in the Governor's budget. The Commission will be asked to approve the priorities for May-June consideration. The final budget will be decided in November.

Della Dubbe noted that money is needed for a new ILS for academic libraries. Jan Zauha will talk to the Dean of MSU concerning MLA's support of this issue and have a definite idea for the April meeting, to be placed on the agenda in June. We will take these items under consideration for prioritization at our April meeting. Jennie noted that we need the support of the Governor, particularly concerning certified school librarians. The Governor also can determine if State Aid funds are moved into House Bill 2 with no sunset date.

MINUTES of the NOVEMBER 18, 2013, MEETING: Norma Glock moved that the minutes be approved as submitted, Della Dubbe seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT (written report)

GENERAL BUSINESS:

ALA REQUEST RELATED TO NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE DAY: President Beth Boyson recommended that we drop the issue, and Cheryl Hesper supported the recommendation due to the negative wording in the proclamation.

OFFLINE 2014: Offline was well attended and made money. It was recommended that the broader scope be continued. Sheila Bonnand noted that the focus was more for public librarians, and we should offer more for academic librarians. Matt Beckstrom suggested that we consider co-chairs from PLD and ASLD, and Beth Boyson will talk to Lynn McKinney about the idea.

MLA WEBSITE: We continue to have problems with being up-to-date and being consistent. We will address the website needs at our June retreat and will invite our webmaster Stacy to attend.

Meanwhile, Debbi reminded everyone to be specific with changes they need when they contact Stacy.

MLA CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Beth will work on the calendar, which needs to be established once a year. Debbi Kramer noted that it is in the By-Laws that no retreats are to be held close to Conference.

CONFERENCE SITES AND PLANNERS: Bozeman is the next site, and by then we will have a planner hired. There was discussion of site problems, with vendors being a continuing concern. We could go back to Great Falls. Kathy Mora, who has been working on the RFP for conference planners, will have more information related to Great Falls. We will work with the new conference planners for a survey of more conference sites.

VICE PRESIDENT: Sheila Bonnand is planning the retreat, with an evening, day, and morning of either June 3-5 (Tues.-Thurs.) or June 4-6 (Wed.-Fri.) at the Montana Learning Center by Canyon Ferry near Helena. She is compiling a list of attendees, including past and present officers and chairs. Della Dubbe moved that we approve the MLA Retreat location and dates as presented, Norma Glock seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

PAST PRESIDENT (written report): Anne Kish was unable to attend but sent a slate of officers, including Dawn Kingstad for Vice President/President Elect; Trista Smith for MPLA Representative; Matt Beckstrom for Director-at-Large West, and Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson for Secretary-Treasurer. Cheryl Hesper moved that the slate of candidates, as presented by Past President Anne Kish, be accepted. Eva English seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Debbi Kramer reported that we currently have 17 vendors for the conference. Letters were sent out early, reminders have been sent recently, and Debbi continues to work on getting more vendors. The conference plans are all set. Barnes and Noble will handle the bookstore. The rooms are reserved. Jay Asher will speak at the Author's Luncheon. Eva English has finished the etched glass speaker gifts. Early registration will go through March 8. Jan Zauha noted that Debbi and Beth have done an excellent job.

Regarding refunds, Beth noted that we will be generous with giving refunds but will charge \$25.00. No vendor refunds will be given after early registration is completed.

REPORTS:

ALA (written report)

MPLA (written report): Norma Glock noted that fundraising ideas include offering grocery store credit cards. Jan Zauha noted that there are some other fundraising ideas, including perks for donations.

PNLA (written report): Della Dubbe reported that the Executive Board meeting went well. The PNLA Conference will be August 13-15 in Helena, and she encouraged us all to attend. The PNLA Quarterly needs a new editor, and the LEADS Institute went well.

DIVISIONS:

PLD (written report)

SLD: The Division was pleased to get the speaker for the Author's Luncheon.

COMMITTEES:

AWARDS & HONORS: The Awards Committee will be presenting 8 awards at the Awards Luncheon and is adding Mitch Tropila as Legislator of the Year. Discussion was held concerning promoting nominations for awards, with a suggestion that we accept nominations throughout the year.

CATES COMMITTEE (written report):

CONFERENCE PLANNING (combined with Executive Director report)

MARKETING & PR (written report)

MEMBERSHIP: The committee has contacted 48 new members about opportunities at Conference and has asked them to be facilitators.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STRATEGIC PLAN: The plan should be finished but needs to go on. Beth noted that she has 10 goals for the year. We plan to revise and update the goals and the plan for the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Several suggestions were made to improve attendance and flow at the meeting. We will put break refreshments in the room to draw people. All officers and candidates will be contacted and asked to sit up front. Norma Glock suggested that we have a PowerPoint presentation running of the past year's events. The State Librarian now has a special time to share her agenda, which means her time at the Membership Meeting can be limited. The By-Laws need reviewing, and a special committee will be appointed. Judy Hart will give a legislative report. We will recognize new members, and Jan Zauha suggested that we honor long-standing members also.

MONTANA BOOK AWARDS: Discussion centered on having the local Friends of the Library host the expensive reception. Jan Zauha noted that the reception should be requested and set up by the Montana Book Award group, not MLA. Norma Glock, Sheila Bonnard, and Beth Boyson will be the committee to address the issue.

NEXT MEETINGS: Wednesday, April 9, 1:00-3:00p.m. and Saturday, April '12, 3:00-5:00p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Heser, Secretary