

MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
Board room, Billings Hotel & Convention Center
April 12, 2014

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Sheila Bonnand (Vice President/President Elect), Beth Boyson (President), Mary Braun (PLD Chair), Dana Carmichael (SLD Chair), Susanne Caro (Professional Development Chair), Della Dubbe (PNLA Representative), Eva English (Director-at-Large), Roberta Gebhardt (Director-at-Large), Norma Glock (MPLA Representative), Susan Gregory (ALA Representative), Samantha Hines (Professional Development), Cheryl Hesel (Secretary/Treasurer), Rebekah Kamp (FOCUS Editor), Dawn Kingstad (Candidate for Vice President/President Elect), Anne Kish (Past President), Debbi Kramer (Executive Director), Lyn McKinney (Conference Co-Chair), Suzanne Reymer (State Library), Jennie Stapp (State Librarian, Ex-Officio), Elizabeth Waddington (Conference Co-Chair).

President Beth Boyson called the meeting to order at 1:45p.m.

Rebekah Kamp, Samantha Hines, and Suzanne Reymer were recognized as guests.

MINUTES OF April 9, 2014, BOARD MEETING: Susan Gregory moved that the minutes of the April 9, 2014, meeting be approved as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

CONVENTION INTERNET PROBLEMS: The group discussed the Internet problems which began with the whole Charter system being down when the Convention started but also included constant interruptions in service throughout many presentations. Roberta Gebhardt moved that we approve the Conference Planning Committee requesting a reduction in fees from the Billings Hotel and Conference Center for failed Internet connections. Sheila Bonnand seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS' REPORT: Lyn McKinney reported an excellent four days except for equipment and Internet problems. Once again the group is questioning returning to the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. After further discussion, Elizabeth Waddington commented that the staff was very responsive. The coffee cart idea worked out very well.

BREWERY TOUR: Suzanne Reymer reported that 47 people enjoyed the tour and we came out \$120 ahead on the project. She noted that we need adequate time for these kinds of events, that it was problematic to squeeze the tour between meetings and the Montana Book Awards event. People need leisurely time to network and get out on the town. She also suggested that we have a cutoff point on ticket sales to help with planning.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSION: Beth Boyson noted a downward trend both in membership and in conference attendance. We need to keep members involved in planning and presenting. Della Dubbe noted that there tends to be too much stress on local people and conference planners are very necessary. Lyn McKinney commented that the volunteers were not used for registration, and they need to be able to help when they have volunteered. The RFP for the Conference Planner(s) needs to clearly

stipulate what Conference Planners do and what the committee and volunteers do. We need continuity and good communication. We also need equipment on location.

Sheila Bonnand noted that this was a difficult year and everyone did an incredible job. Lyn McKinney said we need a national compelling speaker. Anne Kish added that we have to consider what we can afford and cannot. Cheryl Heser noted that attendance was down at the Membership Dinner, partly because of cost. Also, the Cates Event, which was moved to follow the Membership Dinner rather than competing with time on the town on Thursday night, had low attendance, also. We need to continue efforts to get attendance at those two events. Anne Kish noted that the RFP is being completed and interviews for Conference Planner(s) will take place in May.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Sheila Bonnand referred to our earlier discussion of not pursuing the legislative effort related to the Attorney General's opinion related to Library Board budgetary authority. Roberta Gebhardt noted that we never have taken a poll for membership opinions on the subject, and Jennie Stapp added that this is a complicated political issue. Sheila Bonnand moved to approve the list of legislative priorities presented by the Government Affairs Committee for the 2015 legislative session, with the exception of #5 (the Attorney General Opinion). The motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Attendance was good at the Membership Meeting on April 11, and the meeting went smoothly. Cheryl Heser noted a lack of new members in attendance, and Jennie Stapp encouraged mentoring to encourage new members in attendance at everything.

NEXT MEETING: The Board Retreat will take place June 4-6 at Canyon Ferry.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl J. Heser, Secretary