

MLA Board Meeting Minutes

Held at Lewis & Clark Public Library

January 16, 2015, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

In attendance: Sheila Bonnard (by phone), Dawn Kingstad, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Della Dubbe, Debbi Kramer, Judy Hart, Matt Beckstrom, Kirsten Bryson, Susan Gregory, Beth Boyson, Sarah McHugh, Eileen Wright (by phone), Eva English (by phone).

Call to Order

A. ACTION ITEM: Approval of Oct. 13, 2014 board meeting minutes.

I move to approve the board minutes from the previous meeting.

1st: Matt Beckstrom

2nd: Kirsten Bryson

Approved

Miscellaneous: Sheila asked Lisa to work on bylaws changes (adding executive director and membership levels) prior to the April annual meeting.

B. Agenda review – Added 2015 board retreat and alternative to Google groups.

C. Association reports. All reports submitted prior to meeting.

Additional information: Della offered to share the template used for PNLA reports in case MLA would like to use these templates as a model for our reports.

Judy talked about very successful legislative reception night held Jan. 15. Many legislators (and librarians) attended. Thanks to the state library for hosting the event and Lewis & Clark Library for handling the legislator posters. There was discussion of donations and expenses for the event. Lisa stated that she had heard from MLA members that they would like to see more transparency in the MLA budget. To that end, Judy and Debbi agreed to do a narrative summary of legislative night activities and expenses that Sheila would post on Wired. It was agreed that we should do this financial summary and posting on Wired for all big MLA events.

No other additions to the association reports.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of the strategic plan needs to be done at every meeting to see what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done. Board approved a one-year extension of strategic plan at summer retreat. Lisa to add to Web group in plan, Beth to add to templates.

B. Debbi Kramer reported that the budget looks good.

C. Conference Planning. Debbi reported that all is in order. Next week, the online registration via PayPal will be ready to go. Debbi said Stacy Bruhn, the Webmaster, has worked very hard to get PayPal up and running and has been very patient and good humored about various snags.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Government Affairs Report. Judy reported that she and MLA's lobbyist Nanette Gilbertson recently testified in support of the state library's budget. MLA members Jodi Smiley and Carly Delsigne also testified and did a great job, Judy said.

B. Money handling for retreats/events. Sheila just wanted to clarify the process. Any time there is a registration fee for any kind of MLA retreat or event, that money has to go through Debbi as MLA's fiscal agent. Debbi will communicate with event planners on the numbers.

C. EA or ED. There has been some confusion as to whether this contracted position for MLA is called Executive Assistant or Executive Director. Right now, the position is listed as Executive Assistant on the MLA Webpage. However, in June 2013 the MLA Board voted to change the title to Executive Director. Hence, the title should be Executive Director. Sheila will make sure that Executive Assistant gets changed to Executive Director on the Webpage.

D. AmazonSmile. Debbi registered the Montana Library Association on AmazonSmile. There is no cost for this program. Amazon donates .5% of the purchase price of eligible products to MLA. MLA will get a quarterly payment. If libraries in the state have an Amazon account, they can just add an AmazonSmile link, use that when ordering, and MLA will receive the donation. Debbi will send information about this program out on Wired.

E. School Library Division (SLD). This division at some point changed their governing model to co-chairs. But changes weren't made to the school division bylaws so the MLA Board did not know; both co-chairs consequently weren't invited to functions. The division is working on rectifying this situation now.

F. Public Library Division (PLD). The chair of the public library division, Mary Braun, resigned her position at the end of December as she was moving out of state. The division had not elected a chair-elect and had no secretary, so they are currently operating without officers. Sheila has put out a call for nominations and will be doing an electronic election. [Note: As a result of that electronic election, Marje Doyle was elected PLD Chair; Rick Ball was elected PLD Chair-elect and Desiree Dramstead was elected PLD Secretary].

G. Helena or Great Falls as conference locations. Debbi has checked into this. Currently the only cities with hotels large enough to house the MLA conference are Missoula, Billings, Bozeman,

and Big Sky. Hotels in Helena and Great Falls don't have enough break-out rooms. Options might include: pare down educational programs to four at a time or making the conference four nights to spread out the programs. Debbi said we do get good one-day attendance at conferences in Missoula, Billings, and Bozeman which increases profits for MLA. A group, Debbi, Judy, and Matt, volunteered to check out potential Helena locations before the next board meeting.

H. Non-MLA affiliated at MLA events. The draft policy was discussed. Meetings of non-MLA affiliated entities cannot conflict with MLA events at conferences or meetings. If there is meeting space for free available, it can be used. However, if there is a cost to MLA, there needs to be compensation back to MLA for use of the space by the non-affiliated organization. There will be a vote on the policy at the next board meeting.

I. Unfinished business from the October Board meeting. Research on student rate membership to attend conference. Do a one-day registration fee or just pay a fee for meals? Just paying the meal fee seems the most likely course. This will promote attendance and good will. Could allot a certain number of seats for students and when filled, they're filled. Sheila, Debbi to look at this issue more thoroughly prior to the next board meeting.

J. Google groups. Alternative to using? Seems to be working OK now. Sheila will do some testing. Matt could look at options for alternatives if directed to do so.

Next board meeting will be at the MLA Conference in Bozeman on Wednesday, April 8, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The dates for the annual retreat for incoming and outgoing MLA board, officers, and committee chairs will be June 4-6, 2015 at the Canyon Ferry Learning Center. Both incoming and outgoing officers should plan to be at the retreat for the entire time. Sheila and Lisa will look at the process for updating the MLA Handbook prior to this retreat.

Adjourned.