

**Montana Library Association
Annual Membership Meeting
Helena, Montana
April 23, 2007 4 pm**

President Lyn McKinney called the 102nd membership meeting to order. She opened the meeting with her State of the Association report.

Lyn thanked Ilene Casey for her service to the Association as Executive Director. Ilene left the position on September 30, 2006. Lyn then introduced new Executive Director, Debbi Kramer. Lyn outlined many changes in the Association in the past year, including the WIRED-MT change from host BCR to OCLC when BCR changed their ramp configuration and were no longer able to host the site. The change of location for the 2008 conference to Great Falls on April 9-12 was announced. Because of the changes in Montana's cities, the executive committee will only look five years ahead for conference sites instead of the usual seven-year timetable. She announced that the "What's Your Story?" library campaign will focus on baby boomers this year and next year will shift to the preschool age group. She thanked members for their ideas to help the Association run more smoothly and reminded members that the Association is theirs and their input into the running of the Association is vital. She thanked John Finn for his tireless efforts in producing the FOCUS newsletter. Lyn then introduced the remainder of the MLA Board as well as the ALA, MPLA, and PNLA delegates, and membership and division chairs. Lyn concluded her speech by thanking Conference Co-chairs Judy Hart and Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson for all their hard work in organizing a wonderful conference.

Past President Milla Cummins introduced the election candidates. Vying for the position of Vice-President/President Elect are Delle Dubbe and Terri Dodd. Candidates for Director-at-Large East are TyRee Banks and Gail Nagel. Samantha Hines and Mary Lou Mires are running for PNLA delegate with Karen Gonzales running for ALA delegate.

Executive Director Debbi Kramer gave the budget report to the members. The Association is in good shape financially, but our membership numbers could be better. Debbi informed members that the Association relies on membership fees, retreat proceeds, exhibitor and conference registration fee, conference sponsorships, the MLA conference bookstore and other fundraisers for its revenue sources. She told members that the Association has collected \$12,336 in membership fees and has realized \$1213 in revenue from retreats. The use of the online credit card has helped and will be utilized for several more payments in the future as well as conference registration in 2008. She completed her report by thanking all the many that worked so diligently to put together a wonderful and smooth running conference.

State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt spoke to the group about the many challenges and successes the State Library has experience this year. She stressed that the State Library's ongoing mission is to focus on the library patrons throughout the state. It is her hope that the State Library will be able to fund fully the statewide magazine database in the future.

The Interlibrary Loan program will be studied so that a more equitable reimbursement scale may be found. Added to the State Library staff is the position of Special Projects Librarian. She extended an invitation for all to attend the Library Commission Reception that evening and invited all the members to attend the Library Commission meetings. Darlene announced that Cheri Bergeron is the Library Commissions member from the Montana Office of Public Instruction. She thanked all present for all their help with comments and praise during the recent legislative session. She had her library staff stand for a round of applause and thanked them all for their many efforts to promote the State Library's services to all Montana citizens.

ALA Representative Beth Boyson relayed to members that three resolutions were forwarded to ALA from the Seattle meeting. Beth asked members for their input on any matters that needed to be taken to the Washington, D.C. meeting. Five members were going to the D. C. conference due to the generosity of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

With the absence of MPLA Representative Eileen Wright, MPLA President Wayne Hanway spoke to the gathering. He thanked all present for a wonderful conference and awarded Delia Brown, Susan Lewis, Dawn Greenwood, Kate Zoeller, and Liz Babbitt free one-year memberships.

PNLA Representative Norma Glock introduced PNLA President Barbara Meisenheimer. Presented to Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson was a free one-year membership. The PNLA Leadership Institute will be in October 2008 and all were invited to apply for attendance at the Institute. MLA members were encouraged to join PNLA. The 2006 Young Reader's Choice Award certificate was won by Christopher Paolini and accepted by Norma Glock on his behalf.

Government Affairs Chair Lois Fitzpatrick informed the group that the 2007 Montana Legislature had adjourned in the Senate and would now have to meet in a special session. Lois also reported to members that legislation passed against the Real ID bill and is one of the strongest in the country. She then brought before the meeting three resolutions.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1
MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
HELENA MT.
April 27, 2007**

WHEREAS, there was a bill and a resolution put forth by the Montana Legislature concerning Academic Diversity; and

WHEREAS, these two pieces of legislation were a direct attack on the academic freedom of the University system of Montana; and

WHEREAS, this is a national movement put forth by a non-profit organization who is attempting to have this legislation passed both federally and locally by states; and

WHEREAS, the proponents at the hearing based their testimony on anecdotal information; and

WHEREAS, the opponents consisted of members of the Montana Board of Regents; Administrators from various units of the university system; students; student lobbyists, MEA/MFT, MLA, ACLU and private citizens; and

WHEREAS, HB525 was voted down on the House floor; and

WHEREAS, the resolution was voted down in the House Education Committee;

WHEREAS, academic institutions provide a forum for the robust exchange of a diversity of ideas; and

WHEREAS, libraries in academic institutions guarantee that a wide array of ideas that promote academic discourse are available; and

WHEREAS, academic institutions have in place longstanding representative democratic structures for review and redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, most academic institutions follow the 1940 American Association of University Professors (AAUP) "[Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#)" and their libraries follow the "[Freedom to Read Statement](#)," the "[Library Bill of Rights](#)," the "[Code of Professional Ethics for Librarians](#)," and the "[Core Values of Librarianship](#)" that are consonant with the 1940 AAUP statement; and

WHEREAS, these statements are effective safeguards of academic freedom and embrace the free expression rights and responsibilities laid out in the First Amendment; and WHEREAS, an "[Academic Bill of Rights](#)" (ABOR) by the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, a self-described conservative nonprofit organization, is being introduced in legislatures and academic institutions; and

WHEREAS, this "Academic Bill of Rights" would impose extra-academic standards on academic institutions, directly interfering in course content, the classroom, the research process, and hiring and tenure decisions; and

WHEREAS, this "Academic Bill of Rights" applies principles other than relevant scholarly standards, as interpreted and applied by the academic profession; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Library Association reaffirms the principles of academic freedom embodied in the American Association of University Professors' "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" (1940); and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Library Association opposes any legislation or codification of documents like the “Academic Bill of Rights” (ABOR) that undermine academic and intellectual freedom, chill free speech, and/or otherwise interfere with the academic community’s well-established norms and values of scholarship and educational excellence.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MLA continue to testify and actively oppose this type of legislation both in the Montana Legislature and the Federal Congressional Delegation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that when our MLA representatives meet with our Congressional Delegation next week in DC that they speak to Senators Baucus and Tester and Representative Reberg to let them know that MLA requests that they vote against the federal legislation before them.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2
MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
HELENA MT.
April 27, 2007

WHEREAS, the American Library Association passed a resolution concerning “immigration rights”, and

WHEREAS, the MLA passed a resolution against the Real ID Bill last conference; and

WHEREAS, the REAL ID does infringe on immigration rights; and

WHEREAS, libraries are the “people’s universities”; and

WHEREAS, libraries will assist any person who asks for information help; and

MLA supports the protection of each person’s civil liberties regardless of that individual’s nationality, residency, or status;

BE IT RESOLVED, that MLA opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA (citizens or otherwise) to use library resources on national, state and local levels.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 3
MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
HELENA MT.
April 27, 2007

WHEREAS, the Montana Library Association has come back to the city of Helena after a long absence; and

WHEREAS, the Conference Chairs Judy Hart and Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson have planned a magnificent meeting; and

WHEREAS, the conference committee and subcommittees have worked miracles for the conference attendees; presenters; exhibitors; award winners, and

WHEREAS, the conference is declared a complete success;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the MLA thank all who have been involved in this venture and give them three cheers.

All three resolutions passed.

Cates Committee Co-Chairs Mary Anne Hansen and Anita Scheetz gave a Cates Scholarship report. The preliminary report of gross income realized by the Cates Committee fundraiser is \$3930.50. A complete list of the raffle winners will be put on WIRED-MT. The three winners of the Cates Traveling Quilt were also announced.

Central Asia Institute Chair Norma Glock notified members that the goal of \$20,000 from the MLA had been reached. She thanked everyone for all his or her hard work in helping with the project. She had a map available and relayed the approximate location of the new school. Norma was presented with a certificate from the Central Asia Institute for her untiring devotion to the cause.

Conference Co-Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson gave a brief conference report. Over 402 conference registrations were received. She thanked all conference co-chairs for all their help to make the conference a success. She also gave an update on the Librarian Calendar sales.

Co-Chairs for next year's conference are Kathy Mora and Sheila Bonnard. The crowns were passed to Sheila and a Kathy look-alike and they were wished good luck in their future endeavor.

The gavel was presented to Honore from Lyn and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbi Kramer, Executive Director

