

Montana Library Association  
Membership Meeting  
Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls  
April 11, 2008

President Honore Bray called the membership meeting to order at 8:38 am.

**President's message:** Honore thanked the Conference Planning committee for all their hard work. She reviewed the structure of our Association explaining how we all work together; the Officers, Divisions, Association Representatives, Executive Director, Interest Groups and the 700 plus members. Over the past year MLA has raised the money required to build a school in Pakistan through the Central Asia Institute so the Taskforce has become an interest group. In August Honore and Gloria Langstaff attended the PNLA Conference in Edmonton, Alberta and presented a session on the partner's floating collection. Our books were audited and found to be in order. The website is under revision with new webmasters in a new wiki-like format. MLA extends a huge thank you to Pam, Steve and Matt for all the work they have done in the past and for their work to get us to the new environment. ASLD/PLD held a very successful retreat at Chico in October and Offline was great in Missoula. Please remember that anyone may attend these retreats and it is certainly worthwhile for all members. Part of MLA dues are allocated to fund professional development grants that include travel grants to help members attend the annual conference, grants to attend other conferences (two \$800 were awarded), and grants to attend the PNLA and MPLA Leadership institutes. The Montana Book Award was started by the Friends of Missoula Public Library and awarded at the Festival of the Book. This year the Great Falls Public Library Friends group partnered with them and it was awarded at the MLA Conference. It will be awarded at the annual MLA Conference from now on. The Book Award committee is looking for readers so contact Barbara Theroux if interested. A huge thank you goes to Margaret Webster who has been the moderator of our listserv for several years. She has stepped down and Steph Johnson from Flathead County Library has agreed to serve with backup from Bruce Newell. Thanks to them for stepping forward. We are pleased to have Colet Bartow as the new Library Media Curriculum Specialist at the Montana Office of Public Instruction. Matt Beckstrom proposed an MLA license plate and Liza Mecklenberg-Jackson with the PR Committee has brought it about. Please vote for your plate of choice at the MLA booth. It will be a source of revenue once the initial investment is recovered. The MLA Handbooks were last updated in 2002 so a revision was undertaken this year. The old one was removed from the web page and when the new one is complete it will be posted. Thank you to all Division and Committee Chairs and Debbi for making the revisions. The Board is moving to solve the fall cash flow problem by reinstating the July 1 date for dues payment. Hopefully the Association will no longer need to borrow from the savings account to meet our bills. MLA purchased a new laptop, printer and fax machine for the Executive Director. Thanks to all who submit articles for the Focus and to John Finn who puts it all together. Results of John's survey indicate that 97% of the members responding read the focus and 80% think it is an important part of their membership. The State Library worked with MLA to bring our Saturday author luncheon speaker to area school and community libraries. They will continue this next year in Kalispell. For the first time MLA Conference has been offered for College credit through the College of Great Falls. Report attached.

**Introduction of candidates – Lyn McKinney:** Lyn presented the slate of candidates for office: Eva English, Vice President/President elect; Dee Ann Redman, Secretary; Pam Henley, MPLA Representative and Jennie Burroughs, Representative-at-large West. Ballots will be sent out so watch the mail and get them back. She urged everyone to step up and volunteer for a committee. Our strength is in our membership.

**Financial report – Debbi Kramer:** MLA has 718 members in the database of which 96 are inactive (no dues paid since 2006). Since last conference 136 new members have joined. Our membership consists of 178 SLMD members, 421 PLD members and 124 ASLD members (some belong to more than one division). Our total operating budget is \$103,868.00. We have \$33,325.00 in the Cates Scholarship Fund, \$35,173.00 in the Ameriprise Fund, and \$10,890 in the Reserve Fund. Report attached.

**ALA Councilor Karen Gonzales:** Karen reported on a great ALA Mid-Winter conference. She attended the Caldecott award which was a great experience. She read the ALA Resolution on the Use and Abuse of National Security Letters that the Board voted to support. Resolution attached.

**MPLA Representative Eileen Wright:** Eileen will be attending the MPLA Conference April 29 – May 2 in Utah. The MPLA Leadership Institute will not be happening this year due to lack of corporate sponsorship. She has been elected Vice President/President elect of MPLA

**PNLA Representative Mary Lou Mires:** Mary Lou joined PNLA because of their work with rural library issues. It is an international organization made up of library professionals and para-professionals. The 2008 conference is August 5-9 in Post Falls Idaho. The 2009 conference is a 100<sup>th</sup> celebration in Missoula. The Leads institute is for professionals and para-professionals and you may register online until April 30, 2009. Jane Howell has been selected as a mentor for the PNLA Institute. Thanks to all who participated in the Young Readers Choice awards.

**Legislative agenda – Honore Bray:** MLA will go to the legislature for money to pay one half of the OCLC costs, public library construction and trustee training. When Lois calls on us for help please respond.

**Conference Planning Taskforce – Bruce Newell:** Bruce presented the report that had been accepted by the Board. Feedback from the membership is requested. Thanks to Bruce for a very thorough review of conference needs and options. Report attached.

**Cates Report – Diane Van Gorden:** Thanks to all who have helped and donated to the Cates Scholarship. The raffle has raised \$830 and tickets are still selling. The Jeopardy event had 90 register and raised \$2400 less expenses. The scholarship is awarded every other year so will be available again in 2009. They also provide \$500 for books for each PEEL scholar.

**Marketing Chair Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson:** Lisa asked everyone to go by the MLA booth and vote for one of the four designs for the MLA license plate. She has a special gift for each voter.

**State Librarian Darlene Staffeldt:** Darlene invited everyone to visit with the State Library Commission Saturday morning at the conference and to attend the Commission meeting in the afternoon. The Fulfillment Task Force has recommended repurposing the annual \$200,000 ILL reimbursement funding as follows: 1. \$100,000 to the Shared Catalog to lower costs to participating libraries and 2. Apply \$100,000 to the OCLC contract to lower cost for participation in the Montana group services contract.

**Conference Report – Kathy Mora:** 300 were registered for the conference; there were 35 vendors, 45 programs and 75 presenters. MLA partnered with the ACLU to bring in the keynote speakers. Thanks to all the local chairs and volunteers for giving generously of their time. The hotel staff was great to work with. Please do fill out the conference evaluations; it will be used for future planning. Sheila and Kathy passed the crowns to the Kalispell Co-Chairs Kim Crowley and Carlene Engstrom.

Honore introduced incoming MLA President Della Dubbe and presented her with the gavel.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Smith.