

**Montana Library Association
Membership Meeting 4-24-09
Hilton Garden Inn, Kalispell
April 24, 2009**

President Della Dubbe called the membership meeting to order at 8:34 am.

President's message: Della welcomed everyone to the membership meetings, and especially to all new members. She reminded everyone that at the annual conference last year, the membership gave its approval to move forward with hiring professional conference planners. Conference planners were hired for the first time this year. Della noted her appreciation to Kathy Mora for preparing documents outlining the association's requirements, and the conference planning committee for their work in hiring the planners. This established a new path for the association. Della then introduced Janel & Mark Trowbridge of T&T Conference and Event Management, noting that they would report briefly to the membership, and in more detail at the Saturday board meeting.

Planner's report: Janel of T&T thanked association members for being fun, and easy to work with. She especially enjoyed hula hooping at the Cates event. She noted that their job is to sit behind the scenes to make what goes on up front go smoothly. Janel expressed her thanks to hotel staff saying that the food has been great, and settings out on time. Mark spoke about their pleasure in getting online registration working. They would like everyone to provide feedback, for anything, good and bad. This is a data intensive conference, and they want it to only improve. T&T received a standing ovation from the membership.

President's message, Part 2: Della described her activities during the past year. She has traveled to various meetings around the state ten times. Major activities included conference planning, and interviewing potential planners, the board retreat, board meetings, a legislative year, hiring planners. She's done lots of driving from Cut Bank.

Della described various contracts that have been entered into by the association. Contracts have been signed with Stacy Bruhn to be the Association's first webmaster, with the conference facility in Bozeman, with Executive Assistant Debbi Kramer, and with lobbyists Smith and McGowan.

A new financial committee, consisting of the three most recent past presidents, has been formed to review and address budget issues. The budget continues to be a concern for the association. Last year, we moved back to a July 1 date for dues payments in hopes that this would address cash flow problems. This didn't work. After due consideration, the board voted to raise membership rates at all levels. This will go into effect July 1. Della reminded everyone that there are many benefits to membership in addition to the annual conference. MLA members sponsor Focus, Wired-MT, the various retreats, sharing of information, the event calendars, the new license plates, the public relations campaign, and lobbying efforts. There is contact with other professional organizations and intangibles such as networking and mutual support. We feel the organization is worthwhile, and the Board has tried to do what's best for the organization.

Nominating committee information is coming up. Please check with Della if you can help by joining in. Della has proposed a Friends of the Library interest group. Please sign up for

interest groups and committees. Della urged members to participate in your association. We need help, and you will enjoy getting to know and work with others.

Della expressed her thanks for a great conference to Kim Crowley, Lynn Kelly and other volunteers. Thanks to John Finn for producing the booklet. The conference will be in Bozeman next year, and in Billings in a joint conference with MPLA the following year. We will have to decide on further conference locations after that.

Della also thanked those who helped out in a pinch. Sami Pierson and the Libby staff took on the Cates event. Coby Johnson coordinated the raffle items, Lauren McMullen coordinated it at the conference. Liz Babbitt and Lyn McKinney organized the bookstore. Signed books from the Montana Book Award winners are in the bookstore. Proceeds will go to MLA.

Della offered thanks to MLA for letting her serve. It has been rewarding. Della then introduced the current Board and Council members.

Approval of Minutes: Della asked members to review the copies of the minutes from the 2008 membership meeting that are on the tables. Alice Meister made a motion to approve the minutes. Suzanne Goodman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Introduction of candidates – Honore Bray: Honore reiterated the need to have people serve on the board, and noted that everyone has something to offer. She is concerned that it's not really an election when you only have one choice for the office. Honore presented the slate of candidates: Sami Pierson for Vice President/President Elect, Bridgett Johnson for Director at Large – East, and Mary Lou Mires will continue for PNLA. Honore reminded everyone that the PNLA conference will be in Missoula in August.

Financial report – Debbi Kramer: The amounts Debbi presented are current through 3-31-09. Total memberships collected are \$12,531.73. \$390 came in as donations with memberships for the Cates scholarship fund. The Association's operating budget totals over \$122,000+. We have receipts of over \$49,000, and our bills total almost that much. Ameriprise investment accounts have a balance of \$28,010.57. The Cates scholarship fund has a balance of \$28,397.80.

Membership figures are as follows: There are 737 members in database. 575 of those members are active with their dues paid, and 162 are inactive. Of the active members, 140 in ASLD, 146 in SLMD, 475 in PLD, 26 are in multiple divisions. 88 new members registered this year. Dues will come due in July, and it is very helpful if the members pay those dues promptly.

Debbi presented a preliminary Cates scholarship report. \$510 was received at registration for event tickets. As of last night, \$824 was earned from raffle tickets. \$767 was generated from the Olympiad. This totals \$2,101 added to Cates for this conference.

Debbi is moving to Three Forks, which means there will be a new address for MLA as of Monday, April 27. That address is: PO Box 1352, Three Forks, MT 59752. Her email address and cell phone numbers remain unchanged. Debby encourages members to call her cell and leave message or call her at the Three Forks Public Library if needed.

There were 328 people registered for the conference. These conference receipts are not included in totals reported. 51 people paid to go to attend the Cates event at the registration table, 9 more at the door.

Central Asia Institute Report – Nancy Venable MLA has sponsored a school through its Pennies for Peace initiative. Our school has been finished in Pakistan. We are now ahead on

costs for maintaining the school's annual expenses due to the fundraisers held around the state. Nancy encourages everyone to sign up on interest group sheet. Della reminded everyone that it takes ten people to maintain an interest group. Please sign up for all those you're interested in.

Government Affairs Report – Darlene Staffeldt: We had a successful Legislative Day, with the highest number of legislators attending in years. The big success was the READ posters. There were no censorship bills that hit hearing level. Our big bill was HB 61 - Information Access Montana, which passed. Now the work begins to redirect resource sharing funds. The state budget is not yet done, and the stimulus bill is complicating budget. The legislature seems to be in deadlock. Darlene encourages members to be in contact with local folks about stimulus money. Lois Fitzpatrick sends her thanks to all who helped during session, especially Judy Hart, Honore Bray, John Finn, Ron Moody, Lobbyist Nanette Gilbertson and the legislators who carried the bill.

State Librarian's Report – Darlene Staffeldt: MSL has had busy year, and worked with the Association on several projects. MontanaLibrary2Go, law revisions, and updating certification. The MSL will be affected by the economic downturn, and will be working on new Administrative Rules for resource sharing in coming year. Please share comments and ideas. Please share ideas with commission. Three commission members leaving the commission – please have your trustees consider serving, or serve yourself. Thanks to staff and librarians and trustees who have served on boards and task forces. Thanks also for your collaborative efforts.

ALA Report – Karen Gonzales. Karen thanked the membership for sending her to ALA; she is enjoying it very much. Karen described her trip to Denver for the ALA annual conference, and invited everyone to visit the ALA booth. ALA has many excellent tool kits on website – regarding stimulus, technology, etc. that will give you talking points. Freedom to Read & OIF lost Judith Krug. That office will have 40th anniversary bash at summer conference. Karen is hoping to plan a get-together for MLA members in Chicago. There is a forum at the conference for ALA which is looking for feedback on ways to better serve and support libraries.

PNLA Report – Mary Lou Mires & Samantha Hines. Mary Lou offered her thanks to the membership for two years of support for her service with PNLA. MLA has three members on the PNLA board at this time. Brent Roberts from MSU-Billings is the Secretary, Mary Lou from Salish-Kootenai College is the MLA representative, and Samantha Hines from the University of Montana is the 1st Vice President. Samantha mentioned the upcoming 100th anniversary conference in Missoula in August. Tomas Lipinski will be the keynote speaker, talking about leadership in a time of change. The conference theme is “A Century of Cooperation, a Legacy of Leadership”. Young Readers Choice Award winners were announced recently – you can see them on the website. Samantha encouraged members to come to the booth and register for a free membership. The Board engaged in strategic planning process – coming out with many questions how PNLA can be more responsive in the next 100 years. Get in touch with Samantha. The website is located at pnla.org. They want to know how to better connect. See you in Missoula in August.

MPLA Report – Pam Henley: The MPLA representative is a three year position, and Pam is completing her first year. She reports that it is great fun. She has just returned from the Joint Conference with the Kansas Library Association in Wichita. MPLA will be holding a Joint Conference with MLA in Billings in 2011. Pam encouraged everyone to stop by the MPLA booth to register for a free membership. She noted that MPLA has conference travel awards.

The MPLA Leadership institute has been changed due to problems with corporate sponsorship. It is expected to be held in conjunction with conference in Oklahoma City next year. MPLA has started new section on website for roundtable discussions, which is a great place to find out things and exchange information. Suzanne Reymer modeled an MPLA shirt which is available. Pam was pleased to remind everyone that MLA's own Eileen Wright from MSU-Billings is president of MPLA this year.

Cates Fundraiser – Sami Pierson: The fundraiser olympiad was a successful event. Most of the money at event was raised through bribes to judges, which were encouraged. Sami offered congratulations to the “404 Not Found” team for their victory. The Cates Raffle is still open – buy lots of tickets

Public Relations & Marketing – Della Dubbe: Della passed on information from Lisa Mecklenburg Jackson. The new MLA license plates will be out July 1; please order them as you renew your license. READ posters that had been ordered are at the MLA booth; you may also sign up for READ posters there.

Conference Planning – Lynn Kelly: Lynn offered thanks to all for coming to the conference, and has enjoyed matching faces with names. She especially thanked anyone who had done this before for all the advice and assistance that was provided. Though we had conference planners on board for the first time, there was still plenty to do. Lynn expressed her gratitude to all the volunteers helping out and to the membership for patience as the committee worked through issues. Lynn reminded everyone to recycle their badges. There will be a survey posted online; attendees can fill it out at the registration table before leaving. The survey will also be on the MLA site till May 15. Lynn said they had received questions about ability to get credit through MSU-Great Falls; Lynn has more information – see her at registration table. Lynn passed the crown to Eva English as representative for the Bozeman conference. Lynn also expressed her appreciation to her colleagues for knowing when to leave her alone. Lynn received a standing ovation from membership for the work of the Conference Committee.

Bylaws – Della Dubbe: Della explained to the membership that there will be information upcoming on a decision to change bylaws on balloting. Current bylaws require that balloting be conducted only by mail. A bylaws change will permit the Association to utilize the best way of conducting voting activities without limiting the means.

Transfer of offices: Eva English will take over as MLA President on July 1. Della passed over the gavel to Eva. Eva spoke to the membership about feeling the weight of the responsibility and she is ready to take it on. Eva notes that conference planner expenses will need to be covered for the next year; the conference needs the services of a planner. She reminded everyone once again to buy license plates. Eva encouraged everyone to come to the Bozeman conference at the GranTree inn. The theme will be “Opening Minds, Expanding Horizons”. The keynote speaker is expected to be Loriene Roy, past ALA president.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Ann Redman
Secretary-Treasurer