

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center
Bozeman, MT
Friday, April 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by President Sheila Bonnard.

MINUTES

Marje Doyle moved to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2014 Membership Meeting. Martha Thayer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sheila Bonnard welcomed everyone and recognized the conference tri-chairs Carmen Clark of Bozeman Public Library, Mary Guthmiller of Montana State University, and Kari Eliason of Manhattan Community Library, thanking them for all their hard work. She also thanked conference planners Debbi and Doug Kramer.

BOARD INTRODUCTIONS

Sheila Bonnard introduced all of the MLA Board Members and committee chairs and thanked them for their service.

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (MPLA)

MPLA Representative Eileen Wright introduced MPLA President, Annie Epperson, who was visiting for the MLA Conference. Annie stated how happy she was to be in Montana and then gave away ten memberships to MPLA via a drawing at the MPLA table.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (PNLA)

PNLA President Honore Bray (Director at Missoula Public Library) welcomed everyone to the conference on behalf of PNLA and reminded the membership of the upcoming PNLA Conference in Vancouver, BC Aug. 5-7. 2015.

BYLAWS UPDATE

Bylaws Committee Chair Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson led the membership through a number of amendments to the MLA Bylaws, making a motion to amend each affected section of the bylaws.

Changes to the following sections were approved as amended:

Article I, Section 1

Article IV, Section 1

Article X

Article XI

Article XII

Article XIII

Article VI, Section 1-3. Motion to table changes to this section by Jane Lopp. Kate Vassar Giese second. Bylaws Committee needs to further refine. Motion to table passed.

Article VI, Section 4. Motion to table changes to this section by Jane Lopp. Kate Vassar Giese second. Bylaws Committee needs to further refine by looking at eight point budget plan discussed by the board several years ago. Motion to table passed.

MLA FINANCIAL REPORT

Debbi Kramer, MLA Executive Director, stated that the association counts on income from the ASLD/PLD Retreat, the Offline Retreat, memberships, and license plates. Our expenses include such things as administrative expenses and lobbyists for legislative action. Attendance at the Bozeman Conference was strong and membership in the association remains somewhat steady, although it is declining a bit. Debbi encouraged everyone to make sure staff at their libraries are MLA members, as this helps both the employee personally and the MLA organization as a whole.

STATE LIBRARIAN REPORT/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT

Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, gave her report to the membership. First she announced that her dad was at the meeting. Hi Dad! Jennie stated that there are positions open on the Network Advisory Council. Applications are due July 1. She was pleased to announce that several new libraries have joined the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC). Jennie also stated that she is planning to have the state library conduct a study on the loss of coal severance tax money to libraries. She talked about bills at the past session and stated the budget battle didn't go too badly with the state library seeing a 1.29 reduction in FTE or a \$90,000 reduction in budget. Jennie handed the podium over to Judy Hart, Government Affairs Committee Chair, who stated what a pleasure it was to work with Jennie and Nanette Gilbertson, the MLA lobbyist, during the past session. Judy stated that we didn't get the early literacy bill passed as we had hoped but several bills MLA opposed had been tabled. Judy thanked everyone for their help in contacting legislators during the session. MLA continued its very successful legislator READ poster project. Hard copies of the posters are available at MLA and Judy's crew will also be posting PDFs of the posters on the MLA Website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASLD/PLD Retreat-Oct. 18-19, 2015 at Chico Hot Springs.

SLD-Reduced MLA registration fee when registering for MEA-MFT in October. SLD will also be conducting a retreat in Bozeman in August.

Belgrade Public Library was recognized as Library of the Year by Library Journal!

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD CANDIDATES

Past President Beth Boyson introduced candidates Diane Van Gorden (Director at Large East), Samantha Hines (Vice-President/President Elect) and Paula Demars and Carmen Clark (PNLA Representative). Ballots will be sent out to membership two weeks after the annual meeting.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Incoming MLA President Dawn Kingstad stated she was very excited to lead MLA. She announced that the 2016 MLA Conference will be in Missoula and the conference steering committee would consist of herself, Debbi Kramer, Samantha Hines, and Mitch Grady. Dawn gave Sheila a gift for all her great work as MLA President this past year,

Adjournment: All business being concluded, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the MLA Membership meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Secretary