

**MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MONTANA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

Hilton Garden Inn  
Missoula, MT  
Friday, April 8, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by President Dawn Kingstad with thanks to all for showing up to the meeting and a request to comment on the conference survey regarding the time slot for the meeting

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dawn Kingstad commented that the time flew this past year. She indicated that her personal goal as president was to personalize the conference experience, especially to create a more family friendly environment such as daycare options and family activities. She also reported that the MLA board is striving to become more streamlined and effective. She talked of 3 highlights this past year. 1) impressed with the improvements made with the SLD, especially regarding the retreat; 2) two new committees were formed – Communications and Membership; 3) talked of the MLA family and thanked all for work and support received.

**BOARD INTRODUCTIONS**

Dawn Kingstad thanked the current board members, especially Samantha Hines and Debbi Kramer. She also recognized the other conference planners, Mitch Grady from Livingston-Park Public Library, Marje Doyle (retired) from Missoula Public Library, Darrah Rogers from the University of Montana Mansfield Library, and Jodi Oberweiser from Drummond School-Community Library. MLA representatives introduced themselves. MPLA - Eileen Wright; Government – John Finn; PLD – Mitch Grady; Director at Large (West) – Matt Beckstrom; Director at Large (East) – Diane Van Gorden; ALA – Susan Gregory; PNLA – Carmen Clark also introduced the president, Gwendolyn Haley; SLD – Nikki Keuch and Lynde Roberts; ASLD – Kirsten Bryson; Vice President – Samantha Hines.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (PNLA)**

PNLA President Gwendolyn Haley announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> PNLA Leads Institute was held and that planning for the 2017 one has begun. She asked that those that have attended an institute please stand. The Young Readers' Choice Awards (YRCA) are on the website at <http://www.pnla.org/yrca> She indicated that it's the oldest children's choice book award. She announced that the PNLA Quarterly is back and that Jan Zauha and Leila Sterman are the editors. At the PNLA vendor booth, a 1 year membership is being given away. She also asked that members save August 3-5, 2016 as the date for the PNLA conference, held in Calgary, Alberta.

**MINUTES**

Nancy Royan moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 Member Meeting. Dale Alger seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF BOARD CANDIDATES**

President Dawn Kingstad asked candidates to come forward and introduce themselves. Dawn introduced Lisa Mecklenberg-Jacksons as the Vice-President/President elect in Lisa's absence. Matt Beckstrom is running for the ALA Representative position, Conor Cote as the Director of Large (West) one, and Mary Guthmiller as Secretary/Treasurer.

## **MLA FINANCIAL REPORT**

Debbi Kramer, MLA Executive Director, asked Diane Anderson to share with the membership a letter of proclamation that was received from Governor Bullock declaring April 2016 as School Library Month. In it, he recognized the work of school librarians and the benefits to students of having a librarian in their school. Debbi then proceeded to give the MLA financial report. She indicated that the association is in good financial condition, reporting on the amount of assets of little over \$80K and indicating the approximate amounts that are in savings and stocks. She did indicate to the membership that MLA does need to keep a reserve fund that is over 20%. She stated that MLA's income comes from retreats, memberships, conference and that we should be in the "black" again. She reported that our expenses are about \$60K. She also reported on membership numbers and that the goal of \$20K membership dues was exceeded by \$200. When asked about the license plates sales, she said that the income from that is good and gave an anecdote regarding a comment she received when traveling. Debbi also indicated that the Amazon Smile program has also generated some income. She concluded by encouraging members to contact her if they have further questions.

## **STATE LIBRARIAN REPORT/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPORT**

Jennie Stapp, State Librarian, gave her report to the membership. She recognized the current State Library Commission members of Brent Roberts, Bruce Newell, Denise Juneau, Colet Bartow, Anne Kish, Aaron LaFromboise, Connie Eissinger, and Ken Wall. She also thanked the State Library staff and lauded them for their service to all Montana libraries. She addressed two (2) major issues facing Montana libraries: 1) the decline in funding (about 25%) from the coal severance tax and 2) the LSTA funding and that it has been stagnant, but the expenses have not. She referred to the Aspen Report regarding libraries and mentioned three (3) key components of services, resources, and collections. One big question for the State Library is how they can assist others with consulting, professional development and programs given the above mentioned budget concerns. She indicated a task force was formed to tackle this. The task force held different listening sessions and sent out a survey to gather feedback and recommendations. After getting the input, they started out with a vision that sought to look at the needs of all stakeholders and to see how they could advocate for them. They are now in the process of implementing recommendations and to address assessment of them. She encouraged all to check the website for all information at

[http://about.msl.mt.gov/commission\\_councils/library\\_development\\_study\\_task\\_force](http://about.msl.mt.gov/commission_councils/library_development_study_task_force)

She also indicated the Network Advisory Council met in March and were tasked to look at the budget to align resources, services, etc. She was happy to report that the Library Commission approved the budget which was in line with the task force and Network Advisory Council. With that said, all current programs will be looked at and a recommendation of increase, maintain or decrease for each will be needed.

She stated that the following specifics will be implemented: 1) The EBSCO Discovery interface will be cut as data indicated it wasn't used very much. 2) Funding for statewide database suites will be reduced (around 50%), but currently negotiating with Ebsco for a package that could be worked out with funding that is available. 3) A full-time life-long learning position is being created and will fill as soon as possible. The statutory appropriation will end July 1, 2017. If during the next legislative session, the appropriation isn't approved, funding will cease. Jennie strongly encouraged librarians to begin lobbying right now regarding the importance of libraries. Legislation has been drafted to extend the appropriation through 2023 and have it tied to the 2020 census. She also recognized John Finn as the MLA government affairs representative and to the Lewis & Clark Library's board to include the legislative advocacy in their director's hiring. She concluded with an announcement of a June 8<sup>th</sup> retirement celebration for Sarah McHugh. It will be held in Helena.

### **CATES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Jim Kammerer, a member of the committee, said there are several baskets in the Cates silent auction room to bid on and while there, you can also play croquet (for a price). The Name That Tune and karaoke event the previous evening went well and attendees indicated they had fun. He reported that the evening's event brought in close to \$600.

### **2016 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Samantha Hines indicated that at this time, there was nothing further to report.

### **2017 CONFERENCE**

Samantha Hines announced that next year's conference will be held March 28 through April 1 in Billings.

### **MONTANA BOOK AWARD**

Dale Alger indicated that awards will be chosen. He also encouraged conference attendees to sign an autograph book (which will be located at the State Library booth). This book will be given to the Doig family.

### **DOOR PRIZES**

To be eligible to win a door prize, you needed to be present at the membership meeting. The winners were:

\$250 value gift bag – Rachel Rawn

Plonk gift certificate – Trudy Dundas

Overdrive package – Al Logan

### **ADJOURNMENT**

All business being concluded, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the MLA Membership meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Guthmiller, Secretary-elect