



# Montana Library Association

*From the Mountains to the Prairies*

## **MLA BOARD REPORTS**

Office held/Chair of: Government Affairs

Reported By: John Finn

Date: Jan 2019

### **Progress or Successes since Our Last Meeting:**

The Government Affairs Committee met for a very successful and unifying retreat in the bustling metropolis of Lewistown on November 8/9. We met with State Library staff and the MLA lobbyist Nanette Gilbertson and made plans for how the committee will make best use of communication to make sure that the whole membership has the ability to keep informed on what is happening before, during, and after the session. The committee set legislative priorities for the 2019 legislative session and beyond. The committee felt that it was such a success that we should try really hard to budget for a similar retreat each year previous to the legislative year. It may work to have committee members meet as part of the MLA annual retreat, since it would have made more sense to meet earlier than we did this year.

I testified on Monday February 4 in opposition to HB 354 **A bill to Restrict sexually explicit materials and sexually oriented businesses.**

I am also working with the Legislative Day Reception Planning Committee on details of the Reception and MLA's support of that evening. MLA has gathered almost \$2,700 in donations from Library Friends and Foundations, associations, and individuals.

Nanette Gilbertson is presenting a Meet Your Legislator training on Library Legislative Day at 3:00 PM. I will see everyone at Legislative Day!

### **New Issues:**

No new issues, just preparing for the legislative session and getting ready for Legislative Day and Reception.

### **Board Action Requested:**

None at this time.