



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: Cates Committee
Reported By: Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson
Date: April 24, 2020

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

We awarded two Cates Scholarships in the fall of 2019: \$2,000 each to Christine Call (Butte-Silver Bow Public Library) and Liz Johnson (MSU Renne Library).

The Cates Committee had been working on the Cates Silent Auction for the 2020 MLA Conference in Missoula. Our fundraising event at the 2020 MLA Conference was to be BOOK BINGO where we would have featured several “celebrity” callers and fun events between rounds. Because the 2020 MLA Conference had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, we lost our scholarship funding source for the year, which is a little scary. But we have been asking for donations to the Cates Scholarship fund and we have been able to make up a bit of funding. Each year at conference, we make about \$4,000 between the silent auction and the fundraising event. In donations this year, we are at about \$2,700 at this time.

I updated the Cates Scholarship video on the MLA webpage in the month of April which inadvertently resulted in a nice phone call from Dennis Cates and a lovely letter from Kristen Cates, Sheila’s daughter. Both made donations in honor of Sheila.

Debbi and I had a conversation with our D.A. Davidson rep. about a month ago and made the decision to move a percentage of funds in the Cates funds to a more aggressive portfolio. We will be monitoring this over the next year to see how this strategy works.

New Issues:

None

Board Action Requested:

None.

Other Comments:

Financial Report: FY 2020 budget: Separate budget-about \$40,000 in account

Amount spent: \$4,000 for scholarships last fall.

(If unknown, please contact Executive Director)