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The Montana Courier Alliance

Mission Statement

The mission of the Alliance is to strengthen member libraries through collaboration in order to provide access to materials and encourage resource sharing. Alliance members work together to enhance our services, share our information resources and expertise, enrich and preserve our collections, and develop library staff to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing information environment.

Courier Program

Purpose. To exchange library materials between libraries and provide service to all Montanans and especially underserved libraries and their communities.

History. The Courier Program originated in service that began in January 2011, when the Butte-Silver Bow Public Library entered into a contractual agreement for service with [Critelli Couriers](#) to provide service between Montana libraries.

Service. Standard service is five days a week, Monday-Friday. The Alliance also offers options for service 2 or 3 days a week. Alliance provides [guidelines for use](#) of the service, [tips on packaging](#), and other [instructions](#). List of [cities served](#).

Membership program. Courier service is offered as a membership subscription by completing a contract addendum, with a fixed price for the entire year. The cost is billed monthly to individual member libraries. For current cost formula, billing guidelines and price, please see the [contract](#) page.

Staying in touch. The Courier Program e-mail listserv is available for all participating libraries. Please contact Mike Price (miprice@mt.gov) at the Montana State Library to be added to the Courier google group listserv.

To Contact Montana Courier Alliance for Courier Program Matters: Stef Johnson at stjohnson@buttepubliclibrary.info or for questions on billing contact Kathy at Critelli Courier at kathy@critellicouriers.com.

The Montana Courier Alliance

Bylaws and Rules of Order

I.

The Montana Courier Alliance is a cooperative of public and academic library institutions in Montana. The MCA Advisory Board shall meet quarterly to manage the affairs of the Alliance. A quorum will consist of a majority of board members. There will be no proxy voting. Meetings may be conducted in person, online or via telephone. Additional meetings may be called by any three members of the Advisory Board. Forty eight hour notice is required for special meetings.

II.

The MCA Advisory Board will consist of administrators from five public libraries, two university libraries, one tribal library, and one special library who also serve as hubs for the courier program. Membership in the Advisory Board is dependent on participation in the courier program. One member of the MSL staff will be a member of the advisory board in an ex-officio, non-voting appointment. All advisory members will serve two year terms. Initially the the Board will stagger terms of the five public administrators, with two members serving three years, two members serving two years and one member serving one year. Members can serve recurring terms up to four terms, not to exceed ten years consecutively. A minimum of five advisory members will be considered a founding board in the initial appointment. The Sec/Treas will prepare electronic ballots for the Alliance membership to vote and submit before the January meeting. Winners will be determined by a simple majority of votes cast.

III.

The advisory board officers will be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer. Elections of Officers will occur at the first meeting of each year. Each office will serve a one year term. Each year the board membership will vote for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer. Board members may be elected to consecutive terms not to exceed three terms. The vote for advisory board officers will be cast electronically with a majority of votes cast indicating the winners.

IV.

The Board will use the latest version of Roberts Rules of Order. Minutes from meetings will be posted by the Sec/Treas. to the Courier web site located on the MLA web site.

V.

Amendments to these Rules of Order can be presented to the Advisory Board at any regular meeting of this body and require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority and will take effect at the next Board meeting. Suspension of the rules can be applied by a unanimous vote of the members present and a record of the Yeas and Nays recorded into the official minutes.

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The Montana Courier Alliance

The Alliance Values

An educated and inquisitive citizenry;
Library services that are responsive to users' needs;
Free government information that is easily accessible;
Equitable access to all library resources and services;
Patron privacy;
Economic development of Montana
Responsible stewardship of public funds;
Open, direct, and timely communication;
Competent, helpful, professional staff.*

*Excerpted from the Montana State Library Commission Values Statement

Members of the Advisory Committee

Founding Interim Members

Honore Bray- Missoula Public
Judy Hart- Lewis and Clark Public
Dawn Kingstad- Glendive Public
Kathy Mora- Great Falls Public
Lee Miller -Butte-Silver Bow Public
Cara Orban- Montana State Library
Brent Roberts- MSU Billings
Vacant -Special library, tribal library and university library

Adopted by Advisory Board for the Montana Courier Alliance: December 4, 2013.
Pending approval and consensus vote.

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