



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: Government Affairs

Reported By: John Finn

Date: April 2019

Progress or Successes since Our Last Meeting:

The Government Affairs Committee had a very successful retreat in November of last year. That retreat led to streamlining of communication channels and outlined the Association's legislative agenda for the year. The Committee believes that the retreat was so successful that we should plan to have one each summer pre-legislative session, perhaps in conjunction with the MLA Annual retreat.

We are almost done with the 2019 Legislative session. The session has been a quiet one thus far for the Association. MLA spoke in support of a Service Animal bill, clarifying what a service animal is, and imposing penalties on imposter animals. We stood in opposition of a poorly written censorship bill that would have imposed severe fines on schools and libraries if they provided access to pornography. MLA stood in support of a Net Neutrality bill. We continue to stand in support of the State Library's budget and any opportunities to allow for additional revenues for the agency.

New Issues:

I continue to write a column for *Focus* telling folks about upcoming issues and successes of the Committee.

Board Action Requested:

I would welcome brief discussion on the possibility of an ongoing Government Affairs retreat each pre-legislative year. I think we can make that happen in conjunction with the annual Board retreat and make the Association's dollar stretch further.