



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: President

Reported By: Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson

Date: June 7, 2018

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

It's been a busy and productive year!

In meeting four times this past year, your MLA Board approved 12 new policies for the operation of the association, including a code of ethics policy and a conflict of interest policy. These policies should provide for a more efficient, smoothly run organization.

Through the hard work of all board members, and Executive Director Debbi Kramer in particular, the MLA Handbook has been updated. This was a project years in the making. It is finally done, at least for the time being. Check out the Handbook on the MLA Webpage.

We've added new sections to the MLA Webpage, bringing various items into organized sections. Look in the Handbook for policies, forms, and resolutions.

In October the MLA Executive Board passed a resolution supporting the state library's strategic framework in face of the state's declining budget and budget cuts.

We formed an audit committee composed of the three past MLA Presidents (John Finn, Eva English, and Sheila Bonnard) to double-check on MLA's finances and yearly budget. This is an important safety measure for MLA's finances.

We held three very successful retreats this year: The school library division retreat in Bozeman in August, the fall retreat in Chico, and the Offline retreat in Great Falls in February. Each retreat was excellent AND made money! Woot woot! The board also decided this year to let the MLA Executive Director handle all administrative functions of retreats, allowing the planners to focus on programs and content.

MLA Directors at Large made the decision to give away several free MLA memberships to encourage people to get involved with the work of the association.

We had a very financially successful MLA Conference in Bozeman. Thank you to all who presented and attended! We made the decision to offer an all-in-one conference registration this year. On the survey conducted after the meeting, we heard far more positive comments for the all-in-one registration than negative, so it seems likely that practice might continue.

Also this year, thanks to the efforts of ALA Representative Matt Beckstrom, we came up with a better process for resolutions, allowing for more exposure and discussion of proposed resolutions prior to conference each year.

I attended National Library Legislative Days in Washington, D.C. on May 7 and 8 along with John Finn, Anne Kish, Ann Ewbank, and Jennie Stapp. It was very interesting, productive, and energizing. I enjoyed it immensely. Jennie covered the event in one of her May Website chats. <https://vimeo.com/channels/403784>.

New Issues:

MLA Strategic Plan hasn't been updated since 2015.

Board Action Requested:

None.

Other Comments:

Thank you for the pleasure of serving as your President for two years. I loved it!