



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: Fall Retreat Co-Chairs

Reported By: Kit Stephenson, Shari Curtis, Stephan Licitra

Date: December 10, 2019

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

The MLA Fall Retreat at Chico Hot Springs Resort took place on October 13-14, 2019. The committee received and accepted 9 sessions for the retreat. The topics ranged from networking, to using specific resources to personal growth. Overall the conference was a great success. The retreat had 36 attendees plus 3 guests in attendance. The participants were very happy with the programming choices and there were only a few concerns voiced about the food or accommodations. There were a few comments about lack of snacks or dessert, though pretzels were served on Sunday and brownies on Monday morning, so perhaps people just missed them (perhaps the chairs could draw attention to them next time). Speaker gifts were small scented candles. The door prizes were also cut to save money, though there were no comments about that. There were also a few comments about noise levels between the large room and the smaller conference room. Overall people were 95% satisfied. Programs that were viewed as the greatest success, in descending order, were: Mental health first aid, Social media 101, Montana's Carnegie libraries, Banned book trivia, and Networking for introverts. There seems to be a strong interest in doing something related to books, (i.e., book clubs, banned book trivia, etc.) at the next retreat. Also, there is an interest in more activities like hikes or games. There was a suggestion from the survey results for us not to plan the conference for the holiday weekend as it adds to the expenses of having librarians attend from public libraries.

The retreat planners were also encouraged to continue to think about ways to grow attendance. One question that was tied to building attendance is whether to continue holding the Fall Retreat at Chico Hot Springs or to choose a new location. A second question is whether the retreat should be held with another one to increase participation. The Academic and Special Libraries Division was particularly interested in this question as so few people from those libraries are present at many MLA retreats. (It was also observed that there are far more retreats, workshops, webinars, association meetings, and conferences now, than there have historically been, and money is a limiting factor.)

Overall the Fall retreat was successful, people were pleased with the educational opportunity and it made some money for MLA.

The Chico Hot Springs Resort was booked again for October 18-19, 2020 and tentatively for October 3-4, 2021. (A fall retreat in October continues to be an ideal time to meet.)

**Please attach your completed report and email it to MLA Secretary.*

New Issues: 1) Should the MLA Fall retreat rotate across the state? 2) Should the MLA Fall retreat be merged with Offline?

Board Action Requested: None

Other Comments: None

Financial Report:

Budgeted expenses FY 2019/20:	\$3,800.00
Budgeted income FY 2019/20:	<u>\$4,000.00</u>
Budgeted profit FY 2019/20:	\$200.00
Actual Total expenses:	\$3,263.82
Actual Total Income:	<u>\$4,635.00</u>
Actual Profit:	\$1,371.18

Survey results

Question	Yes	No	Major Comment
1. Programing met expectation?	22	0	
2. Learned something new?	22		Carnegie (3), mental health (5)
3. Most applicable program?			Social media (5), mental health (10), Introverts (2), book discussion (4), google chrome, MILA
4. Future programs?			library law, MSC quick class, MLA book club, mental first aid, banned books trivia
5. Meals met expectations?	21	1	Lacked desert/snacks (3)
6. Space met expectations?	19	2	Noisy (3)
7. Make retreat better?			Liked trivia (2), walking session, need wide participation, move retreat around, don't hold on holiday (Holiday pay is really expensive for libraries), liked presenters from outside of profession, more games, grow attendance, merge with Offline, best part is networking.
8. Other Comments			thanks (3), excellent (2), liked multiple sessions, great

84/88 =
95%

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