



# Montana Library Association

*From the Mountains to the Prairies*

## **MLA BOARD REPORTS**

Office held/Chair of: Government Affairs

Reported By: John Finn

Date: June 2017

### **Progress or Successes since Our Last Meeting:**

A rather deflating experience in my first Legislative Session as Government Affairs Chair. I wish I had brighter news to report but I do not. HB 261 was amended on one of the very last days of the session to include a painful set of revenue triggers that will void the funds for the first two years of the six year sunset. The last four years are seemingly secure. MACo has recommended that public libraries across Montana remove the State Aid Per Capita/Per Square state aid funds from their FY 18 budgets.

The State Library's budget also went horribly awry in the final days of the session.

Jennie, Nannette, and I plan to meet soon to discuss our strategies moving forward in these fiscally conservative times. We plan to have a debrief and post mortem.

### **New Issues:**

Nannette, Lisa, and I worked on an editorial that was sent to the Montana Newspaper Association and all of their 84 publications. So far the *Helena Independent Record* is the only paper that I know who picked it up.

### **Board Action Requested:**

None at this time.