



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: Government Affairs

Reported By: John Finn

Date: October 2017

Progress or Successes since Our Last Meeting:

Jennie, Nannette, and I have met many times over the summer to plan on the Interim Committee reports. As it turns out, we were requested to send folks to the podium from outside of Helena. On Wednesday October 4, Gavin Woltjer as Director of Billings Public Library and a member of the Government Affairs Committee, spoke on behalf of the State Library and the state's public libraries. He spoke eloquently of the long term damage the State Library's budget cuts will mean for libraries all over the state.

I September, Lisa Mecklenburg Jackson was asked to write a letter on behalf of the Association, to the Governor, asking him to spare the State Library from the latest round of 10% budget cuts.

New Issues:

The State Library will soon be kicking off a campaign concerning the essential nature of libraries in Montana. I anticipate that MLA will be called on for support.

Board Action Requested:

None at this time.