



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORT

Office held/Chair of: Chair, MLA Government Affairs Committee

Reported By: John Finn

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MLA/MSL Library Legislative evening reception:

Plans are under way for the 2017 Montana Library Legislative Night reception. It will be held on Wednesday January 18, 5:30-8:30. During the day on January 18 there will be some kind of education component for librarians visiting Helena to attend the event. The education component will most likely consist of training for librarians on how to communicate effectively with their legislators either in person, or via electronic communication during the session.

It is my goal to gather as many librarians in Helena for the reception as possible. I have many commitments already, but I am working on creative way to have other library leaders twist arms, cajole and generally beg folks to join them in Helena. I am hoping we can set up a system of ride sharing.

Education and Local Government Interim Committee Testimony

On Thursday September 8, Nanette Gilbertson, Dawn Kingstad, Gale Bacon, Jodi Smiley, and I testified to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee about how each of our libraries have spent our Per Capita/Per Square Mile state aid funds. The Committee actually stood and applauded the testimony, something neither Jennie Stapp, nor Nanette had ever seen before. We gained some needed allies that day and had a very good showing for Montana's Libraries.

Other Session Planning

Nanette and Jennie and I continue to meet in Helena to plan for the session. In August we met with Representative Frank Garner in Kalispell and made the "ask" for him to sponsor the MSL's new Per Capita legislation in the House. He agree to do so. We are now seeking support in the Senate and will soon be making contact with someone in the Senate.

On Sunday October 16 I will present in tandem with Senator JP Pomnichowski. a program at Chico on Best Practices for contacting and communicating with your Legislator. It will be a repeat, sort of, of the MLA Letter Writing Program at MLA.