



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: American Library Association Representative

Reported by: Matt Beckstrom

Date: January 18, 2018

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

Issues Caucus:

I met with Lisa, Debbi, and Jennie regarding the idea of the issues caucus. We discussed ways to implement a regular caucus schedule to discuss issues facing Montana libraries. We decided on the following procedure:

1. Quarterly at Jennie's Webside chats, Matt would put on the issues caucus. Current issues will be discussed and any new issues will be brought up. Jennie will discuss the impact to the State Library and Montana libraries, and Matt will discuss any updates from the American Library Association. Notes from the meetings will be posted to the MLA webpage. Any suggested resolutions will be posted to the MLA webpage. Copies of notes and draft resolutions will be sent to Wired.
2. Every fall at the MLA Fall Retreat, a session will be held to summarize the issues, and spend some time with MLA members discussing the issues, and working on any proposed resolutions.
3. At the MLA Annual conference, Matt will distribute copies of the current issues being discussed and any draft resolutions to each of the divisions for their discussion and input. At the membership meeting, a summary of the issues will be given, and any proposed resolutions will be voted on.
4. Matt will take any issues and resolutions to the ALA conferences to be discussed at the chapter councilor meetings, and at the ALA Council meetings as necessary.

We held the first quarterly issues meeting at the January Webside chat, and it went well. Three issues were discussed:

State aid: Jennie provided some background on the state aid and tax situation in the State. At this time, the State Library and MLA are monitoring the situation.

Net Neutrality: Matt and Jennie provided a background on the Net Neutrality issue. There were some questions about Net Neutrality. Matt will provide a one-page FAQ on what it is, and how it impacts Montana Libraries. There is a lot of movement right now on this issue nationally. Matt will prepare a draft resolution to take to the membership for MLA to support Net Neutrality.

LSTA funds: Jennie gave a background on the LSTA funding, and how they are used in Montana. Currently, the federal budget includes money for LSTA. The State Library, MLA, and ALA will continue to monitor this situation.

New Issues:

I will be attending the next ALA midwinter meeting in Denver on February 9-13, 2018.

Board Action Requested:

None at this time.

Other Comments:

Financial Report: FY 2016 budget: \$3690

Amount spent: \$235

(If unknown, please contact Executive Director)

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