



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: Government Affairs

Reported By: John Finn

Date: April 2018

Progress or Successes since Our Last Meeting:

After a meeting with Jennie and Nannette in early January, I have neglected to get a meeting of the Government Affairs Committee scheduled. I am taking a late stab at getting folks together at the Conference, but may have to settle for a conference call just after the conference.

New Issues:

The State Library recently reviewed proposals from PR, and Library marketing firms from all over the country. The winning firm will lead the State Library in a PR campaign to raise awareness of libraries as essential services. I sat in on the selection process as a representative of MLA and as Government Affairs Committee Chair. We reviewed several high quality proposals and selected a firm from Great Falls to lead the process for the next year. Banik Communications won the bid, and they have a strong understanding of our needs and where MSL and hopefully MLA are heading with this campaign.

I continue to write a column for *Focus* telling folks about upcoming issues and successes of the Committee. After the April *Focus* issue came out I had a couple of email requests for further information about possible resolutions at MLA. I think there will be some interest in discussion of the Bathroom Bill resolution from last year if we want to speak about that again this year.

Board Action Requested:

I would welcome brief discussion on what the focus of the Committee should be in the coming year. I am primarily thinking of how active we want to be on topics such as Net Neutrality; ESSA; State Library Budget; Revenue Enhancements; Government Documents and GPO; discussion on a possible "bathroom bill;" and the Six Mill Levy.