



Montana Library Association

From the Mountains to the Prairies

MLA BOARD REPORTS

Office held/Chair of: MLA- School Library Division

Reported By: Angela Archuleta and Dianne Matilla

Date: 10/9/2017

Progress or Successes Since Our Last Meeting:

We held a successful school library summer retreat that provided us with great learning opportunities. Thanks to Montana State University's Education Department, who were very generous hosts, it allowed us to make a profit for MLA. In addition, we have a great library program for the MEA/MFT conference in Missoula - Oct 19-20, 2017.

New Issues:

Three issues impact the school librarians that partake in our association.

- 1) We develop a membership plan that allows for pro-rated rates if someone joins mid-year and reimburse members money if they overpay dues. Mission first; members always.
- 2) Develop a recruitment plan that allows potential members to sample what we have to offer so they have an opportunity to "try us out" before they commit to spending their hard earned money. For instance, we provide school librarians or special librarians one year of free membership or offer a conference to them at the member price to see the fun they are missing.
- 3) Board meetings are a challenge for school librarians. A three-hour virtual meeting is not really realistic for any of us. It did help us to have a meeting at MLA. In addition, if perhaps in the future, we did not meet in October the day after MEA-MFT, it may assist us in finding a way to go to the board meeting. We can provide those dates of MEA-MFT when they are available. Any other suggestions?

Board Action Requested:

- 1) Taking care of current members- other organizations, like Pacific Northwest Library Association, allow members to start their year when they pay their dues. I think we need to take this thought into consideration to allow MLA more flexibility with their money
- 2) Recruitment: Develop a recruitment plan that allows potential members to sample what we have to offer so they have an opportunity to "try us out" before they commit to spending their hard earned money. For instance, we provide school librarians or special librarians one year of free membership or offer a conference to them at the member price to see the fun they are missing.

Other Comments:

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