

ST-4: Montana

June 2016

Montana Library Association Conference, *Find your Inner Superhero: Protect! Empower! Inspire!*

It was held on April 6-9, 2016, in Missoula. They had 265 registered, and the numbers were about 50 lower than usual. They feel the numbers were lowered because of PLA conference happening at the same time as this one.

The upcoming conference was set for Big Sky; however, the board voted to drop the location after several issues had arisen: the room rate was still above government state rate, they wanted to charge \$125 per vendor booth, and a higher deposit was requested. It was voted to change the location to the *Billings Northern Hotel*.

Discussion will be held on possible new format for the conference at the June board retreat. Right now we offer 6 sessions per time slot, and because we are doing this, it has prevented us from some locations around the state. If we can change the format of the conference, we could add other cities back into rotation.

Evaluations – they were able to complete the evaluation of the Executive Secretary and Webmaster positions. Thank you to MPLA for providing the templates for them to use.

School Library Division – has scheduled their summer retreat for August 5th in Billings. It is a one day, 6 hour retreat, and OPI renewal credits will be offered.

Recruitment of Officers: it was discussed they had a hard time recruiting officers to run for positions within the association. What could be done to help with recruitment? It was decided to put on the registration form the statement for folks to click “*Would you like to be more active in the MLA?*” Then the names would be sent to the Director’s at Large East and West who will make contact with individuals wanting to be more active within the association.

MLA Newsletter: They are seeking out new platforms for our newsletter, so check out our latest addition: <https://www.smore.com/d3xmx>

News from the state: The State Library because of funds being cut had to eliminate the statewide EBSCO databases. This has caused concerns throughout the school libraries across the state. Each area are figuring new ways to gain databases back for their students – new partnerships, new contracts with Gale, etc.

The funding to the State Library has not only affected this but also monies for grants and professional training (and more). They are asking MLA community to focus on

advocating for funding to be restored to the state library and let them handle the money themselves.

News items from the June Board Retreat:

1) Budget is doing okay

2) Government affairs lobbyist is going to a 2-year contract later this year.

3) Now that the evaluations have taken place, it was decided time to do a pay increase for the Executive Secretary. She mentioned at the board retreat that she has not had a pay increase in 10 years. The President and Vice-President will work some new numbers and let the board know their recommendations for increase, and the new policy/procedure will be written.

4) They are looking into future sites for MLA conference once more. We are going to try a new break down of sessions that may allow for us to utilize other hotels/cities again for the conference. There is a potential for Helena to be brought back into the rotation with a new area hotel and convention center opening. This year is in Billings, MT (March 29- April 1), 2018 Bozeman or Helena, 2019 Missoula.