

ST-4: Montana

Sept. 2015

General News:

1) *Find your Inner Superhero: Protect! Empower! Inspire!*

April 6-9, 2016 in Missoula, MT. They are right now asking for program proposals, which are due by Oct. 10th.

2) There were several questions asked of the membership committee about the joint membership. I had brought this up at the last MLA board meeting because PNLA is also interested in this joint membership discount.

Here is what the President had to say along with the Vice President, and Past President:

From MLA President Dawn:

1. *I agree with Sheila. I think it would be great if we could increase the savings to say \$10. I know that membership dues are vital to both organizations but I also agree with Sheila that it may increase members.*

2. *I agree with Sheila and Sam, we are going to have to compromise and decide what terms of a membership. This may be the hardest part to sell. I think we need to get Debbi involved in the conversation to see if there is any constraints from ALA.*

3. *Debbi will need to answer.*

4. *I really like the idea of a trial basis but Sam I think you need to weigh in on this. This will be during your term.*

From Vice-President Samantha:

I would want to know how big a problem the misaligned membership terms/start and end dates are. It seems to me that this might sink the discussion right away because someone would have to change their terms. Everything else can be worked around but this in my mind can't.

From Past President Sheila:

1. *I think a joint membership option would be another great benefit for our members – a \$10 savings overall seems reasonable, though it might be worth exploring a bit steeper discount to make the offer more attractive (ie \$10 for state + \$10 for MPLA). The idea is to increase membership in both organizations so hopefully the extra \$ generated would offset the discounts.*

2. *I think this would be difficult to implement if our terms of membership weren't aligned. That might make this a stickier discussion.*
3. *That's for Debbi to answer but I hope she thinks this is do-able (if #2 is figured out).*
4. *Would it be possible to set this up on a trial basis for a year or two, then evaluate (esp. #1 above) to see if is achieving the membership gains anticipated?*

From my personal conversations with the board, the biggest hitch the MLA folks see is the misaligned membership dates. I think everything else, the discount, sending the money to MPLA from MLA members are all details that are workable.

MLA Newsletter:

For more fun news happening in the state here is the link to the newsletter:
<http://mtlib.org/Focus/201508focus.pdf>