

ST 4 – Montana

The MLA board will have its annual retreat August 5-7 in Great Falls. Conference planning will be part of this meeting.

The State Library has awarded full scholarships to 17 residents who plan to pursue either MLIS degrees or school media endorsement credentials. This is part of the SWIM (South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho and Montana) partnership, a 3-year grant to recruit and educate 50 librarians and school media specialists in the region. Ten people will start the University of North Texas distance MLIS program this fall, and seven will begin working toward the school library media endorsement through the University of Montana or Montana State University. All will complete their programs by 2012 and work for 2 years in professional level or school library positions (depending on their program) in one of the 4 states.

The State Library received a \$1,829,473 grant for its “Enhancing Computer Centers at Montana Public Libraries” project, and \$867,231 in matching funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for a total of almost \$2.7 million. This will allow increased access to the internet and computer instruction to library patrons throughout the state.