

ST-4

Montana State Report - April 2008

<http://www.mtlib.org/>

Montana Library Association conference

Montana Library Association conference took place in Great Falls two weeks ago with an attendance of about 290 librarians. It was packed with informative sessions, great guest speakers, and fun-times with all Montana Librarians. One highlight of the conference was the Connecticut librarians, Peter Chase, and George Christian, who presented a talk on National Security Letters (NSLs).

One Book Montana

Humanities Montana announced the 2008 One Book Montana selection at the MLA convention last week—Hattie Big Sky by Kirby Larson. You can find lots of information about the book (author bio, discussion questions, and, soon to come, suggested activities) at the web site, <http://www.humanities-mt.org/onebook.htm>

Conference Planning

It has been a topic of discussion for the past few years that MLA is outgrowing many of the towns throughout Montana. A Conference Planning Task Force was created to look at possible solutions. At the conference, the board moved to accept the report. It was then presented at the membership meeting. Input was received, and the board decided to move ahead with one suggestion: hire a professional conference planner.

Membership Information

We have had 136 new members since 2007 conference (178 School, 421 Public, & 124 Academic – the numbers do not add up because we have some people in more than one category).

Website Changes Ahead

The web site is changing. They have been working with the open source software called “Drupal.” With the constant service updates, they feel it is pretty good on being “hacker” proof. They will be able to go in and make changes to pages with more ease. There will be three levels of users: anonymous – only able to read, webmaster – does all, and officer – able to edit content of their sections only.

Montana Library Association is keeping up with the latest web tools: from blogs to Wikis

ASLD/PLD

ASLD president created a Google group, which is allowing them a listserv and a space for online sharing of files.

MLA Awards and Honors Committee

This year they held all discussions through a Wiki, and the committee members felt this avenue was better than email. There were several categories of awards that were not given at the conference this year: Library of the year, Media Award, School Administer of the Year, and Interest Group Award.

PR & Marketing committee

They have created and populated a Blog with past PR hints. It is located at <http://mlaprhints.blogspot.com/>

Book challenged in Helena

World War II by Ivor Matanle (1989) has been challenged at Warren Elementary School in Helena. The challenge is from a parent to “disturbing images” in the book. It has not been resolved at this point.

Intellectual Freedom committee also created a blog at <http://mlaif.blogspot.com> and their wiki is <http://mlaif.pbwiki.com>

Treasure State Award Winner Announced

SHEP by Montana author, Sneed B. Collard III is the winner of the 2008 Treasure State Award having received 6,996 votes. This is the first time in the 18 years of the award that a book by a Montana author has been the winner.