

## Montana State Representative

August 2017

### MPLA Activities

- Attended MPLA June board meeting.
- Reported on MPLA June board meeting to MLA board at MLA board retreat.
- Forwarded information about MPLA Awards nomination to Montana libraries listserv.

### MLA Activities

- Attended MLA board retreat and meeting at Boulder Hot Springs, in Boulder, MT on June 19-20.  
Notes from the meeting:
  - Conor Cote, Director at Large West, resigned his position due to moving out of state. Anne Kish has been appointed to serve the one-year remainder of Conor's term.
  - We have an updated MLA calendar and committee list on the MLA Webpage.
  - The board adopted a number of new policies. A sampling includes gifts, in-kind donations, accountability and transparency, and the establishment of an audit committee. All policies will be on the MLA Webpage soon!
  - Agreed to have Debbie Kramer, as MLA Executive Director, handle the administrative functions of all MLA retreats.
  - Renamed the Trustee of the Year Award to the Jane Lopp Memorial Award and funded a trustee scholarship for the next five years to attend MLA, thanks to a donation in Jane's memory from ImagineIF in Kalispell.
- Planning has begun for the 2018 MLA conference, which will be April 11-14 in (gorgeous) Bozeman, MT!
- At the suggestion of Jim Kammerer, MLA has begun accepting donations of used vehicles through the program Vehicles for Charity.

### Montana News

- The Montana State Library is providing two days of FREE training in Bozeman, MT, September 7-8. <http://libraries.msl.mt.gov/learning/MSLWorkshops>
- The Montana State Library is launching a new initiative, Choose Civility Montana. This program will focus on bringing communities together for respectful and productive conversation on issues that matter. Choose Civility Montana launches in September, 2017.
- Offline conference will be February 2-3, 2018, in Great Falls, MT. Offline is an annual MT conference that focuses on technology in libraries.
- Unfortunately, devastating budget cuts to the Montana State Library became official in late July, resulting in the loss of nearly \$1 million from their \$6 million budget over the next two years. State Librarian, Jennie Stapp, our wonderful state Library Commission, and many more people have been working hard so that the cuts to the State Library aren't passed on to Montana libraries.