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Montana State Report  
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There are 669 members in MLA, with the Public Library division having the largest number.

The 2009 MLA conference, "Creating New Paths," is scheduled for April 22 – 25, in Kalispell. Brad Mitchell will be the keynote speaker, speaking on "A New Library for the Near Future: Remaking the Company We Keep in a Time of Meltdowns, Bailouts and Tough Choices." A conference planner was hired to help with some of the arrangements; next year the planner will have complete responsibility.

The 2008 Montana Book Award will be presented at the conference. This year's book is Full Court Quest by Linda Peavey and Ursula Smith, which tells the story of girls from Fort Shaw Indian School basketball team who became the world champions at the 1904 St Louis World's Fair.

The Montana 2008 Book Babes Calendar "Librarians under the Big Sky" received the Media Award from MLA. The calendar was a fund-raiser for MLA.

During the recent Legislative Day in Helena, many representatives, our state senators and the governor posed for READ posters that are now available. Many librarians took advantage of this opportunity to visit with legislators and discuss library-related issues.

The popular Offline technology retreat was held in Anaconda, with 2 days of open source programs and chocolate.

Bozeman native Greg Mortenson has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with the Central Asia Institute. There are now 2 new versions of his popular book, Three Cups of Tea – a picture book, Listen to the Wind, and a young reader's edition.