

ST-4: Montana

June 2015

General News:

Montana board just had their annual summer board retreat, June 4-6 at Canyon Ferry. So, there is a lot to report. Here is the news from the retreat:

1) Conference update: several new ideas were tried at the last conference and here are two of the biggest items.

A) We have always had our division meetings at one of the very early morning breakfasts and attendance were not always the best (too early for some). This year they moved it to a lunch. The response was overwhelming positive, so they it will now be a division lunch and meeting.

B) The second big change was they did not offer any food or beverage breaks. The Executive Secretary said that since we did not offer any breaks that can cost up to a \$1000/break, there was about a \$5000 profit over last year. As far as how did membership feel? Mostly felt fine with not having any break. The board said they will make sure to get the word out at next conference that by not providing the extra breaks there is a significant profit for the organization. It was also stated that they will provide some granola bars and of course chocolate at the registration table.

2) They created, amended, and voted on a new policy for non-MLA affiliated groups/events at MLA events.

3) They added in more money to the Professional development committee budget line to create more travel grants. They wanted to offer travel money for the smaller retreats that MLA sponsors. So, now they will offer 3/\$50 travel grants to an ASLD, PLD, and SLD member for their retreats along with 2/\$50 travel grants to Offline.

4) Worked on updating the strategic plan and goals for the organization.

5) The conference planner is looking into some new venues for the annual conference: Fairmont Hot Springs, Great Falls, and Helena.

6) It was passed that MLA will not pay for alcohol as an expense. This came about because at a past MLA social event, the organizers put on the expense claim form, alcohol. It was discussed that open bar or sponsored alcohol from other entities is fine, just MLA will not allow it as an expense claim.

7) They are working on a social media policy, and the final version should be ready for vote by the October meeting.

8) Hired a new webmaster. They are looking forward to a new website in the coming the months.

9) Most exciting news: Montana offers to library association members within any other states within MPLA (Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming) to be able to receive member conference rates to attend any Montana conference.

Arizona brought this up at the conference board meeting, and I was able to get this offer brought forth at this summer meeting. It was accepted with much enthusiasm. They are excited that MPLA states are open to any MLA member and not just MPLA members of Montana the opportunity to attend other states conferences and to reciprocate the offer to members from other MPLA states to come to our conferences, too. I think this can turn into a great PR for MPLA, and it can turn into another positive piece that MPLA has to offer folks. So, I hope that other states are also able to get this passed within their state, too.

MLA Newsletter:

For more fun news happening in the state here is the link to the newsletter: [..\Newlsetter for MLA\Focus April 2015.pdf](#)