

ST-4: Montana

Nov. 2015

General News:

Board meeting took place on Oct. 19, 2015 – here is what happened:

1) ASLD/PLD retreat at Chico Hot Springs is still the best place to host this 2 day retreat. Numbers went up at this last retreat, which took place on Oct. 18-19. The next 2 retreats at Chico are as follows: Oct. 16-17, 2016 and Oct. 15-15. 2017. It was affirmed that the members prefer having an option at each session time, and this has helped get more academics to attend.

2) Pam Henley went to the State Leadership retreat, and they are supposed to create a project out of what they have learned. She approached the board to ask if they would be willing to help with a mentorship program for new Public Library Directors. The idea is to match new library directors from the smaller, rural libraries with other library directors within MLA. Pam asked if she could form a committee, and she was asked to bring forth a proposal to the January board meeting.

Lauren, also attended the State Leadership retreat, and her project is better communication within MLA. What can we do to have better communication? How can we enhance communication? Wonder about Memberclicks? Should we have something like this? What is behind Memberclicks in other states? She is also going to bring forth to the board ideas at the January board meeting.

3) Our government affairs person is retiring, so there was discussion on the transition to a new person. They still want the lead person to be in Helena. Other discussion was instead of only one person being responsible for this position that a committee would be formed to help with the large task at hand.

4) We have a new webmaster, and it was asked if he can have ideas for changes and re-design for the June board retreat.

5) Future conferences: Helena was discussed, and it still will not work for us.

So, right now it looks like:

- Missoula April 6-9, 2016 (this does conflict with PLA)
- Big Sky 2017
- Billings 2018
- Bozeman 2019
- Missoula 2020

6) Offline is scheduled for February 5-6, 2016 in Lewistown, MT

There are two tracks being offered: 1) Essential technology for community engagement (smaller libraries) and 2) Creative technology interfacing for community building (larger libraries)

MLA Newsletter:

For more fun news happening in the state here is the link to the newsletter:

<http://mtlib.org/Focus/201510focus.pdf>