

ST-4: Montana

Jan. 2017

Updated webpage: We have a new webmaster, and at our Oct. 17th meeting, he presented a re-design of the MLA webpage. Go live date not set yet.

MLA Conference: *Changes to the conference schedule.* It was decided by the conference co-chairs (which I am one of) and the conference coordinator to offer the conference as a 3-day event instead of 3 day plus pre-conference.

Wednesday is the traditional pre-conference day, we are going to change it to Seminar day – there will be 8 programs offered/4 each session/ 9-noon and 1-4pm. This will be part of your overall conference fee. Then Thursday and Friday are full conference days, and we are dropping anything on Saturday – except for 2 large meeting groups.

This was part of the letter that I sent to the board to help explain the changes:

I think we have all noticed how quickly our library friends leave on Saturday morning. We feel by offering the Pre-conference day (8 ½ day sessions) along with the two full days of conference will make everyone happy. We are still having the same if not more in earned credit hours. Furthermore, the proposed plan for New Member breakfast and Membership dinner being on the same day, keeps the energy and the excitement of the conference flowing - and truly welcomes the new members into the MLA Family. Then we turn around on Friday and it is business day – we have our division meetings and the general membership meeting, which are all surrounded by interesting workshops. (A true day of work).

It was voted by the board to except the new conference schedule.

We had 56 program proposals – 28 were chosen for 60 minute workshops and 8 were chosen for the 3-hour seminar slots. Of course, we had the traditional ones that could be combined, colleagues to work together for one session and not two, plus this works better for a seminar, etc.

The other part of the discussion was adding meals into conference registration: They were not wanting to change it – keep the old way – registration then pick your meals. Shot down by the board.

The conference is set for March 29th – 31st at the DoubleTree and Northern hotel in downtown Billings.

2018 Conference date and location have also been set for April 11th – 18th at the GranTree in Bozeman.

MLA Newsletter: They are seeking out new platforms for our newsletter, so check out our latest addition: <https://www.smores.com/mr2dk>

Interest Groups: Approval of MILA (MT Information Literacy Alliance) as new interest group

MLA has a new Twitter account: @MT-mla