

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

January 1, 2008 through February 29, 2008

Prepared for April 12, 2008 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of MTBL employees Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, Miles, Stanton, and 100 volunteers.

Goal One – Content - *MSL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

- In January and February, three books, two special projects, and one issue each of ***The Montana Magazine of Western History*** and the ***Montana Outdoors Magazine*** were completed at both MTBL recording studios: ***The River's Edge: Libby Townsend Meagher and Thomas Francis Meagher, Their Love Story*** by Lenore McKelvey Puhek; ***Montana Legacy: Essays in History, People, and Place*** by Harry Fritz, Mary Murphy and Robert Swartout; and ***The Convenient Coward*** by Kenneth Shiflet.
- **Special Projects:** In January, we were honored to have in our recording program Governor Brian Schweitzer and first dog, Jag, record ***First Dog: Unleashed in the Montana Capitol*** by Jessica Solberg.
- ***Montana Adapted Driver's Manual*** by the Office of Public Instruction and Montana Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division was recorded.

Goal Two—Access – *MSL provides libraries, agencies, and its partners and patrons with convenient, high quality, and cost-effective access to library content and services.*

- A presentation was made in January to the employees of the Belgrade Community Library.
- Coverage shortages in January and February provided a challenge to the department due to illnesses of both employees and volunteers. Several volunteers have retired: Howard and Gladys Bloom, 25 and 24 year telephone pioneer volunteers, retired in January; Elisabeth and Forrest Jackson, 14 and 12 year volunteers, retired in 2007, along with Edith Tanna, a 16 year volunteer. Gil Gilbertson, an 11 year volunteer, passed away in January. The considerable amount of talent and commitment by these volunteers has made an immense difference in the lives of our patrons in receiving quality service.

Goal Three—Consultation and Leadership - *MSL provides consultation and leadership to enable its patrons and partners to reach their goals.*

- Consultation with Dept. of Public Health & Human Services Vocational Rehabilitation professionals regarding training for Low Vision Montana volunteer, Brian Persons.

Goal Four—Collaboration - *MSL promotes partnerships and encourages collaboration among its partners and patrons so that their information needs can be met.*

- 2007 volunteer recruitment efforts included running ads in the “Senior News”, and Retired Senior Volunteer Program, contacting Experience Works agency, others. This has resulted in the training of nineteen volunteers in 2007.
- Several meetings have been held with Montana Radio Reading Service Executive Director, Kate Cotnior, regarding newspaper radio services to our eligible patrons in Montana.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success - *MSL is a well-run organization and a sought-after employer; it is efficient and effective (measured against partner and patron outcomes), and successfully engaged in its ongoing mission.*

- Our local Montana recording program began upgrading both software and hardware in February. Numerous technical difficulties have thus far accompanied this upgrade process and significantly challenged both vendor and MSL technical support staff. Although unavoidable delays in the MTBL recording schedule have resulted, affected MTBL staff and volunteers can be applauded for the patience and understanding they have demonstrated throughout this process.