

Montana Talking Book Library (MTBL)

July 16, 2009 through September 15, 2009

Prepared for October 7, 2009 Commission meeting by Christie Briggs, Regional Librarian. This report represents accomplishments of Briggs, Gunderson, Madison, Meier, Miles, and Stanton, as well as 100 volunteers.

Goal One – Content – *Montana State Library (MSL)/MTBL acquires and manages relevant quality content that meets the needs of Montana library partners and patrons.*

July through September, five books and two issues of *The Montana Magazine of Western History* and two issues of the *Montana Outdoors Magazine* were completed at both MTBL recording studios: *As I Remember, Volume I, Stories of Eastern Montana's Pioneers as Told to Mrs. Morris (Gladys Muller) Kauffman* by Gladys Kauffman; *Bears I have Known: A Park Ranger's True Tales from Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks* by Bob Murphy; *The Mystery in Mission Valley* by Grace & Olive Barnett; *Blackfeet Eyes: First in the Blackfeet Mystery Series* by Leonard Schonberg *Moments of Wonder: Life with Moritz* by Barry J. Schieber and *Cowboy Memories of Montana* by Mark Perrault.

In July a staff member and two volunteers attended the presentation of Montana Author, Barry J. Schieber (*Moritz* book series) at the East Valley Branch Library.

Montana Author, Jim Medicine Tree is recording his book "*The Way of the Scared Pipe*".

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

- Fourteen new patrons were approved for BARD (Braille and Audio Recording Download) (totaling 31 patrons) for downloading digital books to patron-owned National Library Service (NLS) approved MP3 players.
- Digital Program Policies are in development for NLS books and players to be housed in MTBL's collection, with plans for distribution starting January 1, 2010.

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

• In July, staff presented eight certificates of completion to MTBL patrons at the Montana Association for the Blind's Summer Orientation Program (MAB/SOP) graduation at Carroll College (for newly blind and low vision Montanans). These patrons were each awarded a \$1,000 grant from the MSL Commission and MTBL toward his/her tuition to attend the MAB/SOP for the first time.

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

- Staff covered services and phones for the Library Information Services Division retreat in July.
- New Volunteers added: Elaine Forrest, clerical.

Goal Five— Sustainable Success – *MSL/MTBL 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.*

- In August, a MTBL Readers' Advisor resigned. Because of budget issues facing MSL, this position will not be rehired for an indefinite period of time. Duties were reassigned to remaining staff, and some patron services have been identified for budget cuts (primarily those already offered in an alternative format). Four of the five remaining staff has each been personally affected by the loss of a close family member since June. Additional support by MSL Administration, management and part time temporary help has been greatly appreciated.
- Patrons were notified of service changes via "Bits of Gold" Newsletter.