



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commissioners
From: Rebekah Kamp, Data Coordinator
Subject: Fall Federation Meeting Trustee Engagement
Date: October 7, 2024

This report is in response to the State Library Commission's request for information about trustee participation and engagement at fall federation meetings.

Montana's libraries are organized into six federations based on geographic region:

- Broad Valleys – southwest, 21 libraries
- Golden Plains – northeast, 6 libraries
- Pathfinder – northcentral, 15 libraries
- Sagebrush – southeast, 10 libraries
- South Central – southcentral, 18 libraries
- Tamarack – northwest, 14 libraries

For a map and member lists, please visit [Federations \(mt.gov\)](https://www.mt.gov).

Fall Federation Meetings

Fifty-two trustees attended federation business meetings this fall. All business meetings included content for trustees including the library development road map, discussions about services for young adults, and trustee collaboration with the Montana Library Association. Four federations organized targeted trustee training events before or after the business meeting to encourage trustee involvement. These trainings were attended by 36 trustees. Training topics and other relevant agenda items are provided below by federation.

Broad Valleys – September 25 Online

- **Business Meeting** – Broad Valleys had nine trustees in attendance. The fall meeting for this federation is not training based. Relevant agenda items included a conversation about spring training topics and soliciting committee members for a bylaws review.

Golden Plains – October 3 in Glasgow

- **Business Meeting** – Five trustees, one from each public library in Golden Plains, attended. Agenda items included a conversation about how to expend training funds for trustees.
- **Training** – Seven trustees from three libraries attended a training session led by Ara Megerdichian from Bozeman. The training covered leadership impact, resilience,

communication, and empathy, calling upon Ara's twenty years of services as an officer in the United States military.

Pathfinder – October 3 in Fort Benton

- **Business Meeting** – Eleven trustees attended the meeting. Relevant agenda items included proposed bylaw revisions and tribal college library participation in federation meetings.
- **Training** – Nine trustees attended a training about the Continuing Education program with CE Coordinator, Colet Bartow. Trustees practiced using the ASPeN library directory to log their CE credits.

Sagebrush - October 4 in Miles City

- **Business Meeting** – Three trustees from two libraries attended. Agenda items included a discussion about how federations add value to trustees.
- **Training** – Four trustees attended a training session on strategic planning with consulting librarian, Tracy Cook, "Written Plans: A Tool for Getting Things Done." Topics included the value of planning, elements of a good planning process, resources for planning, and practical exercises.

South Central – September 28 in Roundup

- **Business Meeting** – Twenty-four trustees attended the meeting. Trustees discussed and voted on bylaws and elected a chair and vice-chair.
- **Training** – Nine trustees attended training on board legal responsibilities and liabilities with consulting librarian, Cara Orban.
- **Regional meeting** – Seven trustees met in Columbus on August 30 for networking and training. The group held a facilitated discussion about the role of trustees in advocating for the library and for the community. The federation is planning three more meet ups, the first of which will be in Fergus County for a trustee discussion about board relationships with Friends and Foundations. Future meet ups will be in Carbon and Big Horn counties.

Tamarack – October 17 Online

- Tamarack has planned an online business meeting for later this month.