Tamarack Federation Spring Meeting Minutes Friday, April 26, 2024

Chair Heidi Roedel opened the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Attendance: (\*voting trustee) Bitterroot Public Library - \*Carmela Bowns, Mark Wetherington Darby Community Public Library - \*Julie Winthers, Stacie Rennaker Flathead County Library - \*Heidi Roedel, David Ingram, Carmen Cuthbertson (online), Jane Wheeler, Teri Dugan Lincoln County Libraries – \*Barb Hvizdak, Alyssa Ramirez Mineral County Public Library - \*Diane Magone, Guna Chaberek Missoula Public Library - \*Julie Edwards, Slaven Lee North Lake County Public Library District - \*Valerie Rogers, Abbi Dooley North Valley Public Library District – \*Diane Snedigar, Margie Gilbertson, Denise Ard Plains Public Library District - \*Tiffany Collier, Nikki Ericksen Preston Hot Springs Town-County Library - \*Rube Wrightsman, Starla Rice Ronan Library District – \*Elijah Carey, Michelle Fenger St. Ignatius School-Community Library - \*Janis Heffern (online), Amanda Richter Thompson Falls Public Library - \*Kate Baxter, Pat Ingraham, Crystal Buchanan Whitefish Community Library - \*Deb Bond, Mary Drew Powers Montana State Library - Tracy Cook, Cara Orban, Rebekah Kamp, Jennie Stapp, Bobbi DeMontigny Montana State Library Commission - Carmen Cuthbertson (online)

Minutes

● Minutes from the Fall 2023 Zoom Meeting: Carmela Bowns moved and Valerie Rogers seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

● Reminder to enter FY2024 Expenses: All funds must be spent on qualifying items/services by June 30 and expenses entered into LibPAS by August 15 when the system will close.

New Business

● Coordinator Abbi Dooley provided a report highlighting the new LibPAS system and the additional $4,000 given to each federation for trustee training.

● Chair Roedel generously donated the time and expense of printing a Tamarack Federation Passport booklet for each of the Trustees to use as a passport to travel around to other Draft Tamarack libraries. Each library received a packet for their trustees. Trustees should bring them to the spring 2025 meeting – there may be prizes.

● The FY2025 Plan of Service which includes the additional $4,000 for trustee training/spring retreat was presented. Clarification was given on the purpose of the $4,000 and it was agreed that it would be used toward the spring retreat. The North Lake County Public Library District receives more money than the other libraries because the coordinator is the director of that library and pays federation expenses from her library’s accounts. Tiffany Collier moved and Elijah Carey seconded the motion to approve the FY2025 Plan of Service as presented. The motion passed.

● Cara Orban from the Montana State Library (MSL) led the discussion on federations. The goals were to clarify the roll of trustees in federations, clarify the roles of the chair and coordinator, and identify things that libraries may want to do differently in federation meetings to enrich them. Points of discussion included fulfillment of trustee training requirements by the standards, networking opportunities, maintaining the chair’s role as the voice of the trustees and leader of the meetings, and maintaining the coordinator’s role as the planner and organizer. Training and discussion ideas included grants, funding, salary schedules, breakout groups for trustees and directors first thing in the morning, budgeting and communicating with city/county, renovations, and capital improvements. The role of the trustees at federation meetings was defined as a reporter to other board members and stakeholders; trustees felt that the state conventions are geared toward directors and staff but federation meetings are geared toward trustees. Name tags were requested as well as a reminder that travel expenses for trustees and directors may be paid from Tamarack funds. State Librarian Jennie Stapp shared her enthusiasm for the passport booklets and encouraged the trustees to meet with other trustees as they visit the libraries in the federation. There was also a suggestion to have a group chat or forum to ask questions of each other.

● Bobbie DeMontigny, the new Lifelong Learning Librarian highlighted various state library sponsored programs including the virtual programs, summer reading program 2024, and a pilot program called Creative Aging from the Montana Arts Council. She informed everyone that the state’s trunk program is on hiatus until this summer. Logistics of crate size, shipping and storage are being discussed. She also noted that Montana Cooperative Development and Montana Rural Development services offer economic tools and investments in rural communities.

● Rebekah Kamp, MSL Data Coordinator gave a presentation on public library data including salary data collected last fall. The Network Advisory Council (NAC) is currently reviewing this information before publication. She highlighted different reporting sections for 2023 and possibilities for 2024.

● Jennie Stapp, MSL State Librarian, reported that her team is working on making more videos and webinars available for library staff and trustees through the MSL portal. She encouraged watching these at board meetings or alternatively trustees may watch at home and discuss Draft during a meeting. This will help with the continuing education requirement. Jennie also provided information on the structure of the Montana State Library Commission and the work they are doing to calculate funding for the tribal college libraries that meet the public library standards. The MSL Commission will present the budget at the 2025 legislative session. Requests from the MSL include providing additional state funds for the Montana Shared Catalog, courier and Montana Library2Go, all of which are collaborative statewide efforts. To conclude the state library report, Jennie recognized MSL Consultants Suzanne Reymer and Pam Henley as they retire this year. Cara Orban will take on one of these positions.

● Nominations & Election for Vice-Chair: Barb Hvizdak from Lincoln County Public Libraries volunteered and was unanimously accepted for the vice-chair position. Tiffany Collier will become Chair at the fall meeting. Other Business: None. The scheduled date for the fall virtual meeting is Thursday, October 17 at 6 p.m. The spring retreat and meeting are scheduled for Friday, April 25 – Saturday, April 26 in Polson. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Abbi Dooley, Tamarack Federation Coordinator