

Tamarack Federation

Spring Meeting Minutes Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 9 a.m. Missoula Public Library

Chair Sarah Ericson opened the meeting at 9 a.m.

Attendance (* is voting trustee)

Bitterroot Public Library - *Carmela Bowns, Mark Wetherington
Darby Community Public Library - *Juli Winthers, Stacie Rennaker
Imaginelf - *Marsha Sultz, Heidi Roedel, Ashley Cummins
Lincoln County Libraries – *Marilyn McDougall, Annie Gassmann (on Zoom), Alyssa Ramirez
Mineral County Public Library - *Sheelia Miller, Guna Chaberek
Missoula Public Library - *Margaret Wafstet (on Zoom), Slaven Lee
North Lake County Public Library District - Abbi Dooley
North Valley Public Library - *Victoria Howell
Plains Public Library District - *Myra Lindborg, Nikki Ericksen
Preston Hot Springs Town-County Library - *Matt Pavelich, Starla Rice (both on Zoom)
Ronan Library District – *Elijah Carey, Michelle Fenger
St. Ignatius School-Community Library - *Janis Heffern, Amanda Richter
Thompson Falls Public Library - *Kate Baxter, Crystal Buchanan
Whitefish Community Library - *Sarah Ericson, Joey Kostizky (on Zoom)

State Library Attendees

Dalton Johnson, MSL Commissioner
Tracy Cook, Montana State Library (on Zoom)
Jennifer Birnel, Montana State Library
Rebekah Kamp, Montana State Library

Each library shared highlights of their Joys & Concerns during roll call. Submitted copies are attached to these minutes.

Minutes

- The minutes of the Fall 2021 Meeting were emailed to attendees in advance. Marsha Sultz moved and Carmela Bowns seconded the *motion to approve the minutes of the Fall 2021 meeting*. **Motion passed** unanimously.

Unfinished Business

- Abbi reminded everyone that FY2022 funds must be spent on qualifying items/services by June 30th and expenses entered into Aspen by August 15th. She demonstrated how to enter expenses into Aspen. Michelle asked how trustees can access Aspen. Rebekah responded that they can open a ticket to get help setting up an Aspen account.

New Business

- The Coordinator's Report was emailed in advance and is attached to these minutes.
- The FY2023 Plan of Service was presented. Sheelia asked where the money comes from and Abbi replied that it is Coal Severance Tax funds. Slaven asked about how the amounts are determined for each library and whether or not distribution has been considered based on equity by size of library. Tracy responded that there is a formula to determine how much each Federation gets and historically Tamarack has equally divided the amount among each library. There was no further discussion. Sheelia Miller moved and Elijah Carey seconded the *motion to approve the FY2023 Plan of Service*. **Motion passed** unanimously.

- A revision to the by-laws was emailed in advance. Carmela stated that the section on the Executive Committee is missing a statement saying what its purpose is. Abbi responded by reading that section and noted that the committee is to handle emergencies. Michelle stated that in the last 15 or so years the committee has never been formed. Sara noted that the majority of changes made were to include technology language that applies to meeting formats. There was no further discussion and no changes were requested. Sara encouraged attendees to email Abbi if there was anything else they would like changed. The revisions will be voted upon at the fall meeting.

- State Library Report

- Jennifer Birnel gave the State Library report. The full report is attached to these minutes.
- Tracy Cook reviewed sections of the public library standards that will go into effect on July 1st. She reminded everyone that standards must be met to receive state funds. The Public Library Standards have been in place since the 1960s and have just recently been revised after about a decade. The Task Force group that worked on the revision over two years tried to simplify the standards and focused on the idea that no matter where you are in Montana, you should expect these standards of your public library. She focused on the standards that have received some questions:
 - Board of Trustees 3 hour continuing education requirement: The idea is that the majority of the board will receive 3 hours of CE each year. There are a variety of ways to achieve this including online sessions, training from Tracy (our consultant) or local trainings. Directors commented that this is a positive, and trustees who receive training can better help their directors provide superior service.
 - Budget shows growth requirement: The idea behind this was that directors have been working with less and less each year while trying to build programming and services. This is a push to ask for more money as libraries are costing more to run with inflation and other changes.
 - Virtual programming requirement: The Montana State Library is trying an online series that they host and libraries can co-host to meet this standard.
 - Personnel sections were simplified and emphasize the importance of taking care of people.

Mark Wetherington served on the task force. He stated that they discussed each standard quite extensively and took into account what they heard at the listening sessions with libraries during the revision process. In the end they wanted to encourage libraries to ask for more, support staff and serve communities. Michelle stated that she likes the trustee training requirement. Mark noted that with online opportunities, barriers to access trainings for trustees have dropped. Joey thanked the task force and Tracy commented that it was a lot of work for them. Sara asked if there is a place to track the CE credits and who to contact. Jennifer stated that the contact person is Colet Bartow, and that she can help with tracking credits in Aspen. Tracy noted that the 3-hour requirement can be used toward certification, which is 15 credits in 4 years for trustees.

- Rebekah Kamp, the data coordinator for the Montana State Library, reviewed the requirements for reporting on the Public Library Statistics form. Each fall libraries enter their statistical information which is submitted to IMLS and shared nationwide. This information is used for research, planning, advocacy and policy making. There are many sections requiring information, but Rebekah focused on programming, as those requirements have changed. She showed an Excel spreadsheet she has created and shared with everyone for tracking programs throughout the year. If you have questions about how to answer programming attendance questions you can contact Rebekah or open a ticket. Abbi asked how they should enter statistics for the virtual programs hosted by MSL. Rebekah stated that Amelea can identify where people are signing in from and will email those statistics to each library. Rebekah stated that it may be difficult for some libraries to track Wi-Fi stats and that they are looking into a program called Who-Fi. If a library must estimate it should be a typical week in October. There are many resources on the MSL's website. Links were emailed to attendees. Rebekah showed us some of the reports and story boards that she has created. She showed the Montana Library2Go report which includes stories about why Montana Library2Go matters. Michelle noted that Libby has a feature to notify you when a new issue of a magazine is available. Rebekah noted that audiobooks are proving to

be invaluable for those who struggle to read, have ADHD, dyslexia or low vision. She stated that the proposed budget for FY23 has two options to increase either 3% or 5% with more money for audiobooks and less for eBooks. Crystal asked if they are still collecting impact stories. Rebekah said they are and you can email them to her. Jennifer asked that you email her any impact stories for the Montana Memory Project.

- Commissioner Dalton Johnson thanked everyone for the services libraries provide to our communities. He encouraged everyone to visit with their local representatives as they move into a new legislative session next January.
- Chair Sara Ericson called for nominations for the office of incoming Chair for FY23. The current Vice-Chair, Sarah Cooper has resigned her position. Elijah Carey of Ronan volunteered as Chair. Marsha Sultz of Imaginelf volunteered as Vice-Chair. After some discussion it was agreed to swap these two offices as Marsha's term will expire before FY24. Therefore, by unanimous consent it was decided that Marsha Sultz is the new Chair effective July 1, 2023 and Elijah Carey is the new Vice-Chair effective July 1, 2023 and will become Chair July 1, 2024.

Other Business: Marsha asked how they can get credit for the trainings from Friday. Abbi responded that she will email out instructions and ask Colet to add the sessions to Aspen.

Proposed Meeting Dates:

- The Fall Online Meeting 2022 has been set for Thursday, October 20th at 6 p.m. via Zoom.
- The Spring Retreat & Meeting 2023 is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29 at Missoula Public Library.

Adjournment:

Sara moved and Juli seconded the *motion to adjourn the meeting*. **Motion passed** unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Joys and Concerns
Bitterroot Public Library
Spring 2022

JOYS:

Exploring Building Expansion and Renovation: Our library is in great need of expansion to meet the needs of our community and we are working with the City of Hamilton to explore the possibility of expanding into an adjacent city-owned building (currently the Fire Hall, expected to be vacant by 2024). We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the City and are currently in the process of interviewing architecture firms who submitted applications during the Request for Proposals process. We hope to have a completed Preliminary Architecture Report and Feasibility Study in October which will let us know the options, opportunities, challenges, and costs of a possible expansion project in the coming years.

Youth and Adult Programming: Both our youth and adult programming have returned to pre-pandemic operations in the last year and have been well-attended and much appreciated by our community. We have also streamlined and more intentionally structured our programming promotion with digital newsletters (monthly community newsletter, weekly youth newsletter), press releases to local media, and in-library flyers. We've found this is helpful at keeping our community informed and engaged and connected with the library.

Friends of BPL: Our Friends group has restructured, seated a new board, and is in the process of moving forward with planning events and coordinating volunteer opportunities. We are looking forward to having their support and seeing them out in the community generating goodwill for the library.

Staffing: We are extremely grateful, and indeed downright joyous, for the staff we have at BPL. The mix of backgrounds, personalities, specialties and interests is truly a gift to our community and their dedication, kindness, and professionalism is truly something to behold and be proud of. The same could be said of our trustees as well – we are very fortunate.

CONCERNS:

Challenges to Books/Programs/Existence of Libraries: The challenges being faced by libraries nationwide, and here in Montana, regarding the right to read/intellectual freedom and the authority of library boards is troubling. We hope that we can avoid any of the various divisive and distracting situations that are unfolding at libraries across the country, but we are doing our best to prepare ourselves for how to handle these scenarios as best as possible.

Joys and Concerns
Bitterroot Public Library
Spring 2022

Funding the Library Expansion Project: While we are still in the very early stages of studying our options for expansion, we do know that any option would cost a large sum of money. While the BPL Foundation has money to contribute to this project (which would be most helpful when applying for grants requiring matching funds), it is almost certain that we would need to put a levy or bond before voters to raise the necessary funds. There was nearly 60% support for a 2020 levy for increased operating revenue for the library, so we hope there would be support for an expanded and renovated facility, but we also realize the challenging economic circumstances of many in our community and how that might influence support for such a project.

Darby Community Public Library

Joys and Concerns April 2022

JOYS

- Received a grant for Summer Reading Program activities
- Received a grant for three new light fixtures
- Bitterroot Shedz donated a new outdoor shed for better storage
- We are back to programming and have had several successful programs with community partnerships
- Received erate discount
- Hired a new IT consultant
- Received upgraded wifi cabling that will enhance and extend our wifi capabilities
- DCPL bookstore continues to thrive with 100 hours of volunteer service per week and plenty of great quality donations
- DCPL has great volunteers and staff
- Facilitated all children T-K through 8th grade to receive \$20 worth of free books at the school scholastic book fair
- Our Library community continues to support in a manner that indicates that we are meeting or exceeding their expectations so that they have taken ownership of the library

CONCERNS

- As always we could use more funding, I would really like to be able to pay assistant librarians what they are worth
- Concerned about finding reliable, knowledgeable electronic systems support for the long term

Preston Hot Springs Town County Library Spring 2022

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- FACILITIES – We finally have a hot water heater again!!
- SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC – We are doing storytime on Facebook and considering a project with our Friends group called “Books in search of Kids.”
- FINANCES – Not worried about operating costs for the first time since I don’t know, ever!
- TECHNOLOGY – We have hired a digital media person, to help establish our online presence. We have purchased a 1 year subscription to Niche Academy.
- ADMINISTRATIVE The director is back in the library for the most part but maintaining the option to work from home. We have found that some of the administrative work goes faster without interruptions.
- The Friends held their annual spring tea at the library April 1, 2022 for the first time in 2 years. It was fabulous.

😞😞😞😞😞😞😞 Concerns... 😞😞😞😞😞😞😞

- FACILITIES – Finding people to do repairs and installations.
- SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC – The uncertainty of whether to hold on to in-person programming or to proceed on to virtual programming. Affording both may be challenging.
- FINANCES – We have one more year of the county payback of shorted funds. The key is to not purchase annual services we won’t be able to afford the year after next.
- TECHNOLOGY – Our dated technology works. Computer use is falling as cell phone use increases. We’ll have to see what is going to be needed as time goes by.
- ADMINISTRATIVE - Staying ahead of the changing times and minds is challenging. I believe that’s always been the case for libraries.

Lincoln County Library
Joys and Concerns
Tamarack Federation Meeting
April 29-30, 2022

Joys

Our concern last year that Eureka is in need of updating has become a joy with the remodeling of the Eureka Branch completed.

We were able to hire a “tech” specialist in Libby with grant money.

Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library was launched with help from local partner Zero to 5, and there are 290 children in the program which is over a third of the eligible kids in Lincoln County enrolled.

The Troy Branch hosted a Dr. Seuss Birthday Party in March with 75 participants.

The Lincoln County Library Foundation has a full board.

Concerns

Budget continues to be a concern

Staffing: having enough staff and offering comparable wages

Exterior of the Troy Branch Library is a concern because the roof and the fascia need repair and the building is the responsibility of the county.

Mineral County Public Library Joys and Concerns April 2022

Last October, instead of our usual outside Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest, we distributed craft bags. Participation was not as great as for our usual programming.

Our December in-house auction brought in about as much as our previous December fund-raiser at the school. We also had our usual basket raffle, with about 35 baskets made up. Only 3 were not taken.

The hotspot program is going strong in all three locations. In Superior, we had to request suspension of a few units, but they were soon returned, and now patrons are more careful to get them renewed on time. The only damage has been with the charging cords on a few of the units. These were quickly replaced by the State Library.

Our daily programs are well attended – the socializing program for homeschooled children now includes sessions on things such as volcanoes, soaps & salves, trails and backpacking. A trip to the Sheriff's office and the jail is in the planning stages. Children of all ages are interacting more, including young teens with toddlers.

We now offer computer help on a more structured basis by a former technology librarian, but it is slow to take off.

Many lights have been replaced with new LED lights, they are much brighter and the patrons love them. We are still waiting for more lights to be replaced in the main library areas.

The Parents As Teachers group has resumed their weekly storytime visits, after a hiatus due to a covid outbreak.

Our Friends group has been revitalized, with new members and new officers. They are enthusiastic about helping the library, and plans are being made for a coming book sale, and a wine-tasting. The Lego-Guy (Curtis Mork) will be coming in July.

Alberton Branch's 2021 circulation was the highest it has been in the past 7 years!

Lights there have also been replaced, and the branch librarian says there are no more dark corners! Also, slatwall ends have been added to the metal bookshelves, which add much needed display space. Signage has also been improved, and the Parents as Teachers group has resumed their weekly Alberton visits.

St. Regis School/Community Library has a new school librarian, who is trying out new things, such as putting many children's books in bins, etc.



Joys and Concerns

North Lake County Public Library District
Spring 2022

Joys:

- Our renovation project is coming along. Our Foundation is working hard and doing well with our Capital Campaign; “The Next Chapter”. We hope to start construction in the fall!
- We had a very successful “Grinchmas Party” in December that was well publicized. We had 138 people in attendance.
- Our Patrons have embraced the digital services we offer. They are using them in increasing numbers.
- We had an outstanding program in April for our families. We held an indoor Spring Egg Hunt and photos with the Bunny. We had approximately 90 in attendance and there were over 1,000 eggs hidden, so baskets were overflowing.
- Our 3D printer has been repaired and we are looking forward to having it more available for the Patrons.
- We are developing our relationship with the local Boys and Girls Club of America. Our Youth Services Librarian has been going there for STEAM programs and they will be joining us for programs in the library.
- We have just begun a Teen Advisory Board to get their feedback on the renovation plans and to give us ideas on encouraging teen participation with library programs.

Concerns:

- Our daily traffic number have not yet returned to our “pre-Covid” numbers, but with the Summer Reading Program coming, we hope to see a steady increase.

Joys and Concerns
North Valley Public Library (NVPL)
Spring Tamarack Meeting

Joys

The role of “Assistant to the Director” has recently been filled by Lisa DeMoss. Lisa has office admin experience in a non-profit and her own “efficiency” business. We look forward to some positive changes at the library.

After several months, the role of Program Specialist has been filled by Brian Ballanger. Brian is a middle school science teacher and we look forward to lots of STEM and other exciting science based and other programs. Brian will be organizing programs for toddlers, children and adults. Our Teen Specialist will continue to organize teen programs.

We are still receiving lots of positive patron comment about our collection.

Next week the library is being recabled to address connection issues and we are also receiving new cable drops to move the self checkout, for new catalog computer location in the stacks, and office needs. This is thanks to the State Library and ARPA funds.

We have received three other grants over the past few months:

- The Bitter Rodders donated \$500 hundred dollars toward the purchase of our new furnace that suddenly gave up the middle of winter.
- The Lions Club of Hamilton donated \$200 which has been used to increase our collection of large print books.
- Our hardworking NVPL Foundation volunteers recently received a Rapp Foundation grant which they supplemented for the purchase of three new shelving units and a standing desk for the library.

Not only do our new shelves improve the look of our “New Release” area, but the older shelves have been repurposed to provide more space in our Teen area, and to provide a topical display in the adult section.

Staff continue to provide displays and craft activities in conjunction with “themed months”; “Date Night”, “Space”, “Spring”, “Connect with your Library” to name a few.

Concerns

Our old conglomeration of buildings continue to need maintenance.

- We have had to have mold mitigation for the 2nd time in less than 10 years
- Not all mold could be addressed in a different cellar of one of the buildings that make up the library because we often have standing water or moisture in that area due to ground water flow, additional cracks in the cement walls, and the construction of this old building.
- The water issues have led to rotten beams in the cellar.

- We replaced florescent lights a few years back with inexpensive LEDs as a stop gap measure but the sagging ceiling causes them to lose connections so we don't have all the light we need in the adult stacks.
- As previously mentioned our furnace had to be replaced over winter.
- Having had new ceilings in the Children's area a few years ago, the roof above them was found to be leaking and had to be replaced over that whole section of the building.

Desk staff continue to deal with patrons quoting misinformation regarding many current events.

Staff turnover has been an issue for us, with four program specialists in 2.5 years, and three admin staff in 2 years, as well as some new library assistants. Most of those were full time positions and with only 3 full time staff, that is more than 100% turn over. We hired an IT person but he left for a full time position. Ongoing hiring and training does not allow the Director to participate in State projects and committees as much as she would like. The positive to that negative is that we are able to reassess admin roles to more suit the library needs. Salary range, schedule flexibility, family health care, and lack of services offered by the State of Montana for those with disabilities, have been issues that have caused staff to take new positions elsewhere in and in other states. In an attempt to combat this the trustees have been working on raising wages every year as much as they feel able and within the constraints of our district library funding limitations.

Thompson Falls Public Library Tamarack Federation Meeting Spring 2022

Joys:

- Our Friends of the Library recently held a Spring Book Sale, and raised around \$1000.00 for various upcoming Library projects.
- Our Library launched a "Free Community Seed Library", and for children "Planting-To-Go" kits. Both of these have been very well received.
- Summer Reading Program prizes are in, and next month our Library will begin promoting the program.
- Starting in June, our library will be launching additional in-person and passive programming.
- Our library continues to receive positive feedback from community members regarding our programming efforts and services provided.
- Our library is currently working on a Capital Improvements plan.
- We had two board members step down due to family/life events. Thankfully, we had two community members graciously volunteer to join our board.

Concerns:

Plumbing is still an issue in the building. It is very difficult to get plumbers, electricians or contractors to come out right now, since many of them are booked up with work/jobs for months out at a time. One of the public restrooms, evidently a patron had flushed a large sponge causing the blockage. That has been fixed, thanks to a plumber coming out (thankfully), one of the other restrooms is still not working at all, awaiting a follow-up appointment, evidently it requires a special tool.

The hot water heater/tank for the public restrooms is not working, also waiting on an answer/expert regarding this problem.

We had another board member needing to step down due to family circumstances. It is a City position, and this one seems to be more difficult to fill.

Coordinator's Report
Tamarack Federation
Abbi Dooley, Coordinator

I hope everyone had a pleasant fall and winter. April just doesn't want to shake the snow yet, but hopefully we will be in the full swing of spring when our meeting takes place.

It is important that you spend your full Tamarack distribution in the fiscal year that it is given (by June 30th each year). You no longer have to designate in advance what program you will use, but all expenses must fit into one of the designated programs for the approved Plan of Service. If you have any questions about whether or not an expense fits into a program, please let me know. All expenses must be entered into Aspen no later than August 15th so as to allow time for the State Coordinator to prepare a report for the State Library Commission. You can combine expenses for the same purpose and enter only once in Aspen (i.e. Courier service, ILL postage, etc.). If you have an entry error, please let me know and we will get it corrected.

Don't forget that the new Public Library Standards go into effect on July 1st. There is a new continuing education requirement for Trustees. The Tri-Conference (MLA, PNLA, MPLA) held in Missoula on August 3-6, 2022 is an opportunity to get those credits. We will also have training at our spring meeting in 2023 that will fulfill the 3-hour requirement. If you have specific training requests, please let me know.

I hope everyone has a great spring and summer – hopefully not so hot and smoky this year!

2022 Spring Report from the Montana State Library

ARPA

- **Internal Wiring Project** - The MSL consultants have been working with CompuNet, Communication Resources, and 30 libraries to assess and upgrade their networking equipment and cabling. These libraries expressed interest in improving their internet connections in order to provide faster, more reliable WiFi and wired Internet access for their community members. You can follow the progress of this project on the [COVID 19 Funding Expenditures Dashboard](#). Jennie Stapp and staff are working on obtaining additional funding to complete this work for other interested public libraries.
- **Hotspot Program** - The hotspot program continues to grow with heartwarming stories from Montanans about their value. John Kilgour is the primary contact for this program. He is assisted by the consultants. If you are interested in learning more or have an issue with an existing hotspot, please contact either your assigned consultant or use hotspotsupport@mt.gov. The [Hotspot Program Dashboard](#) is a great way to see the statistics and user feedback on the project. Jennie Stapp and staff are also seeking additional funding to continue the project beyond December 31, 2022.
- **Patron E-Resources** - The State Library is providing these ARPA-funded resources to Montana library patrons through 2022:
 - Additional funding for the shared MontanaLibrary2Go OverDrive collection
 - Promotional materials and outreach
 - Extended subscription to OverDrive E-Magazines collection
 - Trial subscription to Universal Class continuing education service, available through the OverDrive Libby app and at [Universal Class](#)
 - Trial subscription to Method Test Prep, available through the OverDrive Libby app
 - Additional funding for young adult ebooks in the Digital Public Library of America's Palace platform (coming Spring 2022)
 - Additional funding to expand access to ebooks and e-audio in school libraries through the Montana School Libraries Shared OverDrive Collection
 - Playaway standalone audiobook devices and headphones
- **Montana Memory Project** - We have awarded ARPA project funding to seven different organizations to create new collections. We will offer additional funding opportunities with support from the Montana History Foundation this spring.

Communications

- **GovDelivery Subscriptions** - Montana State Library is using GovDelivery as its email platform to send out updates in a variety of topics. You can sign up to receive updates on topics relevant to the library community by visiting the [GovDelivery registration page](#).

Continuing Education

- **New Continuing Education Coordinator** - The State Library is happy to announce that Colet Bartow will be starting as the new CE Coordinator on March 14. She brings a wealth of instructional design, evaluation, and certification experience. The CE Coordinator is responsible for managing our certification program, arranging workshops, and working closely with MSL staff to ensure that we are providing high quality workshops.
- **Director's Institute** - We plan on hosting a face-to-face Director's Institute at the Ursuline Center in Great Falls, May 16-19. The institute will **focus on resource sharing and collaboration by promoting peer relationships and kinship between library directors.** Projects or programs that will benefit from regional or statewide collaboration will be identified and action plans developed for follow-through. This is the place and time where the next big thing in Montana public library services is likely to be uncovered. To register, please view [the event on ASPeN](#).
- **United for Libraries** - we are renewing our statewide contract with United for Libraries which provides access to high quality online **continuing education for board members.** Suzanne Reymer and the other consultants will be leading an effort to transition to a new platform. This statewide contract gives library directors, board members, and staff access to the learning portal as well as access to free and/or reduced cost training provided by United for Libraries. To register for a United for Libraries account, please visit [Montana Trustee Training](#).

Lifelong Learning

- **Reimagining School Readiness Trainings** - MSL has scheduled two trainings for Reimagining School Readiness, one on March 15, 2022 (4 hours virtual) and one on April 5 and April 12 (2 hours each session, virtual). We submitted a proposal to hold a session at 2022 MLA and will plan more training sessions for after the summer.
- **Marc Steinberg Alzheimer's Art Exhibit** - Marc Steinberg is a longtime Montana resident who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and started to paint to cope and stay mentally engaged. He created a wonderful little exhibit that is making its way around the state in public libraries and raising awareness of Alzheimer's in those communities. If you are interested in learning more about the exhibit, or hosting it at your library, please contact Amelea Kim.
- **YASLA Transforming Teen Services** - Small cohort opportunities will be available for the YASLA Transforming Teen Services curriculum, which includes the following topics: Educational Equity, Youth Development, Connected Learning, and Computational Thinking. We have done Youth Development, and Connected Learning, and are hoping to do a Youth Development workshop at 2022 MLA, if it is accepted. Lookout for more details and further opportunities on WIRED.
- **Giant Map of Montana** - Two trunks are available for check out from the Montana State Library, and any library/school is welcome to request it. You can find the request form on the MSL website, or you can contact Amelea directly at akim@mt.gov.
- **Monthly Children and Youth Services Meet-Up** - All are welcome to attend. Last Wednesday of each month, from 10 – 11 am! Recordings also available on MSL Vimeo Channel.

Montana Memory Project

- **Website Launch** - The MMP launched its new website on June 26, 2021. We now have over 69,000 items loaded to the new Recollect platform. We still have 20 collections to migrate to the

new platform, and we continue to work on getting all the content moved. These last collections are problematic for one or more reasons, but we are making steady progress.

- **Collection Additions** - We resumed taking new collection applications and adding new collections in October. We have approved several new applications and have started adding new content to the platform.
- **New MMP Specialist** - We filled the MMP Specialist position. Dave Colamaria started work at MSL in November. He is working on social media posting, writing our weekly newsletters and has launched our first collection exhibit in Recollect. He is also helping with metadata clean-up and content migration. We are very happy to have him on board!
- **Picture Prompt Writing Contest** - Pam Henley continues to assist the MMP and has launched our second annual Picture Prompt writing contest. She will also spearhead our 3rd annual Montana Meme-ory Contest.
- **New Services** - Later this year we hope to be launching some of the new services in the Recollect platform including tagging, captions, suggestions for editing, and crowd-sourced transcription.

Montana Shared Catalog

- **BCA Statistical Reports Migration** - The statistical reports transition to BCA is complete, and all statistical and item list reports now have templates in BCA. Library staff can customize and subscribed to the reports. The following report types will remain in Workflows: acquisition, serial control, all varieties of notices, reports with personally identifiable information (PII), some transit reports, and system work reports. If you need access to data that you cannot find in BCA, please open a help desk ticket so we can send you the location or create a report, as needed. For information about subscribing to reports in BCA to receive them via email and about customizing BCA reports please view [Subscribing to BCA reports](#) and [Customizing BCA reports](#).
- **RFP** - The MSC RFP is in its final stages and expects to have a vendor selected by mid-March. If a new vendor is selected, migration planning will begin immediately. If the MSC remains with our current vendor, new library applications will open immediately, and new functionality/feature rollouts will resume. Selected Syrsi Dynex again
- **System Administrator Recruitment** - The application period for the two open MSC System Administrator positions closed, and MSL staff are working through the screening process. We expect to have both positions filled by the end of March. Melanie Carroll – North Valley and Laura Tretter, MHF

Statewide Projects

- **New Montana Library Network Support Librarian** - The State Library hired **Bobbi deMontigny** to be the Montana Library Network Support Librarian in October. Bobbi is providing technical support, training, and outreach to libraries participating in MontanaLibrary2Go, the Montana Memory Project, OCLC Group Services, and ASPeN. Please open a help desk ticket if you have support needs for any of these projects.
- **Resource Sharing Core Service Committee** - The committee is drafting a recommendation for a courier expansion pilot so that more libraries can have access to affordable delivery and sharing group options, as well as improved tracking and reporting data.