

Minutes

Sagebrush Federation of Libraries

MINUTES

March 14

Miles City Public Library

8:30 - 4:30

In-person attendees: Dawn Kingstad, Glendive Public Library; Heather Cotter, Sidney-Richland Public Library; Tracy Cook, Montana State Library; Sarah Peterson, Miles City Public Library; Justine Godfrey, Prairie County Library trustee; Shirley Lund, Miles City Public Library trustee

Zoom attendees: Denise Strickland, Ekalaka Public Library trustee; Carrie Murnion, Garfield County Library; Mary James, George McCone Memorial County Library; Tory Spring and Pat Kalstrom, Ekalaka Public Library; Meth Meggers, Fallon County Public Library; Barb Mitchell, Henry Malley Memorial Library, Broadus; Debbie Stieg, Ekalaka Public Library trustee; Bobbi deMontigny, Montana State Library; Rolane Christofferson, Prairie County Library; Carmen Cuthbertson, Montana State Library Commissioner, Liz Kondelik, George McCone Memorial County Library

8:30 Call to order and general business

Roll call, proxies, introduction of guests

Volunteer for taking minutes: Sarah P

Additions to agenda

Swank media license: Sarah distributed to those in-house; all others will be scanned and emailed. Please let Sarah know if you would like the original.

Approval of minutes from October 2024 meeting: action: Carrie M. moved to approve the minutes. It was brought to the attention of the group that names were missing from the attendance roster. Minutes amended to include Dawn Kingstad, Glendive Public Library, and Gail Staffanson, Sidney-Richland County Library trustee, to the attendance. Dawn K. moved to approve the minutes as amended, Mary J. seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Set date for fall meeting: action: Those in attendance agreed that a poll is the most effective way to decide on a fall meeting date. Sarah will send out a poll in the near future for the fall meeting.

8:45 Montana Library Association presentation: Institutional Membership

Sarah Peterson, MLA Secretary/Treasurer

Sarah reported on MLA's new membership level. Libraries can join MLA as an institutional member, and that, depending on the tier of membership that fits their library size, will determine the benefits such as free conference registration. An important piece of institutional membership is the 10 hours of dedicated legal support. Sarah encouraged libraries to check it out, especially if they would like guidance and/or training related to policies, boards, or other things that a specialized lawyer could help with. Sarah also gave a legislative update: there wasn't a firm sponsor for the library shared services bill, BUT HB2 (the budget) does include a line item for a study into the State Library services in the biennium, which is encouraging. A bill that sought to limit libraries to their "core functions" and a bill that required a 1:1 cash match for state aid funds were both tabled in committee

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and subsequently did not make it through transmittal. Additionally, bills imposing broad content restrictions in libraries and reapproval of public levies every ten years were also tabled.

9:00 Montana State Library, Tracy Cook: Tracy discussed the MSL Commission goals, which include updating the ELSA award (directors and trustees are encouraged to think about what's meaningful and how they might like to be recognized). Cara Orban and a subcommittee will be forming to work on this update. The Commission is also looking at trustee development training and a review of the certification and CE programs. Tracy reported on several legislative items, including property tax relief bills and a bill that seeks to collect taxes via dollars rather than mills. She also reported that

Lifelong Learning, Bobbi deMontigny: Bobbi gave a comprehensive review of resources on the State Library's website that includes virtual trunks, programming ideas for mid-adults, and other ways the lifelong learning program can support library programming via their resources. A few topics included Ready2Read, MSL's texting program for parents of early readers, SRP Color Your World, Growing Up Wild, virtual programming, LEGO challenge, and Creative Aging, among others. Media literacy and libraries as safe areas during smoke events (wildfire) are topics coming soon.

Discussions: Tracy suggested the federation consider joint training (perhaps with South Central). Golden Plains held a successful leadership training with Ara Megerdician. His workshop costs about \$6,000, but a partnership with South Central could help split the cost, and it would be a good use of the federation trustee training fund. Tracy also suggested a virtual workshop with Dr. Tammy Elser about resistant readers. The federation thought these both sounded like good ideas. Tracy will reach out to South Central and Dr. Elser.

10:00 Break

10:15 **Plan of Service: discussion and action: Sarah presented the FY2026 Plan of Service. Federation members reviewed the line items. Sarah reported that the Swank media license cost did not increase, but the travel costs for coordinator to attend Commission meetings did, as the Commission would like to meet with coordinators twice a year in person instead of once. Heather C. moved to approve the Plan of Service and Barb M. seconded. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

11:00 Questions from federation members (for the hive mind): Discussion included staff safety (dealing with unwanted attention), bookmobile resources, and outdoor security cameras.

11:30 Break for lunch

1:00 Libraries and Public Health - Making Connections for Rural Montana: Presented by Margaret Mullins and Trina Filan

4:30 Adjourn