

Minutes

Sagebrush Federation of Libraries

MINUTES

October 6, 2025

Miles City Public Library

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Attendance: Sarah Peterson (Miles City Public Library), Lois Pfiefler (Prairie County Library trustee), Rolane Christofferson (Prairie County Library), Justine Godfrey (Prairie County Library trustee), Heather Cotter (Richland County Library), Mary James (George McCone Memorial Library, Circle), Corey Sloan (Montana State Library), Tracy Cook (Montana State Library), Mindy Van Vleet (Wibaux Public Library), Beth Meggers (Fallon County Library), Carrie Murnion (Garfield County Library), Torey Spring (Ekalaka Public Library), Barb Mitchell (Henry Malley Library, Broadus).

Minutes recorded by Tracy Cook.

Meeting was called to order at 8:40am. Attendees introduced themselves. There were no additions to the agenda.

Minutes needed one correction. Beth Megger's name was spelled incorrectly. Heather Cotter moved to adopt the minutes with the suggested changes. Lois Pfiefler seconded. The motion passed.

Group discussed the spring meeting. Sarah suggested a meeting poll. She will look at dates near the April 15 State Library Commission meeting. The spring meeting will be via Zoom.

Corey Sloan gave a Lifelong Learning update. She talked about early literacy work at the State Library. The ParentPowered texting program is available for free to busy parents. It provides very easy tips for helping parents incorporate learning and literacy into everyday activities. She also encouraged libraries to participate in Beanstack which is a reading app where participants can log the minutes or number of books they have read. It's also helpful for libraries who want to track summer reading or a 1,000 Books before Kindergarten. She also mentioned the virtual programming schedule and encouraged libraries to host watch parties. The summer reading mini-grants were deposited.

Tracy Cook gave an update on MSL. The group discussed the proposed changes for open hours and continuing education and certification. The group was curious about the criteria for pre-approval. They are worried about losing the ability to hear from a variety of presenters and to take training that will be of value to them in their job. The group

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also mentioned a desire and need for more f2f training. The group is afraid the changes might create barriers for obtaining certification. They also expressed concerns that board members would not be able to count training for other boards they serve on - like a recent Robert's Rules of Order training that a library board member took as the member of another community board. Tracy also gave an update on IMLS funding - status quo right now - and the government shutdown. MSL staff are able to work as normal through October. If the shutdown lasts longer, they may need to limit travel or make other adjustments.

The group also discussed how to use their trustee funds. They came up with the idea of "A Day in the Life of..." to help trustees better understand the different areas of the library. Trustees might find this helpful for succession planning, making decisions, and to develop an understanding of the work of library staff. Heather volunteered to host the event in Sidney. Tracy and Sarah will work on the event and get back to the group with a date and plan.

The group ended with a discussion about how they have used ALA grants to improve accessibility in their libraries. They also decided to submit public comment about the ARM changes as the Sagebrush Federation. Members will send feedback to Sarah who will compile a letter and share it with the State Library Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00am.

A training about the role of the library board was provided by Tracy Cook and Corey Sloan from 10:00am - noon.