

Board, Government, and Community Relations

1. Montana Notary Education
2. Robert's Rules Made Simple
3. Board Dynamics
4. Social Media and Libraries: A Critical Perspective
5. MSL: A Greater State of Knowledge
6. Board Member Basics
7. Connecting with Local Government Officials
8. Public Library Standards
9. Understanding Local Government and Its Relationship to the Library
10. Connecting with Local Government Officials: How Libraries Add Value
11. Connecting with Local Government Officials - Libraries and Literacy
12. Connecting with Local Government Officials - Better Libraries, Better Achievement, Better Futures
13. Connecting with Local Government Officials - Do public libraries help mitigate crime?
14. Job of the Library Board

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Montana Notary Education

Course Description

This course satisfies the training requirement for Montana's new and renewing Notary applicants. Credit: 4 Hours | Cost: \$65 | Type: Fundamentals

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Montana Notary Association

Presenter Credentials

The National Notary Association's Government Affairs Department serves state, local, and federal government agencies and officials with a range of information services on the Notary Public office. In addition to consulting with legislators, Notary commissioning officials, law enforcement, county recorders, court officials, and other public-sector stakeholders, the NNA provides the following resources.

Presenter Association

National Notary Association

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Robert's Rules Made Simple

Course Description

This is a familiar situation for many board members...chances are, you resonate with it... You're in a board meeting, and there are a few people who "run the show." They know all the terminology and exude confidence then they speak. It seems as if they are speaking a "language" that you just don't understand. And so, you are left feeling nervous, insecure and hesitant to participate. What do these meeting overachievers know that you don't? Well, they've likely learned the framework of Robert's Rules of Order, a book written in 1876, that contains the rules used by most boards to hold effective, and productive meetings.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Susan Leahy, M.A. CSP Instructor

Presenter Credentials

Susan Leahy is the creator of Robert's Rules Made Simple. She has been teaching Robert's Rules to boards for over 20 years and she has the unique ability to make this complicated material SIMPLE & FUN!

Presenter Association

Robert's Rules Made Simple

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Board Dynamics

Course Description

This course will cover board basics, effective board meetings, board culture, and board/staff relationships.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Shelby Rogala or Adam Jesperson

Presenter Credentials

Shelby Rogala has a background in adult education and community development. She is passionate about connecting community and nonprofit leaders to resources, people, and training that can help make their work easier, more effective, and even a little more joyful. Adam Jesperson is the Executive Director of the Montana Nonprofit Association. With a steady demeanor, acute attention to detail, and some serious Excel skills, Adam comes to MNA after more than a decade of progressive experience in nonprofit leadership, fundraising, grant writing, and performance management, most recently serving as Chief Operating Officer for Intermountain. Adam grew up in rural Montana, has a Bachelor of Arts from Carroll College, and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Montana. He also comes to MNA with both formal training and hands-on experience leading Lean Management and performance improvement initiatives. A fervent lover of hiking, skiing, and all things Montana, Adam lives in Helena with his wife and two daughters.

Presenter Association

Montana Nonprofit Association

Cost

Varies depending on whether we are hosting; \$1000-\$2000

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Social Media and Libraries: A Critical Perspective

Course Description

While social media is an unavoidable reality of today's digital landscape, it has inherent conflicts with many values of librarianship. Is it worth reconsidering how we use this tool and examining its real value?

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Mark Wetherington

Presenter Credentials

Mark Wetherington has been director of the Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton, MT since 2014. He started working in libraries as a college sophomore in 2006 and, other than seasonal work for the US Forest Service, has worked in them ever since. He received his MLIS from the University of Kentucky in 2012. Mark is also an avid outdoor recreationist and the co-author of *Backpacking Washington*, 3rd edition, by Wilderness Press.

Presenter Association

Bitterroot Public Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



MSL: A Greater State of Knowledge

Course Description

The Montana State Library (MSL) provides information, resources, and guidance to organizations, communities, and residents of Montana to help them expand their knowledge and empower their decisions. Our leading-edge data and applications help those seeking answers about Montana's government, natural resources, heritage, land ownership, and more while our vital services improve public libraries and provide reading materials to those with disabilities.

Course Open Date: April 25, 2025

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

MSL Learn - Colet Bartow

Presenter Credentials

Colet's professional background is in school librarianship, professional development, and state education agency leadership. Her history with MSL started in the late 1990s as a school library representative to several committees and included time as an MSL Commissioner. She currently serves as the Continuing Education Coordinator for MSL.

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Board Member Basics

Course Description

Participants will learn what it means to be an effective and ethical board member from the experts!

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Tracy Cook, Montana State Library Consulting Librarian Dan Clark, MSU Extension Local Government Center Director Ashley Kent, MSU Extension Local Government Center Associate Director

Presenter Credentials

Tracy Cook, Montana State Library Consulting Librarian Dan Clark, MSU Extension Local Government Center Director Ashley Kent, MSU Extension Local Government Center Associate Director

Presenter Association

Montana State Library and MSU Extension Local Government Center

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Connecting with Local Government Officials

Course Description

The contents of the course are from webinars and the Connecting with Local Government Officials handbook.

https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/library_development/ConnectingwithLocalGovernmentOfficials.pdf

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Tracy Cook

Presenter Credentials

MSL Lead Consulting and Learning Librarian

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Public Library Standards

Course Description

All Montanans deserve access to library services that meet their needs. The public library standards identify a base level of service that residents and visitors should receive wherever they are in Montana. To be eligible for state funding, libraries must meet the public library standards. The Public Library Standards can be used to set goals and plan for the future. While the standards themselves define the basic benchmarks, we hope that this course offers ideas and possibilities for continually improving library services and is a good resource for boards and directors seeking to lead their library forward.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

MSL Learn

Presenter Credentials

MSL Statewide Library Consultants contributed to the content of this course.

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Understanding Local Government and Its Relationship to the Library

Course Description

While Montana law has given most public library boards a fair amount of authority, the governance structure of the library and the form of local government influences how that authority works. It's important to understand the structure of your city or county's local government. Knowing who does what and what laws they must follow helps you get your work done while building strong, positive relationships with your local government officials.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Tracy Cook

Presenter Credentials

MSL Lead Consulting and Learning Librarian

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Connecting with Local Government Officials: How Libraries Add Value

Course Description

Join Tracy Cook, MSL Lead Consulting Librarian, and Dr. Gregory Gilpin, Montana State University Economist to learn about an economist's view of how libraries add value to their communities.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Dr. Greg Gilpin

Presenter Credentials

MSU Department Head and Professor of Economics

Presenter Association

Montana State University-Bozeman

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Connecting with Local Government Officials - Libraries and Literacy

Course Description

This session centered on libraries and literacy, with a conversational format between Jennie Stapp (Montana State Librarian) and Crosby Kemper III (former IMLS Director and Kansas City Public Library Director).

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Crosby Kemper

Presenter Credentials

Former IMLS Director and Kansas City Public Library Director

Presenter Association

Former IMLS Director

Cost

None

Connecting with Local Government Officials - Better Libraries, Better Achievement, Better Futures

Course Description

Tracy Cook hosts Dr. Ezra Karger for conversation about how investment in libraries contributes to educational outcomes in communities. Learn about continuing research that connects academic achievement to the quality and quantity of investment in library programs for kids.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Dr. Ezra Karger

Presenter Credentials

Ezra Karger is a senior economist in the economic research department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. He conducts research in the areas of labor economics, public economics, economic history, and forecasting. Prior to joining the Chicago Fed in 2021, he received a B.A. in mathematics, statistics, and economics and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago.

Presenter Association

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

Cost

None

Connecting with Local Government Officials - Do public libraries help mitigate crime?

Course Description

Libraries provide physical and digital spaces where community members connect with one another, information, and ideas. The library's role in helping with literacy and success in school has been shared in previous webinars. In this installment of our webinar series, we will explore the idea of whether libraries help with public safety.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Dr. Amir B. Ferreira Neto

Presenter Credentials

Dr. Amir B. Ferreira Neto (Net-o) serves as Director of the Regional Economic Research Institute (RERI) and Associate Professor of Economics at Florida Gulf Coast University's Lutgert College of Business. An award-winning scholar, he received the 2023 Early Career Award from the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association. Dr. Neto is a prolific researcher with over 30 peer-reviewed publications in leading journals, and serves as Co-Editor of the Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy and on the editorial board of Reaching Regions. As Principal Investigator, he helped secure a \$22.8 million Department of Commerce grant. His work bridges the gap between rigorous economic analysis and real-world application, helping business and community leaders make informed decisions in an evolving economic landscape.

Presenter Association

Florida Gulf Coast University

Cost

None

Course Catalog

Proposal for MSL Commission Approval



Job of the Library Board

Course Description

This introductory course focuses on job of the library board. It introduces planning, policy development, personnel management, community relations, budgeting and finance, and the roles and responsibilities of the board, director, and local government. It is available face-to-face or virtually. Please contact Tracy Cook (TCook2@mt.gov), Cara Orban (corban@mt.gov), or Corey Sloan (cosloan@mt.gov) to schedule.

Topic

Board, Government, and Community Relations: Work with boards, local government officials, community members, and the Montana State Library

Presenter Name

Tracy Cook, Cara Orban, or Corey Sloan

Presenter Credentials

Tracy, Cara, and Corey provide assistance, training, and support to public and tribal college libraries in Montana.

Presenter Association

Montana State Library

Cost

None