

## Fall 2021 Pathfinder Meeting

Zoom

October 28, 2021

### Roll Call

- Belt Public Library- Gladys Rayhill, Sally Miller
- Blaine County Library- Valerie Frank, Patty Hall
- Choteau/Teton Library- Della VanSetten, Karen Ferris
- Chouteau County Library- Emily Wicks, Janet Worrall
- Conrad Public Library- Carolyn Donath, Lacie Vermulm
- Dutton/Teton Library- Cheri Fuhringer, Jean Harmon
- Fairfield/Teton Library- Agnes Koste
- Glacier County Library- Austin Castle
- Great Falls Library- Susie McIntyre, Samantha DeForrest
- Harlem Public Library- Colleen Brummer, Valerie Van Voast
- Havre-Hill County Library- Rachel Rawn, Dolores Noffsinger
- Liberty County Library- Julie Erickson, Belinda Hawks
- Toole County Library- Heidi Alford, Peggy Tobin, Emily McDermitt
- Valier Public Library- Cathy Brandvold, Janelle Holden, Kathy Deans
- Wedsworth Memorial Library- Nancy Royan, Melody Skogley
- Montana State Library- Tracy Cook, Cara Orban, Jennifer Birnel
- State Library Commission- Robyn Schreiber

Patty Hall called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Spring 2021 Meeting Minutes-** Valerie Van Voast made a motion to approve Spring 2021 minutes. Jean Harmon seconded. Motion carried.

**Annual Reports-** Valerie Frank thanked members for completing annual expense reports on time. A Federation Expense Guide is being drafted and will be sent out when ready.

### Joys & Concerns

#### Belt

Joy: Attended ARSL conference and got a lot of great ideas for city-wide projects.

#### Blaine County

Joys: Successful Summer Reading Program, good attendance for children's programs, Code Girls United program starting, selected to receive ARPA funds to upgrade equipment and/or cabling

Concerns: Budget cuts again, high COVID numbers, no Hassle-Free Christmas program again this year, not getting the patron visits we had pre-COVID

#### Choteau/Teton

Joys: Good book sale, good summer reading in the park

Concerns: Numbers are up and down, small response for story hour, planning to do take and make kits and story walk

#### Chouteau County

Joys: Lego Robotics program with school, Dungeon and dragons, Story time, planning a teen area, planning dedicated hours for seniors in afternoons.

Concerns: getting foot traffic back

**Conrad**

Joy: 3 Rivers Communication Grant will be used for community outreach for Harry Potter Trunk or Treat and Christmas Events, Star Link Pilot, program numbers are picking up, have joined MSC, hotspots extremely popular

Concern: Mayoral race

**Dutton/Teton**

Joy: We truly have the BEST LIBRARY STAFF!! They are supportive, energetic, want to work (seriously - they are always asking to work!!), and they work hard. We are incredibly lucky indeed!

Concerns: Getting back to providing consistent services to our senior population. I miss spending time with them! (And not just because they never told me that I was too loud=)!

Jean Harmon- Joy: best staff ever, photo aerial exhibit of farms of area Concern: COVID

**Fairfield/Teton**

Joy: Received donation to be used for new addition meeting room that will be ADA compliant.

**Great Falls**

Joy: Replacing 14 Little Free Libraries, ARPA funds for indoor wiring, Nano Bit Exhibit

Concerns: Covid numbers, staffing/budgeting

**Harlem Public Library**

Joy: Successful summer reading program, in person children programs began in Sept. (this is also a concern because of Covid), celebrated Friends of the Library Week Oct. 18-22 with refreshments, slide show, Assistant Carly conducted a Supercharged Story Time for local teachers during MEA days for free OPI credit, Giant Montana map from state library

Concerns: Budget cuts, low circulation, COVID numbers in the area, Friends unable to have fundraiser 2 years in a row.

**Havre-Hill**

Joy: New router, WIFI updated

Concern: Local government

**Liberty**

Joy: COVID numbers down, back to regular circulation, book club started again

**Toole County Library**

Joy: Joining MSC.....and getting to handle each and every item in the library! New lighting, budget increase for repair and maintenance, great staff and board

**Valier**

Joy: Everyone is enjoying the extra room in the library. We have a little aesthetics to finish on the outside to be 100%, programming has begun, Story Hour and the Afterschool Crew are well attended. Adults are slower coming back but numbers are slowly picking up. We became the local office center during the pandemic and that continues.

Concerns: Rumor from a patron who visited with a state official (I am not sure of the position) is that the State would like to defund small rural libraries as they are no more than babysitters. I am not happy to hear this and gave the patron more talking points to take back to said person.

**Wedsworth**

Joy: Just completed an excellent book sale, were happy to assist all those involved in our local fire and had a fun time meeting the support groups associated with it. We have received some fabulous pictures of the fire to add to our archives.

Concerns – Trying to get our patrons to return to pre-COVID usage.

**C.E Committee Replacement-** Della VanSetten volunteered to replace Sandra Larson on the C.E. Committee. (Patty Hall, Valerie Frank & Della VanSetten)

**Use of unspent Federation Funds-** Valerie Frank reported that we currently have \$622.00 unspent funds, \$250.00 meetings, and \$372.00 travel since the Commission meeting was virtual. If we do not meet in person in May, we will have another \$250.00. Jean Harmon made a motion to give the unspent Federation funds to MontanaLibrary2Go. Melody Skogley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Spring 2022 Meeting-** Due to a scheduling conflict with the Director's Institute, the Pathfinder meeting was moved to Thursday May 5, 2022 in Fort Benton.

Cara Orban went over the results from the questionnaire sent to libraries and took additional comments. The results will be shared with NAC to inform them what community needs there are beyond library walls.

Tracy Cook made the state library report available to members.

Jennifer Birnel, Montana Memory Project gave a presentation on the new Recollect website for CE Tech credit.

Janelle Holden made a motion to adjourn. Peg Tobin seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Frank, Federation Coordinator