

Pathfinder Fall 2022 Federation Meeting
Thursday October 27, 2022
Fort Benton/Zoom

Chair Patty Hall welcomed everyone, and training began at 9:35 a.m.

Pam Henley from the Montana State Library discussed Policy Development and Maintenance. CE Credit was earned.

Melody Karle from the Montana State Library discussed the Library Tour and asked for feedback and ideas.

Rachel Rawn reported on MLA Government Affairs.

Tracy Cook gave the State Library report.

Chair Patty Hall called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

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- Tiffany Christensen, Patrick Heinen
- Dutton/Teton Library- Cheri Fuhringer, Jean Harmon, Dennis Haines
- Fairfield/Teton Library- Tracy Roeder, Agnes Kolste
- Glacier County Library- Austin Castle
- Great Falls Public Library- Susie McIntyre, Sam Deforest
- Harlem Public Library- Carley Vauthier, Teresa Cornell
- Havre-Hill County Library- Rachel Rawn, Beth Williams
- Liberty County Library- Julie Erickson (Via Zoom), Belinda Hawks (Via Zoom)
- Toole County Library- Heidi Alford, Peggy Tobin
- Valier Public Library- Cathy Brandvold, Kathy Dean, Chris Grotbo
- Wedsworth Memorial Library- Nancy Royan, Melody Skogley
- Montana State Library- Tracy Cook, Pam Henley, Melody Karle (Via Zoom)
- State Library Commission- Robyn Scribner

Spring 2022 Minutes- Jean Harmon made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Patrick Heinen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Federation Revision Questions-Tracy Cook-

1. What is the greatest benefit of the federation to you and your library? To your library patrons?
 - a. Networking with colleagues, camaraderie, bonding, and collaboration – mentioned several times
 - b. Training/education
 - c. Power of a combined voice with advocacy and building support for libraries
 - d. We get money
 - e. Facilitates communication
 - f. Connect with state people
 - g. For our patrons – access to information and library resources, improved services with a human touch, help from other libraries when we run into a problem, get new ideas for serving patrons
2. What is missing for your patrons and/or your library when it comes to the structure of the federation or the services it provides?
 - a. Nothing was mentioned

3. What would you change about the current structure or funding of the federation?
 - a. More funding
 - b. Most people were happy with the current structure of the federation and liked having board members be a part of the federation
 - c. Like to keep the availability of Zoom meetings that came about with COVID
 - d. Like to have more funding to include tribal college libraries and would like to invite them to meetings
4. The legislative intent listed in the Montana Code Annotated is "It is the policy of the legislature to encourage the most efficient delivery of library services to the people of Montana. To that end the state should be divided into regions within which libraries desiring to participate in the distribution of such state funding to libraries as may be available from time to time shall organize into library federations to pool resources and information and avoid duplication of effort."
 - a. Is this still relevant? Why or why not?
 - i. Pooling resources is still relevant; not sure about duplication of effort as it would be difficult to completely avoid duplication
 - ii. Federations also operate as a laboratory of new ideas
 - iii. Should the intent also include recognition of the needs of individual libraries
 - b. Does the current structure/funding of federations support this intent? Why or why not?
 - i. Are there other ways to pool our funding to buy things most or all of us need? Or should it be used to support individual library needs?
 - ii. Are there other resources we can pool to compromise and meet individual library needs and meet the intent?
 - iii. We could use more money to meet the intent.

Legislative night will be Tuesday February 7, 2023, everyone is encouraged to attend. Gladys talked about everyone joining MLA and also suggested joining ARSL for \$29.00 per year and a highly recommended attending the ARSL conference.

FY22 Federation Reporting and 2023 Amended POS- Valerie Frank thanked everyone for completing their annual reports on time and addressed the amended Plan of Service for 2023.

Proposed Bylaws Revisions- Valerie Frank went over the proposed bylaws changes. Karen Ferris made a motion to accept the bylaws changes. Peggy Tobin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Federation Motion Picture License- Valerie Frank presented the information about the purchasing of a federation motion picture license. Frank will check with everyone after the first of the year, to see if we have enough libraries interested in pursuing the license. We need a minimum of 10 libraries to receive the group rate.

Spring 2023 Meeting Date- May 4th in Fort Benton.

Joys & Concerns

Belt Public Library

Joys: Susie wrote a grant and Belt is receiving money to build a community room! Giving away a kindle in December; any kid who comes into the library is entered to win.

Blaine County Library

Joys: Great turnout for our children's programs. Worked at Finley's Pumpkin Patch and received over \$2200 in donations, to be used for our children's programs. Internet cabling upgraded, still waiting for the new router and equipment. Montana History Foundation did grant writing workshop at our library, and it was very informative. Triangle will do an Internet Security training next week. We are planning our Hassle-Free Christmas Program this year, but we are going to have an open house with vendors in the meeting room, rather than having a large crowd packed into our meeting room. Our lights and windows will be upgraded sometime, with ARPA funds.

Concerns: Don't really have any concerns, other than the usual budget struggles.

Choteau/Teton Library

Joys: Shades fixed, no plumbing problems, doing programs, back to providing services to the schools. Has the bear trunk if anyone wants it.

Chouteau County Library

Joy: The opening of the newly remodeled Geraldine branch library with strong usage and support.

Concern: Contentious communication between staff and between staff and the board.

Conrad Public Library

Joys: Autumn programs are running smoothly and filling up - it's wonderful to have a library full of people! Many things are being learned during this year of transition, and all the assistance and support from the Montana State Library staff, the CPL Board of Trustees, and the CPL Foundation has been invaluable and much appreciated.

Concerns: There may be some structural issues with our century-old building; we are looking forward to having it evaluated.

Dutton/Teton Public Library

Joys: I'm feeling blessed to have such fabulous staff working at the library; and truly amazing board members that (somehow) keep me headed in the right direction!

Concerns: The most pressing one is what I'm gonna be for Halloween!?! =)

Fairfield/Teton Library

Joys: Grateful to receive federation funding. Hired new employee. Have new addition, with new furniture. Wiring & Internet upgrade. Planning a community event, targeting a different audience, each month.

Concern: Lots going on.

Glacier County Library

Joys: We have made time for some programming including Farmer's Markets this summer, story times, the MLN Virtual Programming Series, and Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween. We finally have a full five-member board again. Staff and board members still pushing through trying to accomplish projects and adhere to our mission statement.

Concerns: The current condition of the Browning Branch of the Glacier County Library. Working with our local government.

Great Falls Public Library

Joys: Permanent Story Walk at Gibson Park, new cabling, and fiber, grant for memory café. Sponsoring Shakespeare in the Park. Did Loot boxes for the teens. Have a new master plan.

Concerns: Understaffed, plumbing issues, staff members leaving and not filling positions, patron behavior issues.

Harlem Public Library

Joys: Able to hire janitor and clerk (sub), 150 hours each annually. ARPA fund applications awarded: new windows in old part of building; plexiglass dividers between patron computers. Assistant Vauthier – new baby boy. Friends of the Library are again holding the membership meeting and wind & cheese fundraiser after two years.

Concerns: Lack of traffic and attendance at programs

Havre-Hill County Library

Joys: Urinal fixed, water fountain fixed, and blinds fixed, after being broken for a long time.

Concerns: Foot traffic up, but still slower than pre-Covid. Harassment from patrons-will have training for staff.

Toole County Library

Joys: Budget passed & cost of living raises given. Successful Summer Reading Program. Received Town Pump and Northern Telephone Co. grants for children's programs. Friends of the Library are getting bids for new drapes for the library.

Concerns: Finding a building the FOL could use for book sales.

Valier Public Library

Joys: Numbers going back up, Summer Reading was good, adult programs are back on track, parking lot is paved, have done 6 little libraries.

Wedsworth Library

Joys-We hosted an Open House in dedication to opening and naming our addition after Jackie Strandell, our former Director. It was well attended. We also co-hosted a community potluck/ BBQ with the Wedsworth Trust. Approximately 125-130 people attended. It was by donation, and we received \$400 in donations. We added UV shades in our meeting room, ducting to our entry way, an awning over the front doors with the money we will be receiving from AARPA funds. We just had a recent Book Sale that was extremely successful.

Concerns- I hope my staff computer holds out long enough to receive the new one that is on order, as the staff computer decided already to take a day off.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Frank, Federation Coordinator