

Pathfinder Federation Meeting
Spring 2023 Agenda
Thursday May 4, 2023
Fort Benton

Chair Patty Hall welcomed everyone, and training began at 9:32 a.m.

Pam Henley from the Montana State Library discussed Emergency Response Planning. CE Credits were earned.

Amelia Kim from the Montana State Library discussed MLN Virtual Program Schedule and Food Programming in libraries.

Federation Business

Chair Patty Hall called the meeting to order at 12:40

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 (Present for training only)
- Conrad Public Library- Tiffany Christensen, Patrick Heinen (Zoom)
- Dutton/Teton-Dennis Haines
- Fairfield/Teton Public Library- Tracie Roeder, Margi Corey
- Glacier County Library- Austin Castle, Becky Kimmet (Zoom)
- Great Falls Public Library- Susie McIntyre, Whitney Olson (Zoom)
- Harlem Public Library- Colleen Brommer, Teresa Cornell
- Havre-Hill County Library- Rachel Rawn, Janet Williams (Zoom)
- Liberty County Library- Julie Erickson (Zoom), Belinda Hawks (Zoom)
- Toole County Library- Heidi Alford, Emily McDermott
- Valier Public Library- Cathy Brandvold, Chris Grotbo
- Wedsworth Memorial Library- Nancy Royan, Melody Skogley
- Montana State Library- Tracy Cook, Pam Henley (Training only), Amelia Kim (Zoom)
- Montana State Library Commission- Robin Scribner (Present for training only)

Fall 2022 Minutes- Melody Skogley moved to accept the minutes from the Fall Pathfinder meeting. Karen Ferris seconded. Motion carried.

State Library Report-Tracy Cook gave the State Library Report. A copy will be sent to each library. Cook also gave legislative updates and discussed the Federation task force recommendations. Cook discussed the NAC proposal to help libraries with tech support and asked the group what their tech needs were.

FY23 Expense Reporting- Valerie Frank reminded directors to get their FY23 expense reports in. The deadline is August 3rd. Frank will send instructions for submitting expense reports.

FY24 Plan of Service

Budget Summary

Program 0 – Administrative Expenses	\$1,401.00
Program 1 – Annual Meetings	\$500.00
Total amount that will be granted to individual libraries	\$31,965.87
Total expenditures	\$33,866.87

Each library will receive \$2,131.05.

Teresa Cornell moved to accept the FY24 plan of service. Emily McDermott seconded. Motion carried.

Ideas were discussed for the use of the possible additional \$4,000. These included courier or offsetting costs of ILL/courier, retreat, grants for Tribal Libraries to receive federation money, group movie license, book club kits, "Library Crawl," and consulting contract for IT. The movie license is not feasible because there are not enough libraries interested in purchasing one. The \$4,000.00 must be used for collaborative purposes to benefit all libraries in federation. NAC has approved but state commission votes on the increase at the June meeting. Margi Corey made a motion to use the extra funding to purchase book club kits. Sally Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion points: how to choose titles (each library will get to submit choices), housed at Great Falls Library as they have the software for check out and return, postage (\$800-\$1000) will come out of the \$4000.00, how to manage this, Montana authors, kits for Pathfinder only or open to all libraries in state, bags will have to be purchased. It was decided a committee was needed to work out the logistics of the book club kits.

Book Club Kit subcommittee: Susie McIntyre, Colleen Brommer, and Chris Grotbo

Federation Executive Committee Election

Executive Committee 2023-2025

Patty Hall- Chair

Melody Skogley-Vice Chair

Theresa Cornell- Member

Janet Worrall- Member

Sam DeForest- Member

Emily McDermott moved to accept the slate. Chris Grotbo seconded the motion. Motion carried.

By-Laws Committee

Colleen Brommer

Heidi Alford

Melody Skogley

Janet Worrall

Chris Grotbo moved to accept the by-law committee. Teresa Cornell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CE Committee

Valerie Frank

Patty Hall

Nancy Royan

Melody Skogley moved to accept the CE Committee. Karen Ferris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

Colleen Brommer

Nancy Royan

Karen Ferris moved to accept the Nominating Committee. Teresa Cornell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fall 2023 Meeting Date

The next Pathfinder meeting will be October 26, 2023, in Ft. Benton.

Tracy Cook won the door prize.

Meeting adjourned 3 P.M.

Joys and Concerns

Belt

Joys: AAUW grant for the second year, day care visits

Concerns: Money as always. City needs to update MOA with the county to increase our budget.

Blaine County

Joys: New Assistant starting June 1st. Appreciate Elle, our Library Clerk, being very flexible while waiting for the new Assistant to start. Dolly Parton Imagination Library. New windows, lights, upgraded wiring, and equipment and increased Internet speed.

Concerns: Budget, as always.

Chouteau County Library

Joys: Being able to attend MLA in person and having another Pathfinder meeting in person. It is heartening to be around like-minded individuals who are often having the same experiences as I am.

Concerns - A local group of individuals is trying to censor the library and its offerings. It is a direct attack on freedom of speech, freedom of information, and having a balanced collection. It has been a scary time.

Conrad

Joys: The back door to the library has finally been replaced. The exit is now ADA accessible, much easier for staff to use, and the glass in the door adds some much-needed natural light. The PAR for the library building has been started; we are looking forward to understanding the full condition of the building so we can better plan for its maintenance.

Concerns: Trying to address operating hours and programming with limited staff. Currently hiring a new library assistant.

Dutton

Joys: One area of focus has been raising the number of 7–16-year-olds visiting the library on a regular basis and I'm happy to report that it has worked! If you're hoping for some peace and quiet at the library, then after school and on Fridays might not be the most ideal time to stop in and stay for a while (Dutton-Brady has a four-day school week). If you appreciate 15-20 kids having snacks, playing Roblox, Lego's, or other games, then stop on by! The more the merrier, I believe the saying goes.

Concerns: What to do with all those kids in the library some days!?!=)

Fairfield-Teton Public Library

Joys: We remain grateful for Federation funding. Due to budget shortfalls, it has carried our library this year. Thank you all! Excellent and enthusiastic staff. New forward-facing shelving for childrens' picture books has been a hit. Library usership is up in all categories and through all venues. Story Hour attendance saw a high last week of 29 children. Teen summer programming will include a murder mystery led by Fairfield HS Forensics teacher, Carissa Jenkins. Great public support of our "Bread for Books" and "Beef for Books" campaigns which provides additional funds for books while boosting rural economic development.

Concerns: Library funding for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Glacier County Library

Joys: Laura Numeroff Author Visit in May in conjunction with the Cut Bank Public Schools, gearing up for Summer Reading with hopefully more programming this year, we hope to have our public computer area in Cut Bank back open for use soon, Glacier County Library is now fine free! ARPA Internal Wiring Project Wi-Fi extenders have been installed, making progress processing piles of book donations.

Concerns: Deteriorating building conditions, working with local government

Great Falls

Joys: LIBRARY MILL LEVY Great Falls voters will vote on a Library Mill Levy on June 6th. We have an amazing Ballot Initiative Committee and tons of support from Library Champions. If Levy passes will be able to expand services for the whole community. SOLAR ELECTRICITY PROJECT Electricity costs for the City of Great Falls have tripled. Our next year budget for electricity is going from \$25,000 to \$75,000. We are working on a project to put a solar energy collection system on the library roof. We are excited for a possible amazing project. IMAGINATION LIBRARY Hurrah! The paperwork is in place, and we are ready to start enrolling children in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) so that they will receive a free book every month for the first five years of life. Big thank you to the Library Foundation for being the 501(c)3 sponsor for Cascade County. The Raising Readers Committee will have a kickoff event here at the Library on Wednesday May 10th from 10:30 to 12:30. Our goal is to eventually sign up every child (0 to 5 years old) in Cascade County with DPIL. The Raising Readers Committee includes the Library, Great Falls Public Schools, the City-County Health Department and other community organizations.

Concerns: LIBRARY MILL LEVY Great Falls voters will vote on a library Mill Levy on June 6th. Our Clerk and Recorder is struggling in her efforts and there are serious concerns about her ability to hold a legal and fair election. A loud group of Library opponents are trying to make the election about book bans and drag queens, when it is really about early literacy for our kids, homebound services for our seniors and expanded services for the whole community. If Levy fails, we will be reducing staffing and services. We will reduce our hours and no longer meet the minimum Public Library Standards for a Library serving a community of our size. ELECTRICITY COSTS Electricity costs for the City of Great Falls have tripled. Our next year budget for electricity is going from \$25,000 to \$75,000. REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION We have had a request for reconsideration that has now become a request to change Library policy. A patron is requesting that all materials dealing with LGBTQ and gender identity be made inaccessible to children. (So a picture book like *Uncle Bobby's Wedding* would be placed behind the desk and only be accessible by adults.) We have gone through several steps of the process and are now waiting to see if the patron appeals the written decision to the full Board.

Harlem Public Library

Joys: Pilcrow Grant for children's books

Big Sky Reads Grant from Humanities Montana for book club kits.

Town Pump Grant for summer reading

Monthly Book Challenge positive effect on check out numbers.

New windows ARPA funds

Concerns: Dolly Parton Imagination Library outreach
New board member

Toole County

Joys: Friends of the Library bought beautiful drapes for library. They also continue to sponsor book talks and Shelby Carousel events for children. (free rides and ice cream!). Town Pump Foundation grant

Dolly Parton Foundation Community survey statistics – positive

Concerns: Friends are still looking for a building for book sales. - Our basement is full!

Valier

Joys: We finally have a real parking lot! We have almost finished our building with the new soffit going in now. Yay, Hotspots!! More adults are attending programs. Miss Linda has agreed to Summer Story Hours. Our after-School Program continues to bring in 25+ kids each week. We are hoping to continue this through Summer Reading.

Concerns: The economy.

Wedsworth

Joys: Received a signed wooden sculpture donation from Lance Dubois, a local artist/sculptor who was recently featured in Sig magazine. Starting to resume our library events of speakers and presentations.

Concerns: Still looking for a way to regenerate our story hour; Wondering when we will receive the ARPA funds awarded from the county.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Frank, Federation Coordinator