

**MLA Children & Young People's Section (CYPS)**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**2014 MLA Conference, Mankato, MN**

I. Welcome

II. Approval of agenda

Anne Friederichs moved to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Susan Schumacher.

III. Approval of 2013 Minutes

Maggie Snow moved to approve the 2013 minutes. This was seconded by Anne Friederichs.

IV. Shannon Melham and the Business of Collaboration: Paws to READ

Shannon shared how she became involved with Reading Education Assistance Dogs, or "R.E.A.D." R.E.A.D. utilizes specially trained and licensed therapy animals and trains their handlers in how to provide an appropriate learning atmosphere for young readers. She emphasized that the program does not grant licensure, but handlers who finish the program have invested time to learn appropriate skills. R.E.A.D. volunteer pairs are licensed and insured prior which is vital from an administration standpoint. A handout will be distributed by Frances.

Additional advice: Post far in advance that a dog will be in the library to make aware parents whose children have allergies. Make the space obviously private, but some visibility is good to draw attention to the program. Work with your supervisor, staff and others to determine best practices for your location. To avoid interruption, post a sign that the visiting therapy dog is working, be aware of cultural differences (Somali potential fear of dogs was mentioned).

Shannon listed some of the many benefits of having dogs in the library. This is a safe place for kids who may have been frightened previously to experience a positive interaction with trained and prepared volunteer pairs. This is a good education piece. The dog offers a nonjudgmental opportunity for kids to increase confidence. And, being around animals has been found to decrease blood pressure resulting in a calming effect. Benefits for all involved.

The MN contact is Nancy Brooks. More information can be found at <http://www.readdogsmn.org/>

V. Chair's Report

- a. Budget – As of this meeting, it seemed likely that in 2015, the budget structure would be the same as in 2014 with each Section having a base budget of \$200. There is a process/form to request additional funds.
- b. 2014 Unconference at Stillwater Public Library – 41 people registered for the Unconference which evolved from the need for a signature CYP event. Feedback was very positive. Focus for 2014 was on preschool ages primarily.

VI. Ongoing Business/Updates/Announcements

- a. Take Your Child to the Library Day – February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – See the website <http://takeyourchildtothelibrary.blogspot.com/> for more information and programming ideas. Two CT Librarians began this initiative to get families to the library. Participation can vary widely from all passive programming to as much involvement as your library can manage.
- b. CYP Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/MLACYP?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/MLACYP?ref=br_tf) – Input is encouraged!
- c. Mock Caldecott/Newbery/Printz Awards - Gail Nordstrom distributed a handout for this annual mock awards gathering at St. Kate's. Forthcoming info will be on CYP's Facebook page and on the MLA CYP page <http://www.mnlibraryassociation.org/?page=CYP> . Mocks are on the same day, but going from one to the other is acceptable.
- d. Spotlight on Books – April 10-11th, 2015, Chase on the Lake, Walker. This is a new location for the popular book-lovers' gathering. Watch the website <http://spotlightonbooks.weebly.com/> and CYP Facebook page for more info and spread the word.

#### VII. New Officers

2015 Chair: Amy Commers [amy.commers@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:amy.commers@co.dakota.mn.us)

2016 Chair elect nominations: Maggie Snow (ACL) nominated Bethany Grabow from Columbia Heights Public Library. Send other nominations to [frances.veit@gmail.com](mailto:frances.veit@gmail.com) as soon as possible. Vote will happen in November.

#### VIII. New Business

##### a. Possible projects

- i. Ignite Afterschool <http://igniteafterschool.org/> - Maggie Snow was approached in late August by a contact working with the St. Paul Sprockets program. This group partners with stakeholders to provide beneficial programming for kids when they are not in school including before/after and during summer. Sign up for updates. Stay tuned. There will be advocacy training and CYP will be involved. Check out the website for resources, articles and a calendar of events. Many opportunities for collaboration including STEM partners in MN!
- ii. Children's/YA book club or regular gathering – Would members like to gather informally outside of the annual meeting?

b. CYP 2015 Unconference - Date range for 2015 will be discussed further to avoid Spotlight on Books and other April library events. Frances invited ideas and volunteers to help plan 2015. Those interested should contact Frances Veit or Amy Commers.

c. Other – Anne Friederichs on the MLA Membership Committee urged CYP members to complete their MLA profiles. Contact Claire Wilson ([claire.wilson@management-hq.com](mailto:claire.wilson@management-hq.com)) or Frances Veit ([frances.veit@gmail.com](mailto:frances.veit@gmail.com)) with questions and/or password help.

d. Frances Veit encouraged members to begin thinking about MLA 2015 Conference presentation ideas. A program on legislative advocacy was mentioned.

- e. Once Upon A Reader – inaugural year - Anna Haase Krueger, Project Manager for OUAR, explained that it's aimed at 0-6 years. Title selected for year one is "Moo" by David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka. The book creators are presenting a trunk show that is completely different from their previous library/school visits. Five fully realized kits including signs have been developed. All twelve regions will have kits. The MN Association of Friends is offering grants for supplies. The program implementation is in process. Learn how to bring it to your system.