

Notes

MLA Division meeting

Minnesota Library Trustees and Advocates (MLTA)

October 5, 2017 1:00-1:50 PM

Rochester, MN

Submitted by Ann Hokanson

Present: Dan Greensweig, Ann Hutton, Steve Bean, Lenore Johnson, Marge McPeak, Ron Rudd, James Weygand, Ann Hokanson

Review of purpose of the division, membership requirements, previous efforts at membership recruitment.

**Clarification of roles of MLTA/MALF-** previous discussions of **merging**. Ann Hutton and Lenore Johnson will get bylaws of both. Jim Weygand and Ann Hutton will lead effort to discuss merging. Dan Greensweig (lawyer by training) volunteered to do review by-laws and background on a possible merger. If cannot merge, a path to increased **collaboration**. Jim Weygand and Ann Hutton will lead effort.

**Officers-** Marge McPeak/Ron Rudd motion that James Weygand remain president until Legislative Day 2018. Passed. Lenore Johnson/Ann Hutton motion that Ann Hokanson be secretary until Legislative Day 2018. Passed.

**Next meeting-**the annual business meeting is normally held the evening before Legislative Day.

**Improving division meeting-**general discussion points and ideas raised included:

-The division meeting should be on Trustee Day.

-Trustees and advocates (anyone not employed by a library of any kind) should be able to join MLA and attend the conference at a much reduced rate. They are donating their time, talent, and paying their own way.

**Discussion of advocacy:**

-Trustees sometimes have limits on the advocacy they can do. An example is that Anoka trustees are not empowered by the county to directly contact legislators.

-Advocacy and networking training like that recently offered by MALF is a starting point. Trustees and advocates can speak to neighbors, friends, etc. so that they are informed and can advocate. Friends groups see their role as supporting their local library more than supporting libraries in general or the state's system.