Happy New Year

**February Social - Hosts Wanted**

The Winter Social is scheduled for February 20 from 5:00 to 7:30. Socials provide a wonderful opportunity to get together, share stories, and catch up on news and views. We are asking for volunteer hosts to arrange venues and greet participants. SLA does not provide funds for the winter social. If you can offer to be a host please submit your name to Dorothea at slaexdir@sasktel.com.

**Conference Planning: Save the Dates May 2 – 3, 2019**

Conference Planning becomes increasingly busy over the next months. Many thanks to all who submitted proposals for concurrent sessions, spotlights and panels. All proposals have been submitted to the Program Committee and we expect to be contact before mid-month. Many thanks to all who have offered to share their expertise. We are also finalizing arrangements with excellent speakers for the Mary Donaldson Lecture and Plenary Sessions. There is considerable behind the scenes work to ensure an engaging conference that has an appeal to a range of delegates.

**Presentation to the Panel on Engagement with Public Libraries**

SLA was fortunate to meet with the government appointed panel on December 1, 2018. Our presentation was based on the key areas of inquiry that were provided to all participants: governance, legislation, role clarity and responsibilities, impact of fiscal pressures, and the future of public libraries. Discussions at the meeting were focused and thoughtful. The significance of the panel's work is well understood by SLA and we continue to promote a positive, forward thinking approach that recognizes the valuable role of public libraries and what is required to support that role. We understand that once the panel concludes its work, a report will be prepared and public consultation will follow.

**Year - end at SLA**

January 31 is year-end at SLA so we are preparing for audit of 2018-19 and re-applying for grant funding from our primary funder. SLA is one of the many organizations that has been financially supported by Sask Culture through proceeds from Saskatchewan Lotteries.

**Awards and Bursaries**

**2019 Mary Donaldson Award**
Applications are invited for the 2019 Mary Donaldson Award. The Mary Donaldson Memorial Trust was established in 1966 to honour the memory of Mary Donaldson, who was Saskatchewan's first Provincial Librarian from 1951 until her death in 1966. The Mary Donaldson Award of Merit was established in 1977 to provide a bursary to a full-time or part-time Saskatchewan student enrolled in a library and information technician program. The award will be presented during the annual Saskatchewan Library Association Conference in May. Please
note the deadline for applications is March 31, 2019; further information and the Application form may be found [here](#).

**Frances Morrison Award**
The SLA Frances Morrison Award is an award of merit for outstanding service to libraries given in the name of one of Saskatchewan’s exceptional librarians. This award is open to all, individuals or institutions or groups, and not restricted to professional librarians or SLA members. It is an honour to have one’s work recognized by this award. Please think about who you could recognize and consider making a nomination no later than March 1, 2019. [Read the criteria and application process](#)

**Nomination for Honourary Life Membership**
A Honourary Life Membership is conferred upon a current SLA member who has made a substantial and recognizable long-standing contribution to SLA and/or library service in Saskatchewan. Please consider who you could nominate and submit a nomination no later than March 1, 2019 [Read More](#)