

Hello,

It's late November and winter holidays are fast approaching. But the fact that I'm still biking to work makes Christmas seem far off.

To start off, I'm very pleased to announce that Linda Winkler was appointed by our Board as SLA's new Vice-President of Membership and Publications effective November 14, 2016. The process to fill the position was done according to Bylaw 13.11 in SLA's Handbook. Linda will serve in this position on an interim basis until the Board's changeover meeting in June 2017. She is Librarian Emeritus at the University of Regina, served six years on SLA's Board prior to the association's new governance restructuring, and received SLA's Honourary Membership in 2014. Linda brings a wealth of library experience and association corporate memory to our Board.

SLA's meeting of the Board of Directors was held on November 14 at the Manitou Springs Resort in Manitou Beach, SK (near Watrous). Board members had the option of arriving the day before and enjoying the therapeutic waters of the spa. Our November meeting has been held there three years in a row. It's become an annual tradition that was started by former President Gwen Schmidt and it's one of her great legacies!

I'd like to mention that SLA has been using a cloud sharing platform called Basecamp for all committees to communicate, share, and archive documents. It has been working well and it's a great visual for me to see all the work that office staff and our committee volunteers are doing. But efforts are also rewarding, the work is fun, and it's a great learning and leadership opportunity to engage with others from across the province

I want to give a special shout out to two of SLA's largest committees: Conference Planning and One Book. One Province. We are planning an incredible conference next year and I encourage people to make arrangements at Elk Ridge Resort. Information is updated regularly on SLA's conference site at <http://saskla.ca/programs/conference>. One Book. One Province is arguably the most ambitious project that SLA has undertaken in years. Content on its site is also updated regularly at <http://saskla.ca/program/one-book-one-province>

Finally, a friendly reminder that everyone is welcome to publish in SLAte, the association's electronic newsletter. Content can include a critical review of something, profiling your workplace for our Spotlight On section, or describing an event or program your library has recently hosted. If you have an idea then contact Anne Pennylegion, SLA Program Coordinator at slaprograms@sasktel.net.

I wish everyone a safe and very happy holiday season!

Best,
Michael Shires, President