

MISSOURI EVERGREEN GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JUNE 4, 2026 – HOLIDAY INN, POPLAR BLUFF & VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

Attending In-Person: Shawn Long, Matt Rahner, Jackie Hawes, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Tacara Sullivan, Michelle Swane, Frankie Lea Hannan, Katie Earnhart, Mary Beth Revels, Gina Milburn, Robin Hudson, Rebecca Buckley, Debbie Jones, Stephanie Nichols, Erin Strodman, Megan Bishop, Shannon Midyett, Stacey Embry, Kate McBride, Ron Eifert, Jordan Myers, Lori Mangan, Stephanie Bloss, Coli Creach, Janice Richardson, Carol Darrow, Carrie Cline, Rachael Grime, Steve Campbell, Amy England, Nicholas Holladay, Cindy Hayes, Jake Johnson, Terri York, Janet Caruthers, Kerry Bruce, Christa Van Herreweghe, Emily Slama, Lisa Garro, Liz Rudloff, Tracy Byerly, Elizabeth Steffen, Sue Lightfoot-Horine, Angie Bayne, Claudia Young, Kate Coleman.

Attending via Zoom: Bethany Barton, Heather Arnold, Scott Bonner, Erin Phelps, Lee Ann Santee, Maryann Knorr, Heather Nitzel, Ashley Bryant, Gaylee Harris, Kessie Osborne, Jamie Sparks, Rhonda Busse, Karen Young, Terri Moser, Sara Luellen, Gina Gibbons, Mary Kay Emmrich, Macee Garvey, Courtney Flesch, Kristin Evans, Jane Mulvihill-Jones, Cory Mihalik, Greg Carter, Belinda Birrer, Susan Knox, Stacy Hisle, Lacy Schwien, Sarah Gockley.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President K. Coleman at 10:01 am.

Minutes: C. Van Herreweghe made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Second by J. Johnson. Motion carried.

Executive Board Report/Director Report by C. Knight: 3 recent migrations Sedalia, Bonne Terre, and Centralia, 80 libraries are live on Evergreen, and 4 libraries pending. 705,085 patrons and 5,039,427 items in the MEC system. Branson/Hollister will migrate in Feb/Mar 2027 and MO River Regional Library in May 2027.

MEC User Conference was a success with over 107 in attendance. Website redesign contract has been signed with Global Reach to be paid out of the MEC Development Fund. MEC is now set up to provide employees with a 401K and health insurance. Equinox – recent issues are all coming from BOT attacks; additional authentication processes will be added. Continue to send tickets with issues. New Aspen cohort in the implementation process with a launch scheduled for late July. Includes Neosho-Newton Co, Carthage, Trails Regional, Morgan Co and Webster Co. Contact Colleen if you would like to be included in the next cohort. \$2500 fee for implementation and then an annual MEC fee of \$15000 is split among libraries on Aspen by income levels. Colleen is working on calculating membership fees for FY27 based on the recently released FY25 PLS survey.

Financial Report by K. Earnhart: Katie did a review of the financial reports included in the meeting packet. She also reviewed the Fidelity Investment/Brookmont statement. There are some LSTA grant funds yet to come in. Each year, 1% of membership fees go into the MEC Development Fund. K. Van Herreweghe made a motion to approve the financial report. Second from S. Lightfoot-Horine. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Cataloging by S. Luellen: The dedupe went well with issues mostly related to user cataloging errors. Regional training sessions are done with 83 staff members from 39 libraries attending. The committee is reviewing z39.5 to check targets and updating cataloging policies and best practices. Next meeting is June 8 at 11 am.

Circ report by R. Busse: MEC will have regional circulation training sessions in the fall. Rhonda will send an email asking for suggestions on topics you want to cover. Please check your library setting for Missing Pieces and select the default setting to mark the item as missing NOT damaged. Only 39 libraries have done this so far. Rhonda will be sharing a NEW Item Condition slip to use in transiting books in hopes it will stay in books better. Next meeting is June 23 at 11:00.

Reports by H. Arnold: Please watch for emails regarding bad report templates so that you can update/delete any clones of the bad report. Sign up for the reports listserv if you haven't done so. The committee is trying to limit number of shared template folders, therefore, share templates at your library level only. Next meeting is next Thursday at 2 pm.

CAN report by L. Santee: The group has been working with new migrations, finalizing updates to the local administration manual and a glossary of MEC terms is now online. Next meeting is June 10 at 1pm.

MALA: Jane Mulvihill-Jones provided an update on the new courier item scanning process. Cass County, St. Joseph PL, Little Dixie and the State Library have been the most recent volunteers for the pilot project. Jane is looking for more pilot project libraries out of the Columbia hub. Courier drivers scan on load and delivery, working to make that one scan only. The MALA Survey is due tomorrow, MALA Courier Agreements should already be in. Keep your library ILL contacts up to date. MALA Pro membership is renewing now at a discount.

MO State Library: Cory Mihalik reported that all MEC libraries that need to add courier stops based on usage have been notified. The State Library is working with MEC on LSTA funding and the LSTA plan review process. Cory expressed thanks to Colleen for working on MEC's shared reports to assist libraries when filling out their PLS survey.

Other matters – OCLC: 18-20 MEC libraries currently have a subscription to OCLC cataloging and metadata. When joining MEC some libraries kept their OCLC cataloging and the rest did not. OCLC is demanding that MEC pay for a consortium subscription to include all MEC libraries. If not, they will cancel the individual OCLC subscriptions currently held by some MEC libraries. OCLC believes it is a contract violation for those libraries to share cataloging data obtained from OCLC to all MEC libraries. Years ago, MEC received a quote from OCLC for a consortium subscription at a rate of \$225,000 per year. With the recent demands of OCLC and after some back and forth, OCLC has given MEC a rate of \$95,000 per year (reduced from \$140,000). The annual cost will increase if a new library currently subscribing to OCLC joins MEC. A response to OCLC is needed by the beginning of MEC's upcoming fiscal year beginning September 1st. Attendees expressed widespread distaste of OCLC's business practices and expressed a need to find an alternative. Unfortunately, there are no satisfactory alternatives to OCLC currently. Those libraries with paid OCLC subscriptions upload "on order" and the majority of MARC records that are then used by all of the consortium whether paying for OCLC or not. It is estimated that \$90,000 is roughly what those libraries are currently paying in OCLC fees. It would take 30 minutes to over an hour for original cataloging of each item. Some attendees mentioned using z39.50 to continue cataloging. However, most of the records on z39.50 are from OCLC and it is believed they will begin clamping down on record sharing. The OCLC proposal for a 3 year contract would include 3% per year for inflation. Next year, FY28 \$113,000, FY29 would be 3% more for inflation plus additional for any current individual subscriber of OCLC that joins MEC. If MEC wants to continue to attract larger library systems, we need OCLC or something comparable. Reviewed a spreadsheet of methods for dividing fees among the membership. The fee structure would start with the new fiscal year on Sept 1. MEC has had plans to add a System Administrator for the consortium but. It will no longer be feasible to add a MEC system administrator as funds will now be used for the OCLC subscription. One suggestion, to do a one-year renewable contract with OCLC that will give MEC time to consider alternatives. Members asked for information on what other Evergreen consortia are doing and explore other solutions or collaborations. C. Knight will send out a ballot for members to vote on; signing a MEC consortium contract with OCLC, contract term (1 or 3 years), and method for cost sharing to the membership.

T. York made a motion to adjourn, S. Long seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Terri York, Secretary