MPLA Nominating Committee
Report to the Executive Board
April 8, 2000

Issues and Recommendations

1. **Requirements to run for office**. Only requirement now is "Shall be members of the Association, and reside in the MPLA region or be employed by a library in the region." (Bylaws 1.4). The candidates for President always have substantial years of experience and membership, but some other candidates for offices do not.

RECOMMENDATION:
The committee recommends that a minimum of one year of membership in MPLA and in the Section be required to run for office.

2. Standardization of Nomination Procedures for Sections:

Summary of Section's Election procedures (from Bylaws) 4.1:
Call for appointment of a nominating Committee of at least three members, a minimum of two candidates per office, option of nomination by petition. Is silent on who chairs the committee, on participation of current chair, and on option for write in candidates.

Inconsistencies exist in individual Section Bylaws. All but one call for a nominating committee, but some specify who will chair it and some do not; for those who do specify, chair may be outgoing chair or in other cases incoming chair; some specify current chair may not be a member, but not all do. Two require a write-in option on the ballot; one requires that a minimum of two candidates per office be on the ballot; others do not address this. A summary by section is below:

Academic Libraries Section 4.8 & 4.9 Calls for a nominating committee of three and mandates a space for write-in candidates.

Children's and School Section: 4.12 same, except retiring chair is to chair the nominating committee.

Government Documents: 4.16 No committee, nominations by any member of the section, self-nomination, or chair elect to solicit nominees.

New Members Round Table: 4.18 calls for a nominating committee of three; no mention of write in candidates, and specifies that the current chair may not be a member of the nominating committee (4.20).

<u>Preservation Section</u> 4.24 Calls for a committee of three, to be chaired by vice chair/chair elect.

<u>Public Library Trustees</u> 4.27 & 4.28 Calls for committee of three, current chair may not be a member, Vice chair will chair the committee.

<u>State Agency, Cooperatives & Systems</u> 4.23 Committee of three, requires at least two names for each office.

<u>Technical Services</u> 4.33 Chair to appoint a nominating committee of three.

RECOMMEDATION:
The committee strongly believes the procedure should be standard and consistent for all sections. We urge
1) the use of a nominating committee
2) separation of the current chair from the nomination process
3) Identify who will chair the committee (Chair-elect or another member of the section)
4) elimination of the option of write-in candidates
5) maintain option to nominate by petition
6) Clarify minimum number of candidates required for each office.

3. **Geographical distribution and rotation of offices around the region:** Data not compiled on geographical distribution of officers over time. Bylaws specify this is not to be a consideration in nomination process (1.9). The Committee does not think this is a problem and the current policy should not change.

4. **Ballot Information:** What should be included? See form attached. Committee endorses the categories presented.

5. **Observation and Recommendation from the chair**: Participation in the committee by its members is very weak and uneven. Out of 11 members, only 5 even respond and that is with new, easy to use electronic discussion.

   Developing a leadership pool of those who are qualified and interested in holding office, and who should be urged to consider leadership positions in MPLA, is needed.

   RECOMMENDATION: In addition to developing a committee instruction booklet to provide more continuity and shorten the learning curve for new Nominating Committees, which I will do, adding some of the past-Presidents and/or past-Secretaries to this committee would bring more knowledge, expertise, committment and participation to the important work of selecting leadership for the Association.