

MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board
June 15, 2016

Meetings: The committee met April 13 and June 1 via the Zoom conferencing system.

1. Grant evaluative reports from two individuals were approved.
2. A grant application from one individual was approved.
3. The group wrote a promotional document to be distributed to all state association representative. Member Ruby Cheesman.
4. During the April meeting the committee brainstormed creating a contingency plan should we receive more grant applications than monies available. No solutions were found. The bottom line for the first-come, first served model we currently have in place is if funds are expended early in the year the committee only has two choices:
 - 1. Ask the Board for additional funds.
 - 2. Communicate to membership all funds for the year have been expended.
5. Based on the April discussion, the group researched what other state association were doing related to distributing professional development monies and discussed the results during the June meeting. The results were as follows:
 - Many state associations follow the same first-come, first served model as ours.
 - Several states divide their money into specific pools for specific purposes, such as their state conference, professional development courses, or leadership institutes.
 - One state, Arizona, supports “mass” efforts to bring professional development to many. So they will support speakers, webinars, and workshops for events organized by individuals in their association for groups.
6. Because of points 3 and 4 above, the committee believe that in general, our current system works ok, they have done their due diligence and have no specific recommendations for changes, and any changes to the allocation for MPLA grant monies should come from a considered Board conversation and final decision related to how they want professional development monies distributed.
7. The next committee meeting will be Wednesday, August 3rd.

Work Completed Outside Meetings:

1. The Committee’s proposal submitted to present at the CAL/MPLA conference on the topic of ePortfolios for professional development was accepted. The group submitted a proposal for a two hour session, but was accepted for a one hour session, to take place on Saturday, Oct. 22nd from 10:45-11:45 a.m. The official presentation title is: “ePortfolios for Professional Development: No Librarian Should Leave Home Without One” and this will be part of the “Trendy/Hot Topics track.

Respectfully submitted

*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library