

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2001
DENVER, COLORADO

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In Attendance: Linda Rea, President; Debbie Iverson, Vice President; Mary Ann Thompson, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Hinshaw, Past President; Nancy Deyoe, Technical Services; Paul S. Hoffman, Nebraska Rep.; Linda Deacy, Nevada Rep.; Ara Anderson, Wyoming Rep.; Diana Oedekoven, Preservation; Joe McKenzie, Public Library; Julie Tomlianovich, Children's; David Oberhelman, New Members Roundtable; Suzanne Taylor, Colorado Rep.; Jane Kolbe, Arizona Rep.; Brian Greene, State Agencies, Coops & Systems; Melody Kuehn, North Dakota Rep.; Basha Hartley, Oklahoma Rep.; Betty Dance, Academic; Jean Jensen, Utah Rep.; Patti Butcher, Kansas Rep.; Deb Hagemeyer, South Dakota Rep.; Ken Kempcke, Awards Committee Chair; Jim Heckel, Intellectual Freedom Co-Chair; Joe Edelen, Executive Secretary.

1. Call to Order:

Accept or Amend Agenda. The meeting was called to order by President Linda Rea at 9:15 a.m.. Linda recognized that we had some new faces and therefore and we went around the room making introductions to become better acquainted. Mary Ann Thompson asked to have the issue of reports on the web-site added to the agenda. Debbie Iverson moved to accept the agenda, as amended. Brian Greene seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes. Mary Ann Thompson put forth minutes for the January 6th , meeting. Debbie Iverson moved and Brian Greene seconded accepting the minutes. Motion carried.

2. General Reports:

President's Report. Linda Rea has been working on setting up dates to work on the long range plan implementation. She has appointed Jane Hatch as the Distance Education Coordinator. This is a two year position. If this is to become a permanent position, it will need to be included in the By-Laws. The State representatives will give their continuing education information to Jane Hatch. Rea has been having a difficult time finding a liaison for the Western Council of State Libraries. She has received a couple of applications for the MPLA Newsletter editor position. She would like to make the decision by June 1st. Debbie Iverson asked what the position paid. It pays \$250/issue and 15% of the ad revenue.

Vice-President's Report. Debbie Iverson reported that the AZLA/MPLA Conference schedule is ahead of schedule in several ways. The vendor information has gone out. The conference meetings are going along very, very well. She will discuss her long range plan update later.

Executive Secretary/Financial Report. Joe Edelen brought a digital camera to take photographs of the board for the web-site. He however, needed someone else to take the pictures. Ara Anderson volunteered. Joe pointed out that in the statistics of his written report, the personal memberships include people who have not renewed. He passed out delinquent member lists to the state reps and reminded people that one of the things the state reps need to do is work on membership and getting delinquent members to renew. The profit from the Omaha conference was over \$8,000. The new membership directory will be sent to the printer soon. Are there any suggestions? Debbie Iverson wondered about making the type darker, it seems to fade away and makes it difficult to read. Linda Rea agreed. Joe explained that it was part of the process we use. It is economical, but it can have these problems. Ara Anderson wondered if it was available on the web-site, would we really need a print version. There were several points of discussion about putting the membership on the web. Many people do not want that information on the web. Jim Heckel said that Montana added their membership to the web on a secure site that members can update. Joe would be interested in how the Montana system works. He doesn't see that working very well for us. Several people commented that they preferred to have a paper copy regardless if it was on the web-site or not.

3. Action Items and Updates:

Vision Statement of Long Range Plan. Debbie Iverson said that three versions of the revised statement went out over e-mail. 11 people responded and Version A received an overwhelming 9 votes. Therefore the committee made up of Joe McKenzie, Paula Duffy, and Patti Butcher, with Debbie Iverson coordinating asked us to review that version, especially paragraph two. After a great deal of discussion and changing around the Vision Statement agreed upon is:

MPLA will be a dynamic force in the professional development of librarians in the region by providing outstanding conferences, learning opportunities, an interactive web-site and friendly, involved members resulting in informed librarians who enhance library services.

Debbie Iverson moved that the vision statement, as amended, be approved. Diana Oedekoven seconded. The motion carried.

2001 Convention update. Jane Kolbe reported that it has helped a great deal to have Debbie Iverson come to Arizona for meetings. There has been a good response in program ideas, 90 individual programs and 5 pre-conferences (one is an all day session about building public libraries).

AZLA has decided to do two evening activities; a progressive party which will include the Phoenix Public Library, the Heard Museum, and maybe the art museum, the other will be the awards banquet on Thursday night which will combine both AZLA's and MPLA's awards.

There are two tours on Saturday being arranged, one a shopping tour and one a jeep tour in the desert.

They are working with SouthWest Airlines to work out some deals.

Jane said that they thought they could use a few more diversity sessions and tech services sessions. Nancy Deyoe said that tech services really went with the government documents group for sessions because AZLA doesn't have a tech services section. There was evidently a pre-conference last year dealing with tech services and it was felt that that covered everything new.

Debbie Iverson said there will be some added links on the web-site that if a person wants to do side excursions, you can find some ideas.

The web-site is up and running at <http://www.azla.org>.

The pre-conferences will be on Wednesday, December 5th. The board meeting will also be on the 5th in the late afternoon to hopefully allow board members to attend a pre-conference if they wish.

The Hyatt Regency is the conference hotel.

The second board meeting will be held on the Saturday and there was discussion about if it should be all day or not. That will depend on the agenda, but Joe Edelen feels that as much should be accomplished as possible at the conference meeting.

There will be a bulk mailing of the conference information that will come out of Arizona. There will be an Internet Room available.

Children's Internet Protection Act. Jim Heckel thanked MPLA for supporting Intellectual Freedom in general and then discussed CIPA. It should take effect in October. ALA is challenging the Act as well as the ACLU and many state organizations. He felt that an official resolution of support would be the first step for helping for a group like ours. Joe Edelen wondered if there would be later repercussions for anyone who signs a letter of support. Jim said that there is no legal culpability involved with resolutions of support. Joe pointed out that some places support filters. Jim explained that no filtering system does what they say they do. They don't always block porn, they do block constitutionally protected information. The local library should make their own Internet decisions. Patti Butcher said that the Kansas Library Association adopted a resolution and voted \$500 for the cause. Basha Hartley said that the Oklahoma Library Association has also adopted a resolution. Marilyn Henshaw pointed out that CIPA will force staff computers to also be filtered. Jim has no doubts that CIPA will be overturned in the courts and recommends to basically ignore it at your library until the issue is settled. Marilyn made a motion to approve a resolution against CIPA from MPLA. Debbie Iverson seconded. The motion passed.

Intellectual Freedom Award. Ken Kempcke reported that they would like a new award to be presented by MPLA for Intellectual Freedom. Debbie Iverson moved to approve adding an Intellectual Freedom Award. Suzanne Taylor and Paul Hoffman both seconded. The motion carried. The first award will be at the Arizona conference.

Ken then discussed the possibility of seeking sponsorship from businesses for the awards. If anyone knows of a company who should be approached, let Ken know. Debbie Iverson asked why they were seeking sponsorship, is it for a monetary award? Yes and it shows support by the company. How much money would have to be decided. Debbie said that we need to have specific requests before going to a company. We look at vendors to help sponsor aspects of the conferences. We need to have priorities in our requests. Marilyn Henshaw suggested that it would be great to have a sponsor pay to get the recipient to the conference and maybe a stipend. The committee should look at that. MPLA now pays to get the award recipients to the conference.

Electronic Communications Committee. The description of this committee needs to officially be added to the Manual of Procedure. The section on membership of the committee also needs to have the last sentence changed to include the MPLA Newsletter editor as an ex-officio member. Debbie Iverson moved to accept the section on the Electronic Communications Committee for the Manual. Brian Greene seconded. Joe Edelen pointed out that he thinks this needs to go to the by-laws committee first. Brian said that according to Article 8.4, the board can take this action. Linda Rea said that she would like the language to match the other sections and the by-laws committee can do that, but agrees that the board can take this action. Joe believes that it should go to the by-laws committee first. It is traditional policy to have everything go through the committee. Brian pointed out that Section 6 of the by-laws says they can review the section after we pass it. Suzanne Taylor said that she would, as part of the by-laws committee, would make changes and bring them back to the board. Debbie amended her motion to include going through the proper processing to become a part of the manual. Debbie also moved that the Intellectual Freedom Award also be included in this process. Jane Kolbe seconded. The motion carried.

Newsletter Editor. Joe Edelen pointed out that it was very important to have the newsletter be printed in Vermillion and it needs to be on the same software as the printer uses. Otherwise the newsletters would have to be shipped to him and then shipped on to the members. There needs to be advertising accountability. There hasn't been any up to now. The newsletter needs to be published on time or they don't get paid. The person needs to be energetic. It is hard to get information, but they need to be persistent and keep on working to get stories. David Oberhelman said that electronic copies need to be looked at as it is part of the long range plan. We need to get recommendations from the Electronic Communications Committee. There are issues about electronic versions, should members only be allowed to read it or should it be available to everyone in cyberspace? It is good to have both formats, especially for archival copies. Marilyn Henshaw pointed out that it was important to remember to send information for the newsletter. It is a responsibility. Joe said that he would give information to Heidi, but that it never would show up in print. Brian Greene added that each state association has a

web-site and information can be gleaned from those. Basha Hartley mentioned that the board reports should be used by the editor to glean information. She also pointed out that she prefers a hardcopy of the newsletter. Back-issues on the web-site would be okay, but isn't sure how much they would be looked at. Brian and Linda Deacy both said that electronically is a good way to find information from past issues. Betty Dance said that Utah only does an electronic version and it isn't working out very well. Melody Kuehn suggested that we could password the most current issue, so only members could read it. It was questioned if that was really important. The newsletter isn't viewed as something special for members only. It was suggested that we continue a paper version and begin to add it electronically and keep it archived on the web-site.

We need to promote the position opening in all states.

Alternate/Substitute Board Members. Suzanne Taylor will be going on sabbatical and needs a substitute for the August meeting. Linda Rea asked if this has happened before? Yes, it has. Brian Greene pointed out that section 6.4 of the by-laws say that the State Reps can have a substitute decided by their state.

Membership Brochure Redesign. Linda Rea has been talking to the PR chair and it was suggested that the brochure could be redesigned to look a little classier, a little more up-to-date. She doesn't have figures yet, but wants feedback. Marilyn Hinshaw asked what was projected in our budget for income from the Nebraska Conference. Around \$4,000 was in our budget, however we received \$8,581. Marilyn suggested taking the difference and using it to create a new brochure. The Kansas Library Association brochure was passed around. It was redesigned by a PR group. Joe Edelen talked to this group and it would cost at least \$5,000. We were waiting until after the five year plan. The KLA brochure is very expensive. Marilyn moved to have Kathleen Hallin (PR chair) explore possibilities for a new brochure and have \$3,500 allocated to this. Linda Deacy seconded. The motion carried.

Future Meetings. Joe Edelen reported that there have been problems with the Adams Mark Hotel. They are difficult to work with. He was looked at the Holiday Inn, Comfort Inn, and Warwick Hotel all in the general area. Two will work with us for the \$89/night we've been paying. They wanted to charge for the meeting room, but he thinks he can work that out. The Warwick looks like the best bet, although the Comfort Inn is interested. The Holiday Inn doesn't seem to be interested. Marilyn Henshaw moved that we leave the Adams Mark and contact, in order, the Warwick, Comfort Inn, and Holiday Inn to get the best deal. Melody Kuehn seconded. The motion carried.

Joe asked for suggestions of what we need in a hotel. Low rates, safety, breakfast isn't that important. The dates for 2002 quarterly meetings were discussed. The first meeting was preferred on February 23rd with March 2nd as the alternate date. The second meeting would be July 13th with July 20th as the alternate date. A new discussion about the conference meetings began. It was mentioned that a Tuesday afternoon meeting, bringing in dinner would be preferred to the Wednesday. It was questioned if we needed

a Saturday meeting. After much discussion, it was decided to have a brief meeting on Wednesday from 4 to 6 pm and a full meeting on Saturday from 9 am to 3 pm.

Reports on the Web-Site. Mary Ann Thompson asked if it was feasible to put the reports generated for each of our meetings on the web-site? Right now we don't get them electronically, but we could. Debbie Iverson will work on producing an update on the Long Range Plan for the web-site. Joe Edelen suggested that for the next meeting, everyone make their reports available both electronically and in paper for those in Denver. It was asked what format we should bring them in. Joe will confirm what we need to do. Brian Greene said that we can use this to augment the web-site.

4. Committee Reports

- Awards. A deadline of September 1st was set for nominations. The web-site has some dated material that needs to be updated. There was a question about the awards committee and what needs to be done with the Long Range Plan. It was suggested they contact Jean Hatfield for clarification.
- Continuing Education. The written report has a question that needs to be answered. Who should review the draft of the survey? Could they send us one electronically and we'll send comments? How should it be distributed? Electronically? Newsletter? Listserv? Web-site? It was suggested to put it in the newsletter with a web-site address to reply. They will need to discuss the options with our webmaster.
- Electronic Communications. Carol Hammond is working hard on the Long Range Plan in regards to the committee.
- Intellectual Freedom. Jim Heckel has worked on the Long Range Plan suggestions for Intellectual Freedom. They use the web-site, listserv and conferences to promote I.F. Marilyn said that the Long Range Plan should have a step in it for information from the State Representatives to get to the committee.
- Leadership Institute. Marilyn Henshaw gave a report, a concept paper for the Institute. Location flyers were passed around which included locations in Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Other leadership institutes that have taken place have been held in Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas, and North Carolina. The program would be 3.5-4.5 days long. The subjects would include learning lessons of life and leadership, practicing leadership in work life, associations, personal skills and traits, implementing leadership. Several names were mentioned as possible mentors. Marilyn asked what was being left out? School library, children's, historical archives, adding more men? The sites need to be within a \$150/day ceiling. The Colorado sites are more expensive.
- Linda Deacy suggested Chuck McClure as a session leader. Marilyn said that they are looking for people who will look at topics in relationship to leadership, looking at the big picture. Debbie Iverson added that it would be leadership irregardless of the type of library, although there might be a rural vs urban or large vs small library situation.

Will these names make people want to come to the Institute? Julie Tomlianovich pointed out that regardless of the names, as long as the content is there, it will be

attractive. She feels it needs children's services people involved or there won't be any children's librarians involved.

Specific content hasn't been addressed. Brian Greene said it is sometimes difficult to come up with names without the content. They are looking for someone to coordinate the Institute. It was asked if the focus was on the location, the content, or the people. There isn't a focus yet. The location needs to be in an accessible place. Should it be a remote location where people don't go out shopping, etc. at night? At some point they just need to pick and place and go with it. They will work on the content next, as well as looking for corporate sponsorship.

How do we see the state libraries and state associations helping with the financing? Joe Edelen suggested 24 participants, 2 from each state, one picked by the state library and one by the state association. He feels that if they pick the person, then they should financially support them. MPLA should also support this, as well as getting a big corporate sponsor. Marilyn was told to move on ahead with the project.

- Nominating. The section and roundtable chairs need to get their nominations in.
- 5. Section and Interest Group Reports
 - Academic. The call for papers for the Professional Forum will be out soon. The deadline is August 10th.
 - New Members. The New Members Roundtable will also send out the call for papers for the Professional Forum.
- 6. State Reports
 - Arizona. In regards to Intellectual Freedom, there is a law in Arizona on Filtering or having strict guidelines for Internet use. They have mounted a huge information campaign about the filtering. UCITA came up in Arizona and was sponsored in the legislature. There is a new dean at the library school.
 - Colorado. The filtering bill was defeated in the Senate but it is being debated in the House.
 - Nebraska. Robin Bernstein is the Board Choice Award Winner. They are trying to bring the Emporia State University (Kansas) Library program back to Nebraska. The National Network of Libraries of Medicine created ICON. Members of NLA are eligible for 2 scholarships for para-professionals and for post graduate work.
 - Nevada. Emporia State University is starting a program in Nevada. They succeeded in getting the mention of libraries taken out of crimes legislation.
 - North Dakota. The Department of Public Education Bill for on-line magazines was voted down. The NDLA passed a resolution to support ALA in their fight against CIPA.
 - Oklahoma. The OLA also passed a resolution of support against CIPA. Susan McFay is the new state librarian. They recently completed a demographics study. A bill was passed for library building funding and the filtering bill died in the Senate.
 - South Dakota. Highlighted the second page of the written report.

- Wyoming. The WLA also passed a resolution against CIPA. The WYLD network is migrating to a new graphics interface by 2002.

7. Other

Joe Edelen discussed the problems with the MPLA booth that travels to each state. It is held together by rods that keep getting lost and have to be replaced. Do we want to keep doing that. Yes. He also asked if he was sending the correct materials to the state groups. Yes.

He brought up the fact that MPLA is paying people to be here at this meeting and that many people left early. This needs to be dealt with before the next meeting.

Conference Stationary is available.

8. Next Meeting.

The next meeting is August 4th. The meeting was adjourned by Linda Rea at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Thompson
Recording Secretary
May, 17, 2001