

DRAFT
MPLA Executive Board Meeting
July 23, 2005
Executive Tower Hotel
Denver, CO

In attendance: Beth Avery, Sharon Osenga, Carol Hammond, Louis Howley, Joe Edelen, Teri Metros, Krystyna Mrozek, Bridgett Johnson, Nina Little, Martha Greene, Valerie Nye, Sally Dockter, Wayne Hanway, Colleen Smith, Peter Kraus, Richard Landreth, Jan Fandrich, Lou Anderson, Pam Henley, Dorothy Liegl, Dan Chaney, Donna Jones Morris, Betty Dance, Marilyn Hinshaw. Guest: Jim Garner, ALA ALTA.

I. Welcome and call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M.

II. Introductions

President Beth Avery asked that each Board member introduce themselves and state what book they were currently reading.

III. Acceptance of the Agenda

Beth Avery noted that there was a need later in the agenda to add an item dealing with the use of the words "written ballot" in the Bylaws.

Carol Hammond reported that she had two motions to bring forward from the Finance and Management Committee.

Marilyn Hinshaw added an item for a motion regarding the Leadership Institute.

The agenda was approved with the changes noted above.

IV. Approval of March 5, 2005 Executive Board minutes

Carol Hammond moved, and Louis Howley seconded, that: the minutes of the March 5, 2005 Executive Board meeting be approved as submitted. Motion passed.

V. Issues for Board Action

A. Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award.

Suzanne Taylor, the chair of the Awards Committee, had ankle surgery on Thursday, so she could not attend this meeting. She is recovering well from this procedure.

She had brought up the issue of the Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award. This Award is not given out very often. Beth noted that it is a difficult one to award since MPLA does not have its own exhibitors; instead, MPLA goes with whatever exhibitors are present at the Conference of the host state library association. The Award states that it is presented to an individual or company which has shown support for MPLA.

Dorothy Liegl related some of the history of the Award. Carl Gaumer was a vendor who exhibited at MPLA Conferences for years and years. He was very supportive of MPLA. This Award was established in his honor and has always been given to exhibitors. Others recalled the generosity of Carl Gaumer.

Carol Hammond suggested that, since it is so hard to find an exhibitor to whom to give this Award, the Award be changed.

Sharon Osenga wondered when this Award was last given to anyone. Beth said that it is listed on the website, but that it has been several years. Joe stated it has not been awarded in the recent past.

Joe noted that the Award criteria do not require that the recipient be an exhibitor. Beth observed that there has been a lot of confusion about this Award and that this confusion has contributed to the lack of nominations in recent years.

Carol said that, if having the word “Exhibitors” in the name of the Award was a problem, then the name of the Award should be changed.

Marilyn Hinshaw suggested that the Award could be renamed the “Carl Gaumer Significant Contribution Award”.

Wayne Hanway suggested that the name of the Award be changed to the “Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award” and that the text of the Award be modified to read positive support for libraries in the MPLA region.

Wayne Hanway moved, and Sharon Osenga seconded, that: MPLA change the title of the Carl Gaumer Exhibitors Award to the Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award, and that the criteria be modified to read “positive support of libraries in the Mountain Plains region” and then continue as previously written. Motion passed.

B. Electronic Communication Committee--Recommendation about Conference Blogs

Dan Chaney said that the ECC contacted him about a month or so ago about setting up a blog for the Conference in Wyoming. Blogs, a shorter form of the word “weblogs”, have been around for 3 or 4 years. They are basically a commentary where people write about whatever interests them. The ECC wanted to set up a blog because a focus of the upcoming Conference is technology and

libraries. Having a blog would provide an opportunity to demonstrate the techno-savvy of librarians in the MPLA region.

Dan pointed that the idea of creating a blog raises certain logistical issues, such as who can blog and how many people will blog. These logistical issues can be worked out. So Dan told ECC Committee Co-Chair Janet Ahrberg that a blog could be created. There are free websites and software to create a blog. Dan can give a login and password to the proposed six Conference attendees who would be recording their observations into the blog. Can we find 6 people to do this?

Peter Kraus said that MPLA should have a written policy on Conference blogs. The first issue is preservation. Will the blog be saved as an electronic resource? Peter then noted that people tend to be very open and frank with their observations on blogs. At ALA's Midwinter Conference in Boston, there were some problems with people making inappropriate comments on blogs. People can write anything into the blog and it is there for the world to see.

Carol Hammond wondered if we could find a host site and Dan said that there were sites that would host the blog for free. He needs a site other than the MPLA website because he cannot give a login and password to the MPLA website for security purposes.

Donna Jones Morris wondered if ALA had policies on blogs. She found ALA's topical blogs to be very helpful.

Dan noted that while 6 librarians might be recording their observations into the blog, the problem arises when a feedback form is created. Then anyone can write anything into the feedback form. Who would monitor the blog? Most of the ECC Committee members do not have time to do this.

Donna Jones Morris noted that in the upcoming Task Force report, it is suggested that in the future MPLA will make more use of this technology. She suggested stating that opinions expressed are those of the individuals.

Dan views this as an experiment and is willing to give it a shot. If it doesn't work, so what; if it's successful, use it. Sharon Osenga compared the use of the blog to the use of streaming video at the Conference. If it doesn't work, we learn from the experience.

Jan Fandrich suggested that, along with a disclaimer, we appeal to the better nature of people. Urge them to be constructive.

Jim Garner noted that ALA does have guidelines and that he received them from the Public Relations office. This issue directly relates to intellectual freedom. The ALA Legislative Office has dealt with this as well. There is a danger but there are

always risks with open and unabridged communication. You have to count on the integrity of your members.

Carol Hammond recommended that the ECC come up with a statement that bloggers use the blog for professional reasons, and that the opinions expressed are those of the individuals.

Carol wondered if this should be a motion. Beth said that it could be a recommendation.

Peter said that he was not worried about the comments of the members of MPLA. He was concerned with the comments from outsiders who might post to the blog.

A vote was taken on the recommendation. It was approved, with Peter Kraus opposed to the recommendation.

C. Leadership Institute

Marilyn Hinshaw reported that she had a wonderful opportunity to talk about the MPLA Leadership Institute (LI) at the ALA New Members Roundtable at Conference. This is not the first time she has been invited to speak about the MPLA LI, which is a model for a lot of groups and organizations. Three other speakers from other LI's spoke about their costs and the fees they charged. The Urban Libraries Council got a grant to fund an LI and they are charging \$25,000 a participant. Not every attendee will pay this fee, which will likely be grant-funded. Maureen Sullivan will be the presenter at this LI.

Marilyn also read an article about an LI conducted by one of the large universities in the area. They discussed the sorts of training, assignments and feelings at their LI. A quote from this article stated that "this is not for the fainthearted". It takes a lot of self-examination to participate in an LI. You have to be dedicated and willing to learn about yourself. The article then gave the price tag for each participant: \$15,000. The point here is that the MPLA LI is a bargain, not only in the field of librarianship, but in all fields as far as LI's go. MPLA's LI has a supreme reputation based on the great team of Mary Bushing and Maureen Sullivan, who are an exquisite example of success.

Marilyn also was asked at ALA how Ghost Ranch was selected as the site for the MPLA LI. She recalled the visits to various sites over a 6-month timespan of those who selected the site for the LI. She still maintains that Ghost Ranch has a special quality, a chance to get away and focus as a group. You can ask yourself what it is I am trying to do in the profession. There is a spiritual connection.

Marilyn then referred Board members to her multi-colored handouts. The first to be examined was in purple and related to the contractor agreement with Maureen Sullivan. Point #2 changed the dates of the LI from specific dates to a more

general range, from mid-September to mid-November. In point #3 of the proposed contractor agreement, Marilyn proposed raising the fee paid to Maureen from \$6000 to \$7500. A new point, #4, was added that dealt with “in case of failure” conditions, such as a personal health emergency or some other unavoidable disaster, and laid out conditions for what monies would be paid under such circumstances. This point also added the Institute Coordinator as someone who can execute this agreement. Finally, in point #6, the amount paid for a cancellation of the LI was raised from \$600 to \$750 or the cost of airfare, whichever was greater.

Marilyn then referred Board members to the proposed contractor agreement with Mary Bushing, Institute Coordinator. Several of the changes were parallel. Point #2 also contained the modified dates, which now are more general rather than specific. The fee for Mary’s services is raised from \$5500 to \$6000 in point #3. Point #4 contained a similar clause about payment in case of emergency cancellation on the part of the contractor. This contractor would be paid, under such emergency circumstances, for activities and tasks already performed. A procedure is set up to determine a fair settlement of the amount due under such emergency circumstances. Point #6 raises the amount paid in case of cancellation of the LI from \$550 to \$600.

So Marilyn is asking for Board approval for the increased costs of these contracts.

Carol Hammond asked if we could afford this additional cost. Marilyn responded that if we want a quality program, then we need to approve these increases. If we want a different program, then we can spend less. Since we have a vendor, let’s go for it. If we didn’t have a vendor, then we might have to reconsider. She also reminded Board members that we are competing with several successful state LI’s.

Carol said that she is not arguing against this proposal, which is a modest increase. She could not remember how MPLA came out financially on the last LI.

Sharon Osenga asked if we would have enough money from Sirsi or would we have to fundraise.

Carol noted that LI fees were raised this year. Marilyn observed that MPLA has \$60,000 in the savings account. What better thing could the money be spent on than to maintain a high-quality LI?

Wayne Hanway suggested that perhaps the registration fee should be raised a modest \$50 per attendee.

Peter Kraus brought up the possibility of having bonds, security deposits, or insurance policies in case of cancellation. A policy could cover liability and cancellation costs.

Marilyn said that the LI Committee would consider Wayne and Peter's suggestions at the Committee meeting at Conference in October.

Donna Jones Morris wanted to go on the record about what a fabulous investment the LI is. She encouraged Board members to read the reports of those who attended.

Dorothy Liegl moved, and Carol Hammond seconded, that: MPLA accept the \$2200 increase in Ghost Ranch expenses as recommended by the Committee and approve the recommended changes in contract language. Motion passed.

D. Bylaws Revisions.

Betty Dance, Committee Chair, brought up the first point of her Committee's business, the proposal to form a Public Relations Committee. Beth suggested that this be tabled until after the Task Force on Reorganization report. Tabling of this recommendation was approved.

The second proposed revision by the Committee involved the Professional Development Grant Evaluative Report. Point 10.c. was changed from "indicate the benefits of your involvement in the program to MPLA" to "Comment on the quality of your experience and whether or not you would recommend this institution, program, and/or instructor to another MPLA member. "

Since Betty Dance is the chair of her Committee, her motions do not need a second.

Betty Dance moved that: the change to the Professional Development Grant Evaluative Report be accepted as noted. Motion passed.

The third change involved the Continuing Education Committee. Under the "General" heading, the first two projects which are included are deleted. These included the one-to-one program, which provided a stipend to go to a library in another state to observe a program for one week, and the production of a continuing education learning package or product each year, proceeds from the sale of which should be made available for development of future packages or products. Other deletions throughout this document reflected the deletion of these two projects.

Another change to this document was made in regard to the wording for the application for a state pre-conference grant. The previous wording had been confusing as states did not know if they could just get two grants and then never get one ever again or what was the case.

The new wording makes it clear that a state may get a pre-conference grant for two consecutive years, and then must wait a year before applying again.

Bridgett Johnson thought that we were having trouble getting states to apply for pre-conference grants. If we are having trouble getting state associations to apply, then why are we restricting the awarding of these grants to two consecutive years? Why have any restrictions?

Joe Edelen related the history of these grants. He said that the grants should be considered as a gift. If states do not want to apply, then we should not pursue the matter. He wanted to keep the restrictions. The responsibility for promoting these grants lies with the MPLA State Representatives.

Carol Hammond thought that the two-year limit was a good one. The Continuing Education Committee should put out some kind of announcement about which states are eligible for the grant.

Dorothy Liegl said that one easy way to keep track of this was to put this information up on the website, as we do Award recipients.

Peter Kraus suggested that perhaps the wording should be changed to include post-conferences as well.

Peter Kraus moved, and Wayne Hanway seconded, that: the motion from the Bylaws Committee for changes in the wording of the state pre-conference grants in the section on the Continuing Education Committee be amended to include post-conference grants as well. Motion passed.

Betty Dance moved that: the changes to the wording in the section on the Continuing Education Committee be approved as amended. Motion passed.

Betty asked if the subject of posting winners of pre- and post-conference grants be included on the website was part of this motion. Beth clarified that this was a recommendation which the Board was making to the Committee.

The last section of the Bylaws report to be discussed was the approval of revised job descriptions and evaluation forms for the Executive Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. Betty said that while these were discussed at previous Board meetings, they were never formally adopted.

Betty Dance moved that: the revised job descriptions and evaluation forms for the Executive Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster be approved. Motion passed.

E. Task Force on Reorganization

Donna Jones Morris said that the discussion would begin with a motion.

Carol Hammond moved, on behalf of the MPLA Reorganization Task Force, that: the MPLA Board adopt the recommendations included in the July 23, 2005 Final Report and that the Board proceed with their implementation. (Motion, as amended, later passed. See below toward the end of this section of the Minutes for details.)

The motion did not require a second since it originated with the Task Force.

Donna went through the document to point out 6 typographical errors.

Donna asked that members of the Task Force introduce themselves and state what their roles were on the Task Force.

Carol Hammond organized this Task Force and considers it one of the sterling achievements of her administration. She agreed to serve in an ex officio capacity and then became an active member of the Task Force. She and Mary Bushing worked on the section dealing with Board meetings. Wayne Hanway and Sharon Osenga worked on the section dealing with Committees.

Donna Jones Morris noted that all committee members worked on everything. She thanked the people who were involved and who are listed at the end of the report. They represented different states and different interests.

Wayne Hanway noted that Sandy Barstow should be acclaimed for her secretarial duties via telephone conference calls.

The charge of the Task Force was to find more efficient ways to run MPLA. Board members should not have to spend a lot of money coming to meetings just to go over reports that could be done in some other ways. Page 1 of the Report includes the questions that were to be addressed and the charge. The Task Force was to look at the structure of MPLA and make recommendations for changes.

Donna reviewed the Report's recommendations on Standing Committees. The Administration Committee combines 2 current committees: Finance and Management and Bylaws and Procedures. Donna noted that the Membership Committee always has been a challenge for MPLA for 30 years. This was not because of any particular Chair, but rather because MPLA never gave this Committee a clear charge. The Report details some different charges for this Committee.

The Conference Program Council is still chaired by the Vice President/President-Elect. Each of the yet-to-be-determined Electronic Communities (EC's) would be represented on this Council. While the EC's are replacing the sections, they really are a new kind of interest group. The Task Force recommends a survey of the membership to determine the specific Electronic communities that will be established. The EC's are a very important part of the reorganization. The EC's

would have Moderators and not Chairs. The Moderator's duties are different from those of the Chairs of Sections. The Task Force has tried to define these responsibilities.

The Task Force's recommendations on board meetings are such that the intention is for the Administration Committee to administer. When you read the rationale in the report and the supporting evidence of what actually gets done at meetings, you can compare the costs of coming to meetings versus doing routine tasks that do not need to be done at meetings. The Task Force specified who needs to be at every meeting, those who would attend if invited and those who would report at each meeting. Criteria for having face-to-face meetings are established. The scheduling and frequency of meetings is addressed. For example, many meetings after Conference did not even have a quorum.

The Task Force made specific recommendations for a Training Officer to conduct training and orientation of new Board members.

The Task Force is proposing more reliance on the Administration Committee administering.

To adopt the recommendations of the Task Force will require a vote of the Bylaws. The Bylaws now are too specific. The Bylaws should be descriptive and not tell how to do it in today's changing world. The Bylaws should not address process; they should be general guidelines.

It is important to talk about face-to-face cost. Donna now conducts many electronic meetings in her job. There is nothing wrong with using the telephone, sending faxes or sending attachments. Even rural areas have a telephone and you can usually drive to a place where there is a fast computer connection.

The sample agenda and template are illustrative of the changes recommended by the Task Force.

Donna noted that the Task Force members believe that we will not lose the friendships, the respect and the learning from colleagues that we gain from face-to-face meetings. The experience of this Task Force indicates that you can have positive networking and collegial exchanges while working remotely.

The Task Force also recommends that there be a Steward to make sure this plan is implemented. The Task Force recommends that Carol Hammond be selected as Steward. The Task Force members will help Carol implement these recommendations.

Donna summarized the Task Force as fun, characterized by an intellectual approach, and fruitful although not an easy process.

Wayne Hanway noted that in point #6 on the recommendations about sections that the wording on who appoints the new Moderators needs to be clarified.

Sharon Osenga noted that the Administration Committee in the Task Force report includes a Section Chair. This is actually an EC Moderator.

Marilyn Hinshaw asked if the Training Officer should be a paid position. Donna said that this is so.

Peter Kraus suggested that the Training Officer should not be an MPLA member.

Dorothy Liegl did not see an implementation schedule.

Donna said that the Task Force chose not to develop an implementation schedule in case the Board rejected this proposal.

Carol Hammond said that if the Board adopts these recommendations, then we need to redo Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure. Beth Avery reiterated that we need to take out the procedures from the Bylaws. Carol said that the procedures should be easy to change and the Bylaws should be harder to change.

Beth thanked the Task Force for coming up with something monumental and creative. A hearty and heartfelt round of applause for the work of the Task Force ensued. Donna noted that this was more creative than even the Strategic Plan.

Beth noted that these recommendations will change the Long Range Plan

Marilyn Hinshaw commented on the Long Range Plan. MPLA took a major turn by creating a Long Range Plan when before that time MPLA had never thought about doing anything beyond the next meeting. Two big things came out of that Plan: the Leadership Institute and the beginning of an electronic presence in the early years. This Task Force report is just wonderful.

Donna noted that MPLA can be a model for the states and can be a model for ALA with this reorganization.

Sharon Osenga said that, in chatting with Dan Chaney, this reorganization will really allow MPLA to use MemberClicks. MPLA was looking at how to evaluate Member Clicks and it had not been used enough to do so. If MPLA uses MemberClicks for the EC's, then MPLA will be able to evaluate this feature.

Sharon asked if the Bylaws will be revised in time to conduct the election. Carol said that every effort will be made to revise the bylaws in time for the membership meeting at conference. Part of her charge as Steward is to develop a transition plan to guide MPLA through this process.

Sharon noted that if Section Chairs are abolished that this will change the ballot. Beth said that one possibility is to make the incoming Chair the first Moderator of the corresponding EC.

Marilyn stated that the 18-month transition year is perfect for adopting this reorganization.

Beth brought the assignment of Public Relations (PR) duties to the Newsletter Editor. When Beth thinks of PR, she thinks of a spectrum of activities that is broader than the duties of the Newsletter Editor.

Carol observed that a lot of the PR duties are currently farmed out. For example, the Conference PR is done by the Conference Program Committee. What is falling through the cracks is the reporting of announcements about MPLA activities to national library associations. The duties of reporting to the national press belong to the Newsletter Editor. The Task Force did not recommend having a separate committee for PR.

Wayne stated that some of the expectations of the PR Committee were not realistic because librarians do not have the necessary PR skills to implement these expectations. We need PR professionals for these tasks. When MPLA does get a real PR job, MPLA can outsource it to someone who is a professional in PR.

Beth felt that the oversight and discussion on PR should be placed under the duties of the Administration Committee.

Donna said that the Administration Committee can add anything to their parameters. Anything that doesn't fit somewhere can go to the Administration Committee.

Beth requested that the motion noted above at the start of this section of the Minutes be restated.

Carol Hammond moved, on behalf of the MPLA Reorganization Task Force, that: the MPLA Board adopt the recommendations included in the July 23, 2005 Final Report and that the Board proceed with their implementation as amended. Motion passed.

Donna noted that the Task Force did not cost MPLA a cent. Donna paid for the phone calls. The \$1000 allocated for the Task Force was not spent.

F. What to Do in the Transition Year?

Beth asked what should MPLA do in the transition year since we don't meet until October 2006. The Board has talked in the past about possible things MPLA can do, such as a one-day preconference at each state conference or a two-day

traveling regional workshop. At the Finance and Management Committee meeting yesterday, the idea of doing a LAMA institute or of partnering with someone to do a literary heritage workshop arose. Beth wants ideas.

Donna said that the adoption of the Task Force report drives the next 18 months. If the EC's are developed, this is a lot of work. The president will be navigating their way through this reorganization and this is enough for one person to do. MPLA has gone through 18 months with no Conference before this time. If anything, the Conferences are bigger after the wait of 18 months. Donna would not want to jump into anything now. The Board, by its adoption of the Task Force report, has taken on more than the Board realizes. Unless you were on the Task Force, you have no idea what you have taken on.

Valerie Nye said that she was able to go to Conference after participating in the Leadership Institute (LI). If there is no Conference to attend, she suggested connecting LI graduates with something else. Sharon Osenga responded that one of her first duties as President will be to appoint Committee members. She will be looking at recruiting LI graduates and Board Choice Award winners.

Marilyn Hinshaw said that down the line it is symbolic and wonderful if LI graduates can come together for a reunion. Perhaps there could be a regional reunion of LI graduates. There are alternative ways to do this.

Peter Kraus described how a colleague, Frank Cash, at the University of Utah, has gotten people who are LI graduates together at his house Utah. He would welcome neighbors in the region if you want to participate. The reunion does not have to be in Salt Lake City; for example, it could be in St. George.

Valerie said that the discussion addressed her concerns. She is not sure if the LI Committee should coordinate this effort. Marilyn said that she would talk to Mary Bushing.

Wayne Hanway said that one of MPLA's major roles is continuing education. Perhaps MPLA is stuck in the box of only doing continuing education through Conference. He suggested that we be open to the possibility of alternate continuing education.

Sharon suggested sending the matter to the Continuing Education Committee for recommendations.

Peter made the recommendation that the Continuing Education Committee make a conscious effort to get in touch with all State Representatives in terms of their involvement with continuing education opportunities. We should make continuing education opportunities open to not only MPLA members, but to others in order to recruit new members.

Beth heard that the recommendation is that we charge the Continuing Education Committee, in concert with the State Representatives, to investigate various ways of conducting continuing education during the transition year.

Carol said that the Board should give the Continuing Education Committee some direction. Since there is no income for 18 months, perhaps these opportunities should be financially self-supporting or profit-making.

G. Suspension of the Bylaws.

Carol noted that the Bylaws require that there be a second meeting at Conference. She is proposing that this requirement of the Bylaws be suspended.

Beth has talked to Sharon about hosting an event, with food and beverages, in the President's Suite, at Conference in lieu of this second meeting. New Board members will be able to network with each other.

Carol Hammond moved that: MPLA suspend the Bylaws that require a Saturday meeting at the upcoming Wyoming Conference. Motion passed.

The second item requiring suspension of the Bylaws is the requirement that there be a written ballot to conduct an election. The Bylaws stipulate that there must be a written ballot for such an election. Carol proposes suspending this requirement to have an electronic vote for the upcoming election. This will not be a problem in the future once the Bylaws are revised as a result of the adoption of the Reorganization Task Force's report.

Marilyn Hinshaw wondered if any thought had been given to providing a written ballot for those who cannot get an electronic ballot.

Carol stated there are 3 weeks when voting will take place. An announcement will be placed in the Newsletter stating that if you do not hear from MPLA within this time, then you need to get in touch with Joe about voting. This will be the first time for voting online. Due to spam filters and other technology glitches, a person may not get that email.

Peter requested that, since this is the first time MPLA is voting this way, that anyone who prefers a paper ballot can request one from Joe.

Donna wondered how we can check on someone to be sure they do not vote twice, once electronically and once by paper.

Carol believes that MPLA suffers from low voter response. She is hoping that more people will vote electronically.

Peter related his experience with and the problems he encountered using ALA's electronic voting system. Such problems are why he would like people to have the option to vote by a paper ballot.

Wayne suggested that we not make this motion too specific in terms of its execution. It is enough to suspend the Bylaws for now and then work out the details later.

Carol Hammond moved that MPLA suspend the Bylaws that require a written ballot for the upcoming election. Motion passed, with Peter Kraus abstaining.

VI. Officers and Staff Reports.
President

Beth reminded Board members to contact their Board Choice Award winners and encourage them to come to Conference.

Beth handed out certificates composed on WordPerfect to give to the winners of the drawings at Conference. Beth found the drawing announcement to be anticlimactic at the state conferences she attended, so she wanted to hand the drawing winners something tangible.

Joe Edelen suggested sending these certificates out with the State Representatives.

Carol noted that the certificates should have the MPLA logo on them and should spell out "Mountain Plains Library Association". Beth will modify the document.

A. Vice-President/President-Elect

Sharon handed around the Conference program. There are still gray areas where we still don't have anything confirmed. Highlights are the pre- and post-Conference programs. Sadly, the Yellowstone tour will not be back before the MPLA Board meeting. There is a One Book event. If you register, you must call to get the Conference room rate.

The handout is a draft of the final program. The final version should go up on the web this week. The registration form is in the packet Sharon handed out. The Newsletter must go out on time.

Sharon will let everyone know about the reception in the President's Suite for new Board members.

There is a bar and one restaurant at the resort. The distance into downtown Jackson is walkable. There are many restaurants, shops and a microbrewery there.

The keynote speaker has changed. The new speaker is Roy Tennant.

B. Past President

The advertisement for the new Newsletter Editor has been placed on the webpage.

C. Executive Secretary

Joe handed out a roster form. If anything about you has changed, please correct these items. In any case, place a checkmark by your entry to indicate that you have examined your information.

The financial form still has one error on the bottom of the 2nd page in the second column. The correct figure is \$62.

Interest on our accounts is showing low. Interest is compounded only at renewal. The Vanguard money market account and the checking account are MPLA's other sources of income.

Peter said that the President of the Utah Library Association asked what the final profit was for MPLA at last year's Conference. Joe noted that this was \$22,873.05.

D. Webmaster

MPLA has a new look to its website, and Memberclicks also now looks different. There is a new calendar feature. It is a large grid and is filled with events gleaned from reading meeting Minutes and talking to the Professional Development Grants committee. Some people have asked to have things placed there. Dan went into ALA's website and various state association websites for Conference dates.

There is a Conference clearinghouse page. It lists past and present conferences plus current 2005 Conference news.

There is an ongoing project to do behind-the-scenes work.

Dan is trying to conform the website to ADA standards to help those who are visually impaired. If you go to the MPLA homepage, it is ADA compliant. This is the only compliant page so far. It was a test to see if it could be done.

Dan has a new email: dan.chaney@okstate.edu

VII. Announcements/Action items from State Representatives

Utah. Peter had one follow-up item to his report. Roz McGee, recognized at the National Advocacy Honor Roll Banquet, June 24, at the American Library Association Conference in Chicago, was on the Board of Directors of Ghost Ranch.

A. Oklahoma. Wayne passed around an article from an Oklahoma librarian that talked about the value of MPLA.

B. New Mexico. Valerie said that the New Mexico Library Association Newsletter is going exclusively online. At the NMLA meeting on Aug. 5, the discussion on how to accomplish this will occur. She sat at the MPLA booth at the NMLA Conference. A lot of people said that the MPLA website was great. They visited the site to look for jobs.

VIII. Announcements/Action Items from Committees

Membership/Public Relations. Theresa Faye Dickson asked Beth if she could raise certain issues. But after today's discussion on reorganization, Beth will discuss these points with Carol Hammond later.

A. Finance and Management Committee. Carol proposed a motion to look at free memberships.

Carol Hammond moved that: a task force of no more than 5 be appointed to determine the financial impact of our various "free" memberships and analyze the return on investment for these programs; and that the task force make recommendations on the process, management and future of MPLA's free membership programs.

The point of the motion is to look at and strengthen the programs MPLA has for free memberships. At this time, these consist of Board choice winners, free memberships given at state conferences, and half-price dues for new members. For any of these programs to be effective, there needs to be mentoring. When the Committee added up the number of free memberships, there are almost 150. The Task Force will look at the cost of a member.

Bridgett Johnson said that maybe we can give out fewer free memberships at Conference, such as two, but make it more generous. You could give two memberships with the Conference fee included.

The question was called and the motion listed above passed.

Carol Hammond moved that: MPLA adopt a dues structure based on salary ranges rather than the specific salary of a member. Because this will have a financial impact, the task force looking at free memberships should look at the data, the possible impact of change and bring to the board a recommendation on the specific salary ranges to use, and dues for each. The committee recommends that the task force review the dues structure and ranges used by the MPLA member states, that they set an upper cap for dues that is less than the cost of ALA membership, and that an affordable rate be available for those at lower (or no) income levels. The task force should be directed to complete its work by June 30, 2006. Motion later passed (see below).

To allow membership registration using MemberClicks, MPLA needs to have specific categories of salary ranges. Carol did a quick and dirty look at various MPLA states' dues structures and most used salary ranges.

Carol clarified that this proposal does not include institutional memberships or the dues paid by states for membership in MPLA.

Wayne Hanway said that there are basic costs for every member, such as membership cards and the Newsletter. But beyond this basic rate, the dues need to be higher for MPLA to have money to do things beyond provide the most basic services to members.

The question was called and the motion passed.

IX. Old Business
. Locations of Board meetings

Peter Kraus suggested that if MPLA is meeting only once beyond Conference, then we need to have geographic diversity in the location of board meetings. He is aware of past discussions on this topic. He suggests having it written into the Bylaws or Procedures that the MPLA Board meet in a rotating location. Another option might be that the board meeting be held in the same state as the annual conference, but not necessarily the same city as conference.

Carol noted that is a complex issue. When the Board decided to go to Las Vegas, some Board members did not know enough in advance to incorporate the expense into annual travel budgets. By rotating the meetings to different states, everyone will spend a lot more. For example, it is very expensive to go to the Dakotas.

Peter said that rotating the site of the Board meeting will distribute the burden of the cost of travel more equitably among Board members. It is a matter of fairness. If we knew the conference dates, we could prepare in advance for the budgetary impact.

Marilyn Hinshaw said that the Board should meet where the majority of people can get inexpensive airfare. She suggested amending the proposal to include reasonable airfare. Every state will not work as a meeting site due to exorbitant airfare costs.

Peter indicated that there are cheaper cities to travel to than Denver.

Wayne Hanway said that this conversation is interesting. He had almost forgotten what we did this morning. By the vote on reorganization, MPLA now has one in-person meeting outside of Conference and there is a smaller Board. One of the things that the Board now can examine is that there may be more money available for equalization of travel costs to the meeting.

Carol said that we tried this experiment of using rotating meeting sites and it failed.

Sharon asked how many people dislike coming to Denver. She thinks that it is a great location and that this is true for a lot of people. Denver is as centrally located as we are going to get. Sally Dockter said that, for her, MPLA and Denver are associated together.

Carol said that her sense was that there was little support for this proposal.

Beth did a straw poll to gauge interest in pursuing this topic. Two people voted yes, three abstained, and the rest, a majority, voted against pursuing this topic.

A. Long Range Plan

Beth sent out the parts of the long range plan to the people to whom it applied. Beth wondered about the difference between the wording “ongoing” vs. “annual”.

Sharon Osenga said that “ongoing” denotes something that is occasional, whereas “annual” refers to something that happens once a year.

Carol said that she considers “ongoing” to be something that might happen several times a year. She asked Beth to give her specific examples of the uses of the terms.

Beth also separated out things that have a separate year deadline. You will only receive the part of the Long Range Plan that applies to you.

X. Announcements

Dan Chaney said that he had made a reservation at P.F. Chang’s for 6:30 P.M. If you are going, please meet in the lobby of the hotel at 6:15 P.M.

Jim Garner noted that there is nothing in the proposed Conference program that attracts trustees. As MPLA looks into the future, it should specifically solicit something for trustees to encourage them to come to conference. Trustees can be helpful for public libraries in political situations. But they need training to separate their role from that of the public librarian. If the trustees are not clearly invited by the presence of topical programs, then they assume there is no interest.

Beth noted that one of the comments from the Pre-Conference in Colorado indicated appreciation for the programs for trustees.

Joe Edelen said that Carol had asked him to clarify his schedule while he is on vacation and recovering from surgery. Joe said that he will get out newsletter and electronic balloting. Then he indicated the likely dates when he will be available to contact about MPLA business.

The meeting adjourned at 1:47 P.M.

