

MPLA Executive Board Meeting
December 11, 2020 by Videoconference

AGENDA

PRESENT (indicated by **)			
Name	MPLA Position	Name	MPLA Position
**Stephen Sweeney	President	Tom Taylor	LI Committee
** Robin Newell	Vice Pres/President Elect	**Robin Hastings	Professional Development Chair
Leslie Langley	Past President	**Amadee Ricketts	AZ State Rep
**Judy Kulp	Executive Secretary	**Elena Rosenfeld	CO State Rep
**Whitney Vitale	Recording Secretary	**Maribeth Shafer	KS State Rep
Diana Weaver	Awards Committee Chair	**Rachel Rawn	MT State Rep
**Frances Brummett	Bylaws Committee Chair	**Randi Monley	ND State Rep
**Roy Degler	Webmaster	Evonne Edgington	NE State Rep
Leslie Langley	Nominating Committee	**Dale Savage	NM State Rep
**Mary Ann Thompson	Awards Committee Chair	**Luise Davis	NV State Rep
**Melanie Argo	Newsletter Editor	**April Miller	OK State Rep
**Annie Epperson	Archives Task Force	**Nita Gill	SD State Rep
Mickey Coalwell	Admin. Committee Chair	**Joe Frazier	UT State Rep
Shanna Smith	Communications Chair	**Katrina Brown	WY State Rep
**Aubrey Madler	Leadership Institute Coordinator		

Welcome and Call to Order

Stephen Sweeney called the meeting to order at 10:00am (MDT). All members present introduced themselves.

*** Roll Call & Introductions**

New Board members introduced:
Katrina Brown, Wyoming;
Maribeth Shafer, Kansas

Departing: Aubrey Madler, Leadership Institute Coordinator

*** Announcements**

* Stephen extended a welcome and congratulations to the new board members. He also extended his special thanks to Aubrey Madler for the work she has done and will continue to do for MPLA.

*** Agenda changes**

* No changes needed

Action & Discussion

*** Approve minutes of September 21, 2020 meeting – Whitney Vitale, Recording Secretary**

- o Judy Kulp asked that the double negative be removed from the Payroll Tax Deferral section of the notes.
- o Stephen asked that Robin Hastings appear as Professional Development Chair in the minutes.
- o Elena Rosenfeld motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Randi Monley seconded. All

approved.

* **Leadership Institute Cancellation proposed by Administration Committee** –*Aubrey Madler*

- Aubrey reported that she and the Administration Committee had a discussion regarding the Leadership Institute. Based on feedback from the cohort, and given budget issues and health and safety concerns, it was discussed that it would be best to cancel the 2020 (now the 2021) Leadership Institute and start fresh with 2022. It is proposed that a spot will be held for any 2021 fellows that want to participate in the 2022 Institute. It will also be open to new applicants. Aubrey included a summary of responses from a recent survey sent to the cohort in her written report to the Board.
- Katrina Brown spoke as a member of the 2021 cohort and said that she would be relieved to have a decision made one way or another.
- Robin Newell added that the Administration Committee did a lot of hard thinking about the decision and their recommendation. Losing Aubrey was also part of that decision. She looks forward to making a decision today.
- Annie Epperson asked for clarifications on whether the 2021 mentors would stay on for 2022. Aubrey would like to invite the mentors back for 2022, if they can participate.
- On behalf of the Administration Committee, Stephen put forward a motion to cancel the 2021 Leadership Institute and, giving preference to the 2021 fellows and mentors, focus on the 2022 Leadership Institute. This motion does not require a second.
- There was no further conversation about the motion. Stephen expressed gratitude for the work and thought that went into this decision.
- All approved. The motion carried.
- The Leadership Institute Committee will work to make that move. Aubrey will send info to the cohort listserv and will submit a blurb to the Newsletter for the membership. If anyone has questions regarding Aubrey's departure, please contact her.

* **Accounting Review Report** –*Annie Epperson, Accounting Review Committee*

- Annie Epperson submitted the written report to the group. She reported that the appended documents are evidence of how we sit financially as an organization. We are in a holding pattern because of the cancellation of Leadership Institute and stepping away from Conference this year. The Committee recommends that we maintain our level of membership. We want to be able to return to normal soon. They have no formal recommendations, except for being cautious. The purpose of this review is to make sure that we are acting above board. When we are next audited, Annie is confident that we will get the same stellar score as we have in the past. Annie expressed her thanks to Mickey Coalwell and Judy Kulp.
- Stephen expressed his thanks to the Committee. The report was accepted unanimously.

* **MPLA Annual Meeting and Awards 2021** –*Stephen Sweeney, President*

- Stephen reported that the Administration Committee met and determined that April 28th, 29th & 30th will be the official meeting days for MPLA in 2021. On April 28th, the current Board will hold its meeting. The 29th will be the Business meeting, the Membership meeting, and the presentation of awards. On April 30th, the newly elected Board will hold its meeting.
- On April 29th, there is also a possibility that we will be able to hold Lightning Talks, or a mini-conference, hosted by MPLA. It is important to be able to celebrate library accomplishments and allow members to submit and share what they have been doing.

* **Lightning Talk Sessions** –*Robin Hastings, Professional Development Committee Chair*

- Robin Hasting reported that the Professional Development Committee met and decided to hold Lightning Talks on April 29th. They are working on a call for submissions and a form. Elena is working on the form. The submission deadline will be March 3rd. Decisions on submission will be made mid-March. This will give participants time to put their presentations together for late

April. Depending on how it goes, we may do more of these lightning talks on a regular basis in the future.

- Stephen asked if there is a theme for the lightning talks. Robin Hastings responded that we do not have a theme in mind, but we may put submissions in tracks or themes, depending on the number received. Right now we are leaving it open.
- Annie Epperson asked if submissions would be open to everyone or just to MPLA members. All may submit. Stephen clarified that we will only be limited by our zoom subscription. We may have different Zoom break out rooms if we do have a lot of submissions.
- Melanie Argo will put the lightning talk submission call in the newsletter in the February/March edition, once she receives information. Robin Hastings will get the URL for the online submission form to her.
- Mary Ann Thompson and the Awards Committee will come up with a new deadline for award nominations. They will need to send plaques out to winners in advance, so they will need to order them earlier than usual. Judy Kulp will check with the plaque maker to see what the timeline will be. Stephen would like to share what the plaques look like during the awards ceremony.
- Mary Ann reported that we already have one award nomination. The Awards Committee is working on getting interest going.
- Stephen asked the state reps to share the call for nominations so that we have good award candidates. The word of mouth really helps to get nominees.
- Annie suggested an “Extra, Extra” edition of the newsletter focused on the awards and online meeting dates. Stephen and Melanie will discuss this idea further.
- Rachel asked whether both Award nominator and nominee both need to be MPLA members. Mary Ann clarified that for most awards, only the person nominating needs to be an MPLA member. There is one award that requires the winner to be an MPLA member. Judy Kulp will send Rachel the link to the award descriptions. Mary Ann suggested looking to the website for more information. The online award submission form is live.
- Mary Ann reported that the Award nomination deadline will be March 1st. She will send a blurb to Melanie for inclusion in the February newsletter.

* **Utah Library Association Invitation for Joint Conference 2024.** *Joe Frazier, Utah Representative*

- Joe Frazier reported that last Friday, the Utah Library Association board asked MPLA to join them for a joint 2024 Conference. He would like a formal acceptance or pass on this request.
- Stephen reported that the 2022 Conference will be joint conference with Montana Library Association and PNLA. Rachel Rawn reported that PNLA has emphasized that they want to be involved in the conference planning process. The president elect that follows Robin Newell will be the representative to that planning committee.
- The 2023 Conference will be a joint conference with the Oklahoma Library Association in Norman, OK.
- Robin Newell made a motion to accept the Utah Library Association’s invitation for a joint conference. Luise Davis seconded the motion.
 - Discussion: Stephen expressed excitement for MPLA to be returning to Utah.
 - All accepted. Motion carries.

* **Archives Task Force** – *Annie Epperson, Chair*

- Annie reported that the Task Force includes Roy Degler, Stephen Boss, Eileen Wright, Mary Ann Thompson, Judy Kulp & Whitney Vitale. Stephen Sweeney has also been attending meetings.
- The Task Force has two separate areas of material to consider:
 - The physical archives held at Denver Public Library (DPL).
 - The born digital items, mostly housed on the website right now.

- The Task Force has made some progress with the material housed at DPL. Ideally, they would like to take the collection from DPL and move it to the University of Montana at Billings where Eileen Wright could process and digitize them. The reality is complicated.
- With the help of Stephen Boss, that Task Force has found that the Pathfinder Repository at the University of Wyoming is a great solution to store our born digital material. It is very reasonably priced. The task force does not need a formal motion from the Board to proceed yet. They will need to draft an MOU with University of Wyoming and that document would then be brought to the Board for approval. Then the Task Force can move forward with that storage space.
- Joe Frazier asked if there was resistance to getting the archive from DPL. Annie reported that DPL now owns the material, which would mean that they could weed or de-accession it without letting MPLA know. They have not asked DPL if MPLA can have it back, but they have asked if a student intern could do a scanning project and DPLA has indicated that that would be problematic. The Task Force has not yet made a formal request to get the archive. They are waiting to ask until there is a new home for the material.
- Stephen asked if a donation form was ever signed saying that DPL would own all MPLA archive material. Mary Ann clarified that with each new submission, forms were signed. Over time, these forms started including the DPL ownership clause. The forms for the early material did not have this clause and we are not sure we have these older forms. There is a letter of transfer, but it does not go into details of ownership. It used to be common for public libraries to house materials for library organizations in their community without owning it. This has changed over time.
- Annie clarified that DPL sees our entire archive as one collection. Stephen asked about legal ownership. DPL considers themselves the legal owners. Annie believes this may be related to insurance issues, in case of damage to material. The Task Force can approach DPL with our request to remove the archive, but we are waiting from confirmation from Eileen's administration at the University of Montana at Billings that they house and process it there. The response has been delayed.
- Annie reported that the Task Force will need to amend the MOP, but not the bylaws. The expenditure of money on the Repository will need board approval, but they will are not going to do that until the MOU is complete.
- A vote of confidence was held to accept the Task Force's report. All accepted.

Officers & Staff

Individuals with * have discussion or information items. All other reports will be accepted electronically without discussion.

President – *Stephen Sweeney*

Vice President – *Robin Newell*

Past President – *Leslie Langley*

Recording Secretary – *Whitney Vitale*

* **Executive Secretary – Budget & Membership Statistics.** *Judy Kulp*

- Judy reported that right now is a good time to recruit new people to MPLA. New members can join for half price next year. It is easy to do online. Everyone should encourage your colleagues to join.
- Judy also reported that the budget report reflects that we do not have the expenses and incomes related to the Leadership Institute that are usually in the budget. We refunded all the participant fees and we received a refund from the venue. We only have a few expenses for the rest of the year. We will end up in the black at the end of this year, but we will need to be careful next year, as we will not have a conference income.
- Maribeth asked what the timeframe will be for half-price new membership. Judy clarified that it will be for the whole year.

- Rachel Rawn asked if state reps can still give away memberships at virtual conferences. Judy responded that, yes, they can and should. We have a good return of renewals of those memberships.
- Maribeth asked if states can have a drawing for free memberships outside of a conference. Judy clarified that, yes, all state reps have 10 free memberships to give out.
- Roy Degler suggested that we revive the Board Choice Program, where board members can give away 1 or 2 memberships each year. Judy clarified that the program can be continued according to the MOP. The Board can pick it back up now and every board member can provide a membership. Katrina Brown thinks it is a great program, since someone has asked someone to join. It is a real personal touch. Annie added that the nomination is not arduous, just a paragraph as to your selection.
- No dissent was expressed regarding the Board Choice Program. Stephen asked every board member to nominate one person for a Board Choice MPLA membership before the next meeting. Judy will send out information and guidance to board members. She also has certificates she can create and send out.

Newsletter Editor – *Melanie Argo*

Leadership Institute Coordinator- *Aubrey Madler*

Webmaster & Systems Administrator - *Roy Degler*

Committees

Individuals with * have additional discussion or information items. All other reports will be accepted electronically without discussion.

Administration– *Leslie Langley*

Awards – *Mary Ann Thompson*

Bylaws and Procedures – *Frances Brummett*

Communications – *Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse*

Leadership Institute – *Tom Taylor*

Nominating Committee – *Leslie Langley*

Membership – *Mary Soucie*

Professional Development – *Robin Hastings*

Archives Task Force – *Annie Epperson*

State Representatives

Individuals with * have discussion or information items. All other reports will be accepted electronically without discussion.

Arizona – *Amadee Ricketts*

Colorado – *Elena Rosenfeld*

Kansas – *Maribeth Shafer*

Montana — *Rachel Rawn*

Nebraska – *Evonne Edgington*

Nevada – *Luise Davis*

New Mexico – *Dale Savage*

North Dakota – *Randi Monley*

Oklahoma – *April Miller*

South Dakota – *Nita Gill*

Utah – *Joe Frazier*

Wyoming – *Katrina Brown*

Final Announcements

Aubrey Madler has heard from a member who wants to be involved in MPLA work and asked who she should contact with this request. Robin Newell should be contacted, as she will be appointing future committees in April.

Adjournment

Stephen adjourned the meeting at 12:07pm.