

MPLA Executive Board Meeting

July 14, 2021 by Videoconference

AGENDA

PRESENT (indicated by **)			
Name	MPLA Position	Name	MPLA Position
**Robin Newell	President	Jennifer Williams-Curl	Communications Co-Chair
** Brenda Hemmelman	Vice Pres/President Elect	**Amadee Ricketts	AZ State Rep
** Stephen Sweeney	Past President; Admin. Committee Chair	Elena Rosenfeld	CO State Rep
**Judy Kulp	Executive Secretary	**Maribeth Shafer	KS State Rep
**Whitney Hilley	Recording Secretary	**Rachel Rawn	MT State Rep
**Frances Brummett	Bylaws Committee Chair	Randi Monley	ND State Rep
Roy Degler	Webmaster	Evonne Edgington	NE State Rep
**Mary Ann Thompson	Awards Committee Chair	Dale Savage	NM State Rep
Melanie Argo	Newsletter Editor	**Luise Davis	NV State Rep
Annie Epperson	Archives Task Force Chair	**Gloria Farmer	OK State Rep
**Mary Soucie	Membership Committee Chair	Nita Gill	SD State Rep
**Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse	Communications Co-Chair	Sherrie Mortensen	UT State Rep
**Mike McDonald	LI Committee Chair	Katrina Brown	WY State Rep
**Robin Hastings	Professional Development Chair		

Welcome and Call to Order. *Robin Newell, President*

- o Robin Newell called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM

Introductions

- o The new members of the board introduced themselves: Gloria Farmer, the new Oklahoma State rep and Mike McDonald, the new Leadership Institute Committee Chair.

Approve/Amend Agenda

- o No additions or amendments to the agenda were submitted.
- o Stephen Sweeney motioned to approve the minutes. Luise Davis seconded. All approved.

Minutes of 4/30/2021 Board Meeting. *Whitney Hilley, Recording Secretary*

- o Mary Ann Thompson motioned to approve the minutes as written. Amadee Ricketts seconded. All approved.

New business

* Leadership Institute. *Robin Newell, President*

- o Robin Newell reported that Mike McDonald is doing a great job with the Leadership Institute (LI) Committee and asked the Board members to please read his report. The LI does not have a venue, facilitator or coordinator yet. The Committee is looking at when to have the next institute and what that will look like.
- o Mike reported that the consensus of the Committee is that the LI is a very valuable experience and would like to see it continue. However, the Committee is starting from scratch and needs to

find a coordinator, venue and facilitator. He would like the Board's support to move forward with the planning.

- Robin Newell ask the Board if they have any concerns. No concerns were expressed. Mike reported that the LI Committee will meet once per month and is open to any input to those outside of the committee.
- Mary Soucie reported that the LI Committee has discussed the possibility of gearing the next LI towards alumni of previous leadership institutes, including the MPLA LI. Most leadership institutes are geared towards newer professionals and so offering a refresher Institute may set MPLA apart. She asked the Board if they would support this track. Mike added that alums of previous institutes will already know how valuable it is and we could have an easy time recruiting interested individuals. They could also engage Maureen Sullivan again to see how the institute could be revised in future years if we have this bridge institute for alumni.
- Amadee Ricketts added that this would set the MPLA Leadership Institute apart.
- Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse added that, as part of the 2020 LI cohort that never met due to the pandemic, she would be disappointed if the next LI was only available to alumni. She also sees the LI as a mechanism to get new members involved in leadership positions in MPLA. She does not think that an alumni LI is a bad thing, but there is a 2020 group that still needs to be served, before we move on to address the alumni LI. Robin Hastings shares Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse concerns on behalf of the 2020 LI cohort.
- Mary added that she has been in the profession for decades and pays for her professional memberships out of pocket. So, she asks herself what she gets out of being a part of each organization. An alumni LI would help to serve those who have been in the profession and MPLA for some time and who are asking what benefit MPLA brings to them as a long term professional.
- Maribeth Shafer asked about what the curriculum and focus would be for an alumni LI. Mary responded that they had talked about refreshing topics from the original LI and adding some new topics like EDI. The details are still to be worked out by the Committee.
- Shanna added that she does not think that the LI just appeals to new librarians, based on her experience looking through LI applicants. She would not want to rule out those who are 10 years into the profession and also interested.
- Mary clarified that the committee is not looking to replace it permanently. They would like to hold an alumni LI next year, go back to the traditional LI, and then hold an alumni LI again every 3rd or 4th year.
- Amadee added that she would like to see the 2020 cohort be invited back for the next LI since the 2020 cohort did go through an extensive application process and have already invested a lot of time and effort in the process. Perhaps the next LI after that could be for an alumni group. Mary Ann Thompson added she had also heard from several 2020 cohort members that were still excited about LI and she would not want to have to turn them down.
- Mike reported that the Committee will be meeting again in August and this will be the first topic of discussion.
- Mary added that another reason they were looking at an alumni LI is because they do not think

they could pull a regular LI together well without a coordinator.

- Stephen Sweeney asked if was reasonable to plan for the 2022 LI for the accepted attendees and hold a 2023 alumni program. He asked if the alumni program is meant to be built as a retreat style experience. If there was a virtual experience for alumni, it would be a good way to bring LI alumni from across the region together.
 - Mary responded that the Committee was starting from scratch and there is a concern about designing a quality 2022 LI experience, which is what MPLA is known for. They thought they could pull one together more easily for alumni, strongly encouraging the 2020 cohort to reapply in 2023.
 - Robin Newell asked the board to vote in a straw poll on whether the LI Committee should look at holding an Alumni Institute next or whether they should honor the 2020 cohort and provide a LI for that group next. The poll results showed that there was strong preference from the Board for the Committee to provide a LI for the 2020 cohort first.
 - Mike reported that they need to talk about the LI Coordinator position. Realistically, the next LI will be in fall of 2022 or Spring 2023. Spring 2022 will not be possible. Until they can have that coordinator hired, they will not know the date or venue.
 - Mary asked who hires the LI Coordinator. Judy Kulp explained that the LI committee can do interviews and put out the position description. The Admin Committee Chair would need to be involved in regards to budget for the position. The Board would need to approve the contract for the position. This can be done by email vote.
 - Stephen proposed forming a LI Coordinator taskforce, reporting to Robin Newell, which would include the Admin Committee Chair and the LI Chair. Robin Newell appointed Stephen Sweeney, Judy Kulp, Mike McDonald and Mary Soucie to the taskforce. Judy has an LI Coordinator job description and a prior contract for the position.
- * Long Range Plan 2017. *Robin Newell, President*
- Robin Newell asked the Board to read through the 2017 Long Range Plan posted on the website. There will be more conversations about it going forward and she will likely be forming a Long Range Plan Taskforce. Mickey Coalwell has agreed to be an advisor. There is also another member that worked on the original plan and has agreed to be a resource for this project.
- * AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures) update. *Stephen Sweeney, Chair Administration Committee*
- Stephen Sweeney reported that he been working with Watson Coon Ryan LLC, the audit firm engaged by MPLA. In the past, MPLA has gone through a full audit of our financial records. Since we did not need to continue with a full audit, the board agreed to an Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP). The Admin Committee set the procedures which included the firm reconciling their accounts. The firm has been in contact, but there is no report to share yet. He will have a report in October. It is in progress. Judy Kulp added that it was a good decision for the board to go with the AUP. The firm has been very thorough in this process so far.

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

President – *Robin Newell*

Vice President – *Brenda Hemmelman*

Past President – *Stephen Sweeney*

Recording Secretary – *Whitney Hilley*

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

- Judy Kulp reported that the membership statistics are of concern. The numbers are declining.
- She reported that based on the financial report, we are where we should be with a lean budget. The only unbudgeted expense was \$500 for Mark Puento for his previous assistance with the LI that did not happen.
- Robin Newell asked Judy if she had ever seen a drop in membership like this in previous years. Judy responded that she had not. Robin pointed out that the membership committee is aware of this drop and is working on some strategies to increase membership. She encouraged state reps to reach out to their members and promote MPLA. Communications is working on MPLA information for state reps to pass out at state conferences.
- Mary Soucie asked if we knew the root cause of the drop. Luise Davis reported that the Nevada State Library Association has also had a steady drop in membership. They are not very active. NLA also ran into a major financial issue a few years ago and they have not recovered.
- Judy Kulp sent out an email years ago to ask those who did not renew with MPLA why they did not. The most common responses were a lack of travel budget and that they did not want to be in an association that they could not participate in via committee or similar service. She also sent out another survey in the past that asked why members did join and most responses said that a colleagues had encouraged them to do so.
- Robin Newell also encouraged the Membership Committee to look at the states where membership is doing well and see what they are doing.
- Brenda Hemmelman reported that she distributes printed sheets about the benefits of joining MPLA and the state associations to new librarians in her library. The personal touch is important.
- Judy added that, in the past, state representatives have been encouraged to go to Library Science programs in their state to promote MPLA membership. Student membership is only \$15 per year. We often get students who then become regular members. Robin Newell regularly promotes MPLA at the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State. She likes to emphasize to the students that, if you are starting a career or looking for jobs, MPLA widens your horizon since you will meet people from so many different states.
- Judy added that there is a need for promotional materials to have available at conferences and state meetings. Shanna reported that the communications committee is working on this.
- Robin Newell has been in contact with the Dean of SLIM about working together with MPLA this year.

Newsletter Editor – *Melanie Argo*

Webmaster & Systems Administrator - *Roy Degler*

Committees

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

Administration– *Stephen Sweeney*
Awards – *Mary Ann Thompson*
Bylaws and Procedures – *Frances Brummett*
Communications – *Shanna Smith-Ritterhouse*
Leadership Institute – *Michael McDonald*
Nominating Committee – *Stephen Sweeney*
Membership – *Mary Soucie*
Professional Development – *Robin Hastings*
Program Council – *Brenda Hemmelman*
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*

- Montana Library Association has voted to change the venue for the upcoming joint conference to a new downtown location. They have not yet broken the contract with the original hotel. It is still up on the air.

Nebraska – *Evonne Edgington*

Nevada – *Luise Davis*

New Mexico – *Dale Savage*

North Dakota – *Randi Monley*

Oklahoma – *Gloria Farmer*

South Dakota – *Nita Gill*

Utah – *Sherrie Mortensen*

Wyoming – *Katrina Brown*

Final Announcements

- There were no final announcements. The dates for the next board meetings have been sent out. If you have any questions, please let Robin Newell know.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 10:49AM