

## MPLA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jan. 4, 2003

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How I spent my first three months in office:

- One of my first duties as MPLA President has been to try to find good people to fill the slots as committee members and chairs. I have been reasonably successful, but this is always a moving target as people change jobs or otherwise encumber themselves and are unable to fit an MPLA committee into their lives. One of the most difficult committees to fill has been the Intellectual Freedom committee. This is an important committee and I urge all State Representatives to encourage people in their state who are active and interested in Intellectual Freedom to join MPLA and to indicate on their membership form that they would like to join this committee.

Of course, there are many more people who are volunteering to be on a committee than there are positions, so I am grateful for the positive responses and enthusiastic feedback I have gotten for being on an MPLA committee.

- At the Fargo conference, I asked Jane Kolbe to be the chair of the new Scholarship Committee. This was a committee called for in the Long Range Plan. Jane has already started working on getting ideas for an event at the Nevada conference to start funding a scholarship and she has an enthusiastic committee working with her. One of the questions that she has asked has been "can we explore the possibility of sharing a scholarship event with NLA and splitting the money?"
- I've watched the Leadership Institute take shape and have witnessed the excitement of one of the mentors (my boss) as she prepared for the Institute and listened to her glowing report when she returned.
- I've participated in the online discussions of the Finance Committee in reviewing the budget proposal being presented at the Board meeting.
- I am working with REFORMA: The National Association for Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking in planning programs and pre-conferences for the NLA/MPLA conference. I'm a member of REFORMA and have been asked to serve on the committee to help plan their programs. REFORMA expects around 100 members to attend the conference.
- I've had the pleasure of "listening in" to some of the online conversations of the ECC. I'm not a "techie" so some of the subjects they've explored are beyond my experience, but I've found it fascinating nonetheless.
- As President, I've been able to explore some new ideas that members have brought forth, including an online "gift shop" (Dan's idea) and an online survey instrument that can track the impact of a conference on a city (Deb's idea). I've also been approached by the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to try to bring the MPLA conference to Kansas City. It made me feel important to think that SOMEONE thought that I had that much influence!

- I've chosen my Board Choice Award recipient for 2003. Dr. Camila Alire, Dean of Library Services at the University of New Mexico, has accepted this honor and looks forward to becoming more involved in MPLA in the future.
- I've prepared "welcome" letters for the web page and to go in the newsletter and membership mailings and have written my first President's column for the newsletter.
- I wrote a thank you note to Stan Terry of EBSCO thanking him for his support (and the \$10,000 check!)
- Question of the Day: Where will our conference be in 2006 and 2008???? The forthcoming conferences are: 2003 - Nevada; 2004 - Colorado; 2005 - Wyoming; 2006-????; 2007 - New Mexico; 2008 - ????