

MPLA President  
July 2007 Board Report  
Wayne Hanway

Utah conference visit – The highlight of the time since the May Board meeting has been representing MPLA at the Utah Library Association conference in Provo, May 16th – 18th. I received a wonderful welcome, starting with being picked up at the Salt Lake City airport by Betty Dance. That afternoon I had the opportunity for a self-guided tour of the Brigham Young University library. Being able to explore a large academic library reminded me of when I was in library school 33 years ago. If only there would have been time to sit and down read to my heart's content! Another pleasure came that evening as I explored a used book store across the street from the hotel. The conference meal and social functions were held at the Provo City Library, a beautiful blending of a historic old building with a large modern addition. Very few libraries can boast a large third floor ballroom as part of their physical plant.

The conference was a perfect time for further discussion of plans for the 2008 joint conference with ULA, which will be at the Salt Lake City Hilton, April 29th to May 2nd. Besides MPLA Vice President Rob Banks, several of the ULA conference committee leaders are MPLA members, and the resulting teamwork and shared vision is truly heartening.

At the end of the conference, Utah's state representative on the MPLA Board, Susan Spicer, resigned her position because of a changed work situation. It is a pleasure to welcome her replacement, Emily Schultz, to the Board.

Changes coming – The major structural changes that took effect last year were a long time in the planning and responded to recognized, long-standing problems. Many of the changes have worked well, with one big success story being the change to major use of conference call meetings, which has saved both time and money and has also helped to expedite getting business done on a more timely basis. A weakness in the new structure is the Electronic Communities, which have not functioned effectively. A task force, chaired by David Oberhelman, was appointed by Past President Sharon Osenga to address this, and I am eager to hear their recommendations at the July 21st Board meeting in Denver. I am also pleased with reports on the progress being made by committees on a new slogan, new graphics, and plans for a new booth. Stay tuned, and remember that your feedback to these proposed changes is important and needed.