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President's Report
Rob Banks, President

Final financial reports from the Salt Lake City Conference are yet to be completed; however, it appears that while probably not as bad as expected, we did not make the money that we hoped for. Extraordinarily high food and drink minimums in the hotel contract made it very difficult to meet expectations. We just barely met the minimums on both the rooms and food and had good attendance at the conference. Part of the cost for the 60th Birthday Party was underwritten by VCBO Architects, Salt Lake City Public Library and Donna Morris.

Planning for the 2009 conference in Wichita, KS, is underway and information should be going out to members soon. I've had several opportunities to work with Eileen Wright, MPLA Vice-President/President elect and I'm pleased with the direction.

I have most of the committee appointments completed. I'm waiting to hear back from a few people and have two committees yet to appoint as of writing this report.

Membership numbers are lagging at this point. We all need to work to promote the association with colleagues. I've asked the Membership Committee to consider ideas for encouraging members and to report at the October Board Meeting.

Eileen and I have been discussing ways to use the new MPLA Portals and have been working with Roy to get it all figured out. We are very excited about the possibilities that this will provide us for contacting members and getting them involved in the association. It will also help us keep the members informed about what is happening at the board level which will hopefully increase the transparency of the organization and encourage input from the members. I think this is a new way to provide additional benefit to the members.