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President's Report

Rob Banks

January 14, 2009

I attended the Arizona Library Association in December. Everyone was very welcoming and Shirley Condit was a great hostess. I got to spend time getting to know Dana Braccio the new AZ rep. Also traveling from cold, snowy Kansas to beautiful, warm Arizona was a treat as well!

Traveling to state conferences has definitely been a highlight of being President.

A contract has been signed and the deposit sent to YMCA of the Rockies for the 2010 MPLA Leadership Institute. The Administrative committee suggested that we find a new name for the Leadership Institute that can be evocative and inspirational and yet be portable to different locations. I have asked the Communications Committee to develop a list of suggestions.

We have some serious concerns about the financial stability of the LI in the future. The MPLA budget is already a deficit budget for 2009 and looking ahead to 2010, we must find additional money or we will not be able to continue the LI in the future. Wayne outlined to me some possible options: 1. The Board mandates that the LI become self-sustaining, 2. Find a financial sponsor, 3. MPLA develop fund-raisers. There may be additional alternatives, but we will need to think creatively in the next few months to help insure that this important program can continue.

I have contacted Maureen Sullivan, the past facilitator, to see if she is available for the 2010 dates and what she will charge. She has not responded yet.

I am almost through appointing the Professional Development Committee whose terms are on a calendar year. Hopefully, everyone will have responded by the board meeting.

I'm really pleased with the work that Eileen has been doing with KLA to bring a good conference in 2009.