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MPLA Webmaster Report  
23 July 2008

Work continues on the revamp of the MPLA website – this is a style redesign. I’ve been trying to coordinate my efforts with CPA Roy Degler. As we work in the same library, this has proven an interesting challenge, as ever since the April conference, one or the other of us has been on vacation or at a conference most of the past couple of months.

I’ve had a colleague working on some possible redesigns of the MPLA logo – not changing the essential style or design. Rather, rethinking colors and presentation. I’m including some of the design alternatives I’ve kicked around. Note: this does not mean I’ll be changing the logo. This was just the result of my wanting to see how we could take the basic design and jazz it up a little back when I wasn’t sure what the ultimate website redesign would look like.



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That is just FYI. As I lack a real talent in PhotoShop, I asked one of my colleagues to play about with the logo. This is what she came up with. As I’ve settled on a design that utilizes the logo as it currently exists, it is unlikely I’d push to change it – although I might play with changing it to reflect the seasons.

As it is, I really have very little to report since the April board meeting in April. We’re in a “holding pattern” with the website. Roy and I have talked about switching the website over to the hosting service, but as we look at what we have to move, problems crop up. For example, the web-based forms. We’re currently running them using ColdFusion. I’m far from an expert in ColdFusion, however. If we relocate the server, we lose the ColdFusion forms. And Roy and I have talked about what will take the place of ColdFusion to run the form results? We have some ideas, but that involves recreating the forms

in whatever we choose to. I've told Roy that we really cannot be without those forms, particularly the membership renewal form and the various professional development grant forms. So, we're sort of trying to come up with a plan for maintaining the forms until each of us has cleared some room on our plate to generate new forms.

Roy and I have also had some discussions on the new communities portal – I think he's shown me enough of the inner workings of the new CP that I might be able to fill in for him in an emergency, which is probably a good idea. I've seen how to add people to the boards, set up email (so we could assign mpla.us email domains to board members, Judy, etc.), moderating the forums, etc. The fool doesn't realize that by giving me the keys to the car, it will make my coup d'état happen all the quicker. Just kidding 😊

I'll keep the Board updated on the status of the website relocation. I think we're still looking at fall, earlier rather than later. However, the website redesign has dragged on a little longer than I had hoped.

Finally, a personal note. I know some of you knew of my dog, Stormy. She was 16 years old on July 14, when I had to put her down. And while it was sad, she was a good friend. It was hard for me to watch her get old and pained from arthritis. Even though she was on medication for arthritis, she was still hurting. While I hate to use her as an excuse, when her health started to fail, it affected me, particularly over the past 5 months. I miss her, and always will. But on Saturday, I got a new puppy, a 6 week older cocker spaniel (same breed as Stormy) I've named Wrigley (after Wrigley Field, not Wrigley Gum – I know they're kind of the same thing, but I am the die-hard Cub's fan.) Here's a photo of her from Saturday.



Respectfully submitted,

Dan Chaney  
MPLA Webmaster