

MPLA Board Report
March 21, 2012
ST - 1

At the end of January I sent an email to 30 'lapsed' MPLA members in the great State of Arizona, encouraging them to come back into the fold and renew their MPLA membership. I also contacted 23 folks who had unsuccessfully entered the MPLA Free Membership drawing at the AzLA Annual Conference in November, encouraging them to join. Unfortunately these last ditch efforts were not enough to defeat Mike 'Membership-is-my-Middle-Name' Mullin in the membership contest. Congratulations and thanks to our friends in South Dakota!

The new AzLA Board had its first meeting at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix. We had a good leadership discussion and board meeting, which provided ample opportunity for me to speak about MPLA – what it is, its relationship to AzLA (including the 2014 Joint Conference), and the Leadership Institute.

AzLA is dealing with the same [issues](#) everyone else is: membership, costs, communications, participation, conferences, etc. President Nancy Deegan's focus is ***Beyond the Box***, a theme which will be explored at our [Annual Conference](#) in November. Other topics of discussion were the [new AzLA Blog](#), and endorsement of the ALA Resolution regarding the [Mexican-American Studies](#) Program in the Tucson Unified School District.

Libraries around Arizona showed their stuff during [AZ Snapshot Day](#), a couple of weeks prior to celebrating the [Arizona Centennial](#).

MPLA President Dana Braccia, Vice-President/President-Elect JaNae Kinikin, Executive Secretary Judy Zelenski, AzLA President Nancy Deegan, President-Elect Tom Wilding, and I had a conference call to discuss the 2014 AzLA/MPLA Joint Conference. While still a couple years down the line, it was an important first step in addressing expectations and realities of such an undertaking.