

## 4. ELECTRONIC COMMUNITIES

**Purpose:** The purpose of electronic communities (ECs) is to provide a virtual forum where members can gain insight into best practices and problem solve in specific interest areas while developing relationships with other MPLA members.

**Membership:** Each member of MPLA will be encouraged to subscribe to 1 or more ECs when the membership form is filled out. ECs may be joined at other times by following the instructions provided at MemberClicks. Members may join as many ECs as they wish, with the understanding that participation is a responsibility of membership.

**Creation:** New ECs may be requested by petition of 20 members to the President and created upon approval by the Board. The petition may be made in writing or electronically, but should identify a member in good standing willing to be named moderator for the new EC.

**Dissolution:** Any EC which has less than 20 subscribed members and/or for which the President-elect can find no one willing to be moderator may be dissolved.

**Responsibilities of Moderators:** Each community will have a moderator responsible for initiating and facilitating discussion. The moderator should also attempt to contact members who have not re-subscribed at the beginning of each membership year and recruit new members into the EC by periodically sending electronic messages to the membership at large. The moderator will also represent the EC on the Program Council so that community interests are addressed at MPLA conferences.

**Selection of Moderators:** The moderator will be selected by the outgoing moderator and the incoming President-elect of MPLA and appointed for a one-year term. The Membership Committee will recommend a moderator for the New Members EC to the President-elect.

**Virtual Location:** MemberClicks will be the electronic space in which communities will be originally created, using the existing bulletin board functionality. The Communication committee and the MPLA Board may alter the virtual location of ECs as needed.

**Physical Meetings:** Electronic Communities may request time and a meeting space for a face-to-face gathering at MPLA conference. Moderators are encouraged to poll EC members before room requests for conference are due to determine if a face-to-face meeting is desired.

A moderator or a member of the Council shall be appointed from each Electronic Community and from the Leadership Institute Committee and the Professional Development Committee.

