CO-4

Electronic Communications Committee Report for the MPLA Executive Board Meeting
July 23, 2005

Online meeting software vs. Teleconferencing revisited
The ECC Online Meeting Subgroup revisited prices of online software and teleconconferencing to explore if the costs have changed, especially if online software has dropped in price. WebEx is 53 cents per minute per person compared to 55 cents in 2003. Raindance is still 27 cents per minute per person. Brian Greene, a former member of ECC, noted on the ECC Bulletin Board in June 2005 that University of Wyoming is experimenting with Linktivity and noted it costs about 20 cents per minutes per participant.

As for teleconferencing the prices ranged from 6.5 to 34 cents. Here is a breakdown of the pricing information for toll free dial-in audio conference calls, per minute, per person.

1-4-u-conference-call.com - 9 cents
Office Depot Conferencing Service - 7.9 cents
AccessLine SmartConference - 6.5 cents
SaveOnConferences.com - 8.5 cents
CorporateConferenceCalls.com - 5.9 cents
IMConferencing.com - 8 cents
ConferenceCall.com - 15 cents
Sprint - 34 cents
AT&T - 29 cents
Verizon - 18 cents
AllConferencing.com - 12 cents
Conferencing.net - 10 cents
BudgetConferencing.com - 12 cents
ConferenceCallsUnlimited.com - 10.9 cents

All in all the prices for online meeting software WebEx and Raindance were considered too expensive by the Board in 2003 so we're assuming it will still hold true today and teleconferencing is the most economical and efficient way for MPLA Executive Board to go.

Blogging @ WLA/MPLA Conference
Brian Greene suggested to ECC on its bulletin board that MPLA host a blog for the conference this year. ECC members were contacted for feedback on the idea. With the Board approval ECC will move forward and Dan Chaney will set up the blog in advance of the conference so members may begin blogging before conference. Dan thinks that starting it earlier would help test drive it, publicize it; and solicit volunteers to participate. A link to the MPLA for it will also be made. Brian Greene also suggested we could have a Web page that introduces members to blogging with the possibility of posting pictures of people who will be blogging at the conference. There could also be links to blogger's blogs and how to access them (via link or RSS feed).

Janet H. Ahrberg,
ECC Chair