

CO-5

MPLA Leadership Institute Committee Report

Sharon expected that I would deliver a report to you prior to my departure for Midwinter, the day before your conference call. The reality is that homes and libraries here were without power for nearly a week before your meeting, so I was unable to fulfill her assignment, both because I had no access to email and because I was occupied with the aftermaths of the disaster that left us disconnected from the rest of the electronic globe.

It was actually just as well, because I had nothing then to report except the news of mergers and discombobulated contacts that keep us guessing who has the ball, but that we continue trying.

At Midwinter, a portion of the fundraising committee met and we worked, individually renewed face to face contact with several vendors who have previously been sympathetic to our project.

The people involved were Patti Butcher, Donna Morris, and Maggie Farrell. The vendors who made sympathetic noises were Sirsi, Endeavor and Ebsco. Sirsi has been purchased. Endeavor has been purchased. All that reorganization has not been defined, but Maggie is pursuing the new contact at Endeavor and Patti is in touch with Sirsi, still. If any of you have Sirsi contacts, please get on the list of people who might send support letters by telling Patti, who can be contacted at pattib@kslib.info. Apparently EBSCO has never forgotten us and spoke supportively to Donna Morris.

BCR has still not made any sort of commitment, except to say that it will kick in what other networks of its type serving the MPLA states kick in. Patti counted. It is 8 separate organizations. Stay with me while I say that makes for very complicated funding, and time consuming administrative work.

Do volunteers at this work have the time available to keep those balls in the air? We have put this potential source last on the list of ways to go about this. For instance, what would happen if one refuses? Would that kill the whole deal?

I am sorry to report that you still don't have a definite answer to the question I would like resolved as much as you - will there be an outside funding source for the LI in 2007? What I do know is that you have some crack troops working on it and if it can be done they will do it. I will let you know immediately if there is word.

In the meantime, I am preparing to hand this project over to Patti, who is already stepping up to the plate. My interim status is more than expired and I am assigned more intense activities in another sphere - in ALA's budget realm.

I have apprized Sharon and all of you earlier and since talked to Wayne, who has also talked to Patti about this transition. I am confident the project will be in good hands. (If only I could report success at the funding effort before I am done, that will please me no end!!)

Thank you, the many who continue to support the Leadership Institute with your thoughts and efforts. As MPLA begins to develop its financial goals, don't forget that giving \$100 to the

coffers, earmarked for the LI, from 45 people equals \$4,500. One of many valuable lessons I have learned over decades of fund raising is that most donations are from an average person. Corporations, foundations and grants make up less than half of any giving program. I KNOW that ALA has taken this to heart.

I will see you at the Albuquerque conference. I trust the LI report then will be full of good news!

Marilyn Hinshaw, Chair
MPLA Leadership Institute Committee