

CO-5

MPLA Leadership Institute Committee Report
October, 2006 Marilyn Hinshaw, Chair

The committee has established a listserv following our last Board meeting. Conversation has been a dribble, but it is picking up.

At the last ALA Midwinter meeting in San Antonio, the committee met and worked on the proposal that could be used to request contributions. It is a very good document that can be used and adapted.

The committee has discussed a variety of fund raising possibilities, including alternatives to support this effort if it could not get another vendor to commit to funding. I reported on those variations at the MPLA Board Meeting in July, where the talk was of how much revenue MPLA is missing in a non-conference year.

Just to recap, they were:

- State Library contributions to make up the \$10,000 no longer available.
- Increase registration costs for attendees.
- Shave the budget and use MPLA funds to make up the deficit.

Here are the responses received in that conversation with Board members:

- No matter what else you do, do not raise registration cost.
- MPLA is not enthusiastic about funding its own child. Keep looking for a funding partner.

Then, I made a check with several state librarians of my acquaintance who said it would be unlikely that they could pull money for this, and many are already funding attendance for their state constituents. Next issue: What formula would be used to make it fair to all States involved, since their budgets are vastly different?

This conversation at the Board meeting ended with no resolution. One member suggested a good lead to another vendor. I took that under advisement. See the last paragraph.

My work since has been to keep in touch with a person who made a commitment nearly a year ago to ask a major vendor for support. I will explain the delay in my verbal report. The letter has gone to the source.. Members of the LI Committee are actively searching out info. on MPLA contacts who could write support letters. (More in verbal report.)

Other members of the LI Committee are working on the approach to the vendor suggested at the board meeting. I will report that verbally also. News is that Patti Bucher will be back in the state of Kansas on Nov. 1. We'd like to welcome her back to the committee. And last news is that the 2006 LI @ GR is off and running. It will be wonderful for those attending!