

Membership Committee  
March 2016  
Ellen Fockler, Chair

The membership committee has not met recently, but a Zoom meeting will be scheduled for the week after Easter. Members of the committee have been contacted.

There are two main issues to discuss. First, We've talked several times about the creation of a new membership category for authors. When the proposal was discussed at the Cheyenne conference, it was roughly outlined, but there were many questions about the details of the proposal and about how it might operate. My objective at this point is to formulate a more concrete proposal that can be presented to the Board for discussion. Some of the questions to be discussed (and determined) are:

- What level of membership would an author category entail? Would an author membership include voting privileges?
- Should author members receive discounted rates for conferences, as other members do? (This may be one of the strongest reasons for an author to join.)
- What dues rate would apply to an author category for membership? Rather than a graduated rate, would we offer a specific, flat rate?
- Would author members be eligible for membership on MPLA committees?
- What benefits would an author derive from membership in MPLA?
  - \* Could we offer a quarter or half page ad in one or more newsletters as a benefit of membership?
  - \* Could we create an "author page" on the MPLA website, with a picture and a listing of the author's books?
  - \* Would there be any advantage to membership in MPLA if an author should wish to apply as a speaker at either an MPLA/State joint conference or a State Association conference?

Committee members may have other ideas or concerns that might be addressed.

The second issue, as always, is how to provide value to membership, especially for new members. How can the Membership Committee reach out to new members? How can we reinforce the value of membership, including those advantages available to members such as Professional Development grants, the Leadership Institute, and the Jobline? We need to involve State Reps more actively as well. Judy Zelenski, as always, is the most invaluable connection for us — When she sends the list of new members each month, I send a "welcome" email, but without her help, that would be impossible.

I look forward to talking with Membership Committee at our meeting at the end of March.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Fockler  
Nevada