

Membership Report  
CO-6  
August 24, 2016

1. The membership committee met via Zoom on May 12, 2016. I will plan one more Zoom meeting before the October conference.
  - a. Our discussion included two main topics: the proposal for an Author membership category and Institutional memberships. We discussed issues of dues for such a category, advantages of membership (to authors), and whether such a membership would include voting privileges. No decision was reached on that issue. Membership in such a category would not include eligibility for professional development grants.
  - b. Institutional memberships are down from previous years. I personally contacted state librarians or directors at state libraries, and I did get a few responses. One such responder asked whether MPLA had a discussion group or focus group for state library participants; it's an idea that we might want to consider. I feel that I need to do more to contact members of this group, particularly in the next few months, as they consider budgets for the coming year. I would also like to gather the information necessary to contact more academic librarians (by email) to encourage them to join.
  - c. We need to continue to ask our State Reps to encourage members of their state associations to join MPLA, emphasizing the advantages of professional development grants and, when appropriate, the Leadership Institute.
2. While it would be up to each state association, it would be advantageous if MPLA members could register at a state conference (not a joint conference) as a member, even if they are not members of the state association.
3. I have sent a welcome message to new members each month.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Fockler (Nevada)  
Membership Chair

The following proposal for a new membership category designated for authors, both those who write for children and young adults and those who write for adults, fiction and nonfiction, will be presented for Board discussion.

Rationale:

- Many authors, particularly (but not exclusively) those who write for children and young adults, are interested in establishing a relationship with librarians and with library associations. Such a relationship, through either attendance at conferences or through an online presence, could also enrich the library community, creating an awareness of authorship and publishing, and creating a greater awareness of a variety of books and media.
- The addition of a membership category with a specific designation could bring an interesting new group of members from all twelve states.
- While author-designated membership could be included in a "friends" category, it would have more impact and is much more likely to be successful as an individual category.

An author membership category should include:

1. A standard membership fee, to be decided. \$50 to \$75 per year has been suggested.
2. Voting membership (Open for discussion)
3. Conference registration at any MPLA / state joint conference at the member rate.
4. Author membership would include one 1/2 page advertisement annually in the MPLA newsletter, or 1/4 page advertisements, two per year.
5. If viable, membership would include inclusion on an “author page” or section on the MPLA website, including a photo, a list of the author’s books, and a link to their personal website.

Members joining in this category would not be eligible for professional development grants.