

MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board February 23, 2015

Membership: Sharon Ailsieger, McConnell AFB Library, resigned from the committee due to her retirement January 9th. President Annie Epperson recruited a new member from Wyoming, Cameron Duff, to replace her. Cameron has been the Director of the Sheridan County Public Library System in Sheridan, Wyoming for just over 4 years. Previously, he worked for the High Plains Library District in Greeley, Colorado for 9 years when he obtained my MLIS from the University of Missouri.

Meetings: The committee met February 4 via the new Zoom conferencing system. One member was not able to connect as she works for a corporation and the setting on the corporate computer will not allow access to the Zoom system. Two members were only able to connect via phone and couldn't see the screen sharing or the chat. Kris did a Plus/Delta (What worked? What could be improved?) evaluation at the end of the meeting to assess member opinion about the platform. The following responses were received:

- It was good to see the part of the document we were talking about.
- Worked well and liked seeing the documents for all to see. Just need to see if everyone can get video/audio working for next time.
- I also very much like being able to share documents like that, and have seen documents get off-screen halfway, can't explain that.

Evaluative Reports: At the Feb 4 meeting the committee approved a state association conference grant from the Utah Library Association, and an individual grant application from member Jan Brue Enright, South Dakota, to attend the upcoming ACRL conference in Portland.

WLA/MPLA 2015 Conference: The committee is in the process of determining whether it will attempt to revive the Professional Forum event for the upcoming conference in Cheyenne, WY. Last year the committee was unsuccessful in receiving any applicants, despite several valid attempts to solicit them. Kris did some research and learned that this committee's participation in this event has been historical and on a volunteer basis only. There is nothing in any official documentation that states this is a charge of the committee, thus the decision to evaluate whether they will undertake it this year.

The members are also discussing whether to submit one or more conference proposals, to present as a group under the Professional Development Committee name.

Bylaws Wording Change: The recent grant application from the Utah Library Association unearthed some misunderstanding about one statement in the Bylaws related to discounts for MPLA members at events receiving MPLA grant assistance: "MPLA members attending the pre/post conference must receive at least a 15% reduction in any pre/post conference registration fees." The Professional Development Committee would like to work with the MPLA Board to 1) clarify the intent of the wording, in order to 2) make a recommendation to change the wording in the Bylaws, for approval at a future Board meeting. Committee chair Kris Johnson will ask this to be a discussion item on the agenda at the March 2nd meeting. Kris will send all Board members details via e-mail so they can have all the background needed in order to assist.

Respectfully submitted

*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library