

MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board December 29, 2014

Meetings: The committee met December 3rd via teleconference, with Kris Johnson chairing her first meeting. Only half of the members were able to attend this meeting. Because the committee is much smaller this year from the previous year, Kris did an e-mail follow-up with four members not attending to ensure the meeting dates/times will work for members in 2015. Three members confirmed that meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 10 am (MST) will work. A fourth member noted she will resign due to an impending retirement. President Annie Epperson is seeking a replacement member from Wyoming since Wyoming will be hosting this joint conference in 2015 and currently the committee has no representation from that state.

Evaluative Reports: The committee approved state association conference grants from the North Dakota Library Association and the Wyoming Library Association during the December meeting, and an individual grant report from Carrie Scarr via e-mail.

Budget: The group discussed the disparity in budgets between the pre-conference grants for state associations (\$1500.00) and grants for individuals (\$4000.00) and the fact that all the state association grant monies were fully expended but only a little over half of the individuals grant monies were expended by the end of the calendar year. Members are wondering whether these amounts should be adjusted and/or whether the amount for the grants to state associations should be increased. Members are also working to ensure better and timely PR occurs so that the availability of grants are fully understood by the membership. Judy supplied Kris with a budget overview for 2011 to the present and Kris notes that in previous years that much of the grant money was never distributed, therefore we are currently doing better than we have, but wonders: “Can we do better?” Kris would like the board to consider whether the amounts for grants is acceptable, and if an increase in grant monies could be allocated, she and her committee will work to ensure they receive more grant applications in 2015 than in previous years.

Respectfully submitted

*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library