

MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board

June 11, 2015

Membership: Our newest member, Cameron Duff, Director of the Sheridan County Public Library System in Sheridan, Wyoming, had to resign due to personal reasons. President Annie Epperson was able to recruit another new member from Wyoming, Brian Greene. Brian works with the Wyoming State library in Cheyenne. In addition, Laura DeBaun from Kansas resigned due to a change in job and a conflict with her new job related to the day of the week the professional development committee meets, and Kathy Wibbels from South Dakota resigned due to increased commitments at her state association. The committee currently stands at seven members which is a reasonable number of members for decision-making, and exceeds the numbers stated in the MPLA documentation: "A Chair and three members are appointed by the President. No two members should be from the same state. Committee members are appointed by the President for two year terms and appointments are staggered to provide continuity."

Meetings: The committee met April 1 via the Zoom conferencing system. The June meeting has been delayed to the schedule of the chair, and will now be held on June 16th, the day before the MPLA Board meeting. At the June 16 meeting the group will discuss grant requests from two state library associations and one individual grant request.

Grants to Individuals: At the April 1 meeting the committee reviewed, discussed, and approved four individual grant applications totaling \$2400.00, leaving \$1000.00 available for grants to individuals remaining this year. Pending approval of one individual grant at the June 16 meeting, \$400.00 will remain for individual grants. Should the committee receive additional grant requests from individuals we may ask the board to approve additional funds.

Pre/Post Conference Grants to State Associations: Should the committee approve the two state association grant applications at the June 16 meeting all allotted funds for state associations (\$1500.00 total) will have been expended for the year.

WLA/MPLA 2015 Conference: Three members of the committee wrote and submitted a presentation proposal for the joint MLA/MPLA 2015 conference entitled: "21st Century Librarian Seeking 22nd Century Skills: Professional Development in the New West." The focus of the presentation, if selected, will be a combination panel presentation and hands-on opportunity to explore making the right professional development decisions when confronted with an overwhelming number of options, both free and fee-based.

Bylaws Wording Change: Based on feedback from the board at the last meeting, the committee submitted their suggested changes to bylaws wording related to discounts for MPLA members at events receiving MPLA grant assistance. We will be discussing this at this boards meeting. As a reminder, the current language reads: "MPLA members attending the pre/post conference must receive at least a 15% reduction in any pre/post conference registration fees." The suggested new wording is: "MPLA members attending the event for which the grant is awarded (pre, post, or regular conference) must receive the same discounted rates as members of the state association receiving the grant."

Respectfully submitted

*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library