

MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board November 13, 2015

WLA/MPLA 2015 Conference: Committee members Kris Johnson, Holly Rick, and Brian Greene presented “21st Century Librarian Seeking 22nd Century Skills: Professional Development in the New West”, a double, two hour session on the last day of the conference. Turn-out was good for the first hour, at around 35 individuals, with Brian and Kris focusing on professional development resources for individuals and the importance of focusing on systematic planning for PD at an organizational level. During the second hour we were competing with the popular “What the Tech is That?” session, so Holly had a small group of 11 to work with on creating hands-on professional development plans. Audience feedback seemed positive. We have not received any formal evaluation information from the Wyoming Library Association.

Membership: The membership makeup of the committee remained steady through the conference year transition from last year’s committee to the current year’s committee, at six regular members and two ex-Officio members. Members transitioning off the committee were: Shelby Harken, North Dakota, and Tom Taylor, Kansas. New members are: Jake Rundle, Nebraska and Ryan Buller, Colorado. Returning members are: Kris Johnson, Colorado; Ruby Cheesman, Utah; Brian Greene, Wyoming; and Holly Rick, Arizona. This is the last year for all returning members. Additional members would be a welcome addition, with a recommended maximum of 9.

Meetings: The new committee met October 7 via the Zoom conferencing system. The next meeting will be held December 2 at which time the meeting and grant/report schedule for 2016 will be established.

Grants to Individuals: Thanks go out to the board for approving additional funding for grants to individuals for the remainder of the calendar year. We were able to coverage our overage plus one additional grant application for the 2015 year. Notifications were posted on the website and Facebook letting members know funding had been expended for 2015 and to stay tuned for information about 2016 funding.

Respectfully submitted

*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library