

CO-8

Mountain Plains Library Association
Professional Development Grants Committee
Report
October 19, 2006

The Committee has held one conference call meeting since the last report, wherein the following was accomplished:

- Robert reported on the MPLA Board's decision to not increase funding for additional grants for the rest of the year, except for one \$50000 pre/post conference grant
- Robert reported that the Board would like the Committee to work on proposed changes to the grant application guidelines and funding priorities: the following items were established as the "Overarching Principles for Re-Writing the Grant Guidelines, and Forming a Sub-Committee"
 - The need for consistency between the actual application forms and the written guidelines provided to the membership as well as to the committee members
 - All information regarding the grants needs to be in one place on the website
 - Only one applicant from a particular library or library system should be allowed to receive a grant to attend the same event or conference
 - Applicants should be required to report on what they gleaned from the experience in one or more of the following venues: MPLA Conference; their state association conference; a Newsletter article; by creating some sort of electronic presentation, instructional component or tutorial that could be utilized by MPLA members
 - A recommendation be made that space be made available on the MPLA website for these reports and/or presentations and instructional components
 - For future budget considerations, that more funds be earmarked for this committee in general; and that the priority be placed on those funds going to individual grant applications for continuing education opportunities (as opposed to the pre/post conferences at state association conferences)
 - A sub-committee was formed including: Sylvia Hall-Ellis, Chair; Connie Lamb; Beth Williams; Robert Shupe; and Judy Zelenski

Also, Amelia J. Shelley's report concerning her attendance at the American Library Association presented entitled "Behind Bars: Books and Teens and the Criminal System" was approved, in the amount of \$600.00

Annie E. Brunskill's application for a regular grant in the amount of \$600.00 to help defray the costs of attending the MPLA Leadership Institute was discussed. In light of the Board's decision to not provide additional funding for the rest of the year, the Committee was not able to approve this application.