

## **MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board September 18, 2015**

**Membership:** The membership makeup of the committee remained steady since the last board meeting at six regular members and two ex-Officio members. Moving into the next membership year after the WYO/MPLA conference, it would be recommended to have a regular membership makeup of no less than 6 members, with additional members a welcome addition, perhaps as many as 9 or 10 members. As of this writing, the make-up of the committee and the new committee chair post WLA/MPLA conference has not yet been announced.

**Meetings:** The committee met June 16 and August 5 via the Zoom conferencing system and also dealt with several committee matters via e-mail.

**Grants to Individuals:** \$4,000 was budgeted for regular grants to individuals for the 2015 calendar year and for the first time in several years will be expended in full, and in fact, exceeded, should the current outstanding evaluative reports for previously approved applications be approved. This is positive news and on the agenda for the September 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting will be a request to have additional funds approved for the remainder of this calendar year.

To date, eight individuals applied for grants and were approved. Four have submitted evaluative reports and have been reimbursed, with four evaluative reports pending, to be submitted after the professional development events have occurred. If approved the committee would have overspent by \$515.00.

There are two more meetings of the professional development committee for this current calendar year and we have not communicated to the membership that they may no longer submit grant applications. In fact, one grant application has already been received, to be considered at the next meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

I've consulted with president Annie Epperson who has communicated that additional funds can be made available for grants to individuals so it is my hope that at the September 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting that my request for these funds will be approved.

**Pre/Post Conference Grants to State Associations:** \$1,500 was budgeted for pre-conference grants to state associations for the 2015 calendar year and similar to the grants to individuals, will be expended in full pending approval of two outstanding evaluative reports. Grants in the amount of \$500.00 were approved for the Utah Library Association (evaluative report received, funds expended), and the Nebraska and North Dakota library association (evaluative reports not yet received.) Because there are only two application deadlines per year for pre/post conference grants to state associations (this year, February 1 and June 1) there are no opportunities to go over budget in this category.

**WLA/MPLA 2015 Conference:** The committee's presentation proposal submitted for the joint WLA/MPLA 2015 conference entitled "21st Century Librarian Seeking 22nd Century Skills: Professional Development in the New West" was accepted, and as a double, two hour session. Members Kris Johnson, Holly Rick, and Brian Greene have been working on their presentation, meeting three times via the Zoom conference software. The presentation will be divided into two distinct sessions, and attendees can attend 1 or both session without missing critical content. Handouts will be distributed during the conference communicating this information and encouraging attendance. The focus of the presentation will be on thinking about professional development from an organization standpoint as

well as an individual perspective, and resources for doing so. The second hour will be a hands-on session in crafting a personalized professional development plan.

**Bylaws Wording Change:** Our committee's suggestion to amend the language in the bylaws (actually the Manual of Procedure) related to discounts for MPLA members at events receiving MPLA grant assistance was approved at the last meeting. As a reminder, the previous language was: "MPLA members attending the pre/post conference must receive at least a 15% reduction in any pre/post conference registration fees." The approved, new wording will be: "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." One last task related to this is to update the actual documentation to reflect this language, both in the Bylaws/Manual of Procedure and at the website.

Respectfully submitted

\*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library