

MPLA Professional Development Committee – Report for the Board
August 26, 2016

Meetings: The committee met Aug. 3 via the Zoom conferencing system.

- A grant application from one individual was approved, but upon communicating the approval to the applicant it was learned she would not be allowed to attend the conference for which she was to apply her grant, so she rescinded her request.
- Evaluative reports from two individual grant applicants were approved.
- The group discussed their promotional efforts for the year and determined we have covered all our bases in terms of getting the word out. The wildcard in the equation is whether and how widely state representatives communicate the availability of grants within their own states. To remedy this gap in information research was conducted by Ruby Cheesman, the main member responsible for PR. Responses from state representative indicate they are using most of Ruby's recommended best practices and are making good attempts to get the information out in their various states.
- Despite PR related to grants the committee finds itself in the exact opposite position from where they were last year in terms of grant monies available. At this time last year, the committee was discussing asking for additional grant monies from the Board due to the high number of grant applications. This year we are in the opposite situation, seeing a low number of grant applications, despite the PR outreach mentioned previously.
- President Stroshane asked Chair Johnson to provide information related to total monies available for discussion at the next Board meeting.
- The currently comprised committee will meet one more time prior to Conference, on October 5. Four members of the committee, including the Chair, will transition off and two will remain for the next 'association year', with the meeting for the newly comprised committee occurring on December 7, 2016.

Work Completed Outside Meetings:

- Along with the Executive Secretary, Chair Johnson provided an update to President Stroshane regarding monies available to date:
 - Of the budgeted \$5500.00 for individual grants, \$2980.20 has been paid. No other funds have been encumbered to date, leaving \$2519.80 remaining for the calendar year.
 - Of the budgeted \$2000.00 for state association grants, zero dollars have been encumbered (no state associations submitted grant applications this year), leaving \$2000.00 unencumbered.
 - Total funds unencumbered = \$4519.80.

Respectfully submitted

*Kris Johnson, Montana State University Library