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MPLA President
January 2008 Board Report
Wayne Hanway

Highlights of the time since the October 10th Executive Board meeting include the following.

Portal – The implementation task force has been hard at work, and I hope that their specific proposals for Board action will allow us to get the portal up and running. This is not a simple thing, but involves several complex steps. Doing this in a cost-effective way that will free us from institutional host restrictions is going to be a plus, because it will make it easier for us to more-easily implement further changes as we need them.

Professional Development Committee appointments – Unlike our other committees, which function from one annual conference to the next, the Professional Development Committee functions on a calendar year basis. Sandra Barstow's term as committee chair expired at the end of December, as did the terms of three committee members. My thanks to Connie Lamb for agreeing to serve as committee chair for 2008, as well as to Andrew Chanse, Mardi Mahaffy, and Tamara Meredith for their willingness to serve.

Conference planning – While Rob Banks has been ably carrying the big load of working directly with the ULA conference planning team, I have still been involved in a number of decisions and points of detail. We are almost to the point of being able to go live with conference registrations on the web site: <http://www.ula.org/conference/2008conf/>

Each of you is a salesperson for the conference. Your job is to spread the word, encourage people, answer questions, and see that any problems are quickly addressed and corrected.

NLA/NEMA conference – My final state conference visit of the year was to the Nebraska Library Association/Nebraska Educational Media Association joint conference at Kearney, October 24th – 26th. One of the things that struck me forcibly while I was there was the contrast between our drab booth and some booths using vibrantly colored portable display banners. With our colorful new logo and new slogan, we need to make the investment that will bring our conference booths alive.