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Mountain Plains Library Association
President's Report
Carol Hammond

Updating the Long Range Plan, 2004-2009

After the half-day session in Denver in July, Judy Zelenski and I worked out a plan to get from brainstorming to a finished document. Judy created a draft document out of the notes and added in the appropriate activities from the existing plan that need to continue. Many thanks to Jeff Belliston, Wayne Hanway, David Oberhelman, Dan Chaney, Jean Hatfield and Eric Hansen who each took one of the goals and polished up the objectives and activities, assigning a who and a by when to each of them, making complete thoughts out of notes, and making the plan more specific. I did the final read through and Judy then did a final edit and prepared the plan to go out to the board, and it was posted on the web site three weeks before the meeting. I arranged for Judy to be paid for this project. She will be attending the October board meeting to facilitate the discussion and handle any last minute revisions.

Task Force on MPLA Reorganization

I appointed a group to look at the organization and structure of MPLA, as directed in the motion passed at the July Board meeting. Donna Morris, a past MPLA President and currently Utah State Librarian, agreed to chair this working group. I prepared a charge and after consultation appointed the following members who all agreed to serve with Donna: Wayne Hanway, Jeff Belliston, Linda Deacy, Debbie Iverson, Mary Bushing, Sandy Barstow, and Sharon Osenga (ex-officio). This group will report to the Finance and Management Committee, which is responsible for reviewing organizational changes.

The task force was given a deadline of the summer 2005 to come to the board with recommendations.

Charge to the Task Force on Reorganization:

Review the existing structure of MPLA and its Board (sections, officers, paid staff, representatives, committees) and recommend changes that would better reflect the needs and interests of members and contribute to greater organizational effectiveness.

I also provided a summary of the issues and the motion that was passed at the July 2004 meeting with respect to this task force.

Board Choice Awards

Made an appointment of an outstanding individual from Arizona, David Gunckel, and urged the rest of the Board to make awards (numerous times) with a goal of having 100% of them named before the conference. We did not meet the goal, however.

Newsletter

Wrote column for October issue as well as articles on the demise of the paper membership directory in favor of using Memberclicks. Began work on article to acknowledge long-time members who have been in MPLA for 10, 15, and 20 years.

Colorado Conference 2004 /Wyoming Conference 2005/ Utah Conference 2008

Conferenced with CAL staff about conference programming and reported back to the Board. Finalized plans for awards event at the conference, set agendas for board and membership meetings, and assisted with meeting space arrangements, including use of the MPLA suite. Conferred with Dail Barbour about the Wyoming conference in 2005. I was contacted by Hikmet Loe from Utah who will be the chair of the program committee for the 2008 conference; she was interested in getting to know MPLA so I invited her to the board meeting to be introduced.

North Dakota Library Association Conference

I attended the NDLA conference in Minot September 23-24. I attended the awards dinner where I was introduced, several programs, and a second general session of the conference where I spoke about service and MPLA. Thanks to ND State Representative Jeanne Narum for making the arrangements for my visit. The North Dakota librarians were enthusiastic, very outgoing, and put on a wonderful conference. I was glad to have the opportunity to visit and meet with NDLA, and promote MPLA.

Staff Reviews

Participated in performance reviews for paid staff: Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Executive Secretary.