

O-1

MPLA President  
April 2008 Board Report  
Wayne Hanway

Highlights of the time since the January 23rd Executive Board meeting include the following.

Leadership Institute Task Force – The Leadership Institute has been a major success story for MPLA over the past six years, but after the first three years its financial position was uncertain, with a continuing annual need to secure outside sponsorship. Early this year, we were faced with three significant challenges: (1) no sponsor for 2008 had been found; (2) the rates for Ghost Ranch had gone up significantly; and (3) coordinator Mary Bushing decided to step down. On the recommendation of Leadership Institute Committee Chair Patti Butcher, I declared a hiatus for the Leadership Institute for 2008 and formed a task force, chaired by Sharon Osenga, to study the situation and make recommendations to the Executive Board by the fall meeting for putting the Leadership Institute on a solid and sustainable basis for the future.

Portal – Working out the new contract for the Portal Administrator position was a significant step forward. Roy Degler will have some of the portal functions ready to demonstrate to us, but since we are also looking at a switch in web site hosts and a lot of added functionality as part of the process, there is still a good way to go in this complex process. Roy did a presentation about the portal as part of the program about MPLA that I presented, with Barbara Ray's help, at the Oklahoma Library Assn. conference this week, and my reaction was one of eagerness to have the portal up and running. I am hoping we will quickly find it becoming the village common of the MPLA community. Using the portal is going to require the involvement of a number of MPLA members.

Conference planning – While Rob Banks has carried the big load of working directly with the ULA conference planning team, I have still been involved in numerous decisions and points of detail. With the conference almost here, I find that my anticipation has built to a very high level, and I am relieved that the weather forecast appears to be in our favor.

Election – I worked with Judy Zelenski and JaNae Kinikin on certifying the results of the election of officers. Congratulations to Eileen Wright and Annie Epperson on being elected, and thanks to each of the candidates for their willingness to serve.

I am glad to see that the number of MPLA members who have changed their MemberClicks passwords to something shorter and easy to remember has greatly increased, but there is still a good number of voting members who have not made that simple change yet.

And now that I have had the experience of helping to certify two MPLA elections, I can tell you that, indeed, each and every vote is important.

New Board Members and Plenty to Do – Time marches on and the Executive Board membership keeps evolving. I especially want to thank Valerie Nye, from New Mexico, for all her work in

helping with the 2007 conference. Her term ended and New Mexico's new representative is Lynnette Schurdevin. Thanks to Emily Schultz, who capably filled to complete Utah's term and is now being succeeded by Dorothy Horan, who has worked so well with us this past year, as ULA President, in planning the 2008 conference. Wyoming's Marcia Cheney has recently moved to a new job out of state. MPLA member Brian Greene, who is the current WLA President, acted quickly to see that Wyoming found a replacement, and we are now welcoming Debbie McCarthy as the new representative from Wyoming.

Two other state representative positions on the Executive Board are about to become vacant, because Eileen Wright, from Montana, is the new Vice President / President-Elect, and Annie Epperson, from Colorado, is the new Recording Secretary.

The Executive Board will have plenty of business: the implementation and continuing evolution of the new community portal; the recommendations of the Leadership Institute Task Force; updating the Long Range Plan; and seeking more ways to involve MPLA members and to provide continuing education opportunities for librarians throughout the mountain plains region.