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Mountain Plains Library Association  
President's Report - Activities Jan-June 2004  
Carol Hammond

1. Filled vacancies on Awards and Professional Grants Committees due to resignations.
2. Contacted the President-elect of the New Mexico Library Association about the selection of their state MPLA Representative. All other state representatives are elected and I wanted to encourage New Mexico to elect rather than appoint it representative. She explained this issue has been discussed at least twice now; the board there had become too large and the solution was to reduce the number of elected positions. Making this an elected position would require a bylaws change, and would apparently mean that other positions would again have to be elected as well. Their intention is to keep this as an appointed position for the time being. She did say someone other than Charlene would be appointed in April.
3. Contacted the following committee chairs to review assignments and projects for the year:
  - a. Awards, Leroy Gattin, about schedule and announcements
  - b. Bylaws, Betty Dance, about archives policy and handbook revisions
  - c. Scholarships, Jane Kolbe, about progress.
  - d. Nominations, David Oberhelman, about process.
  - e. Membership, Debbie McGuire, about goals and projects
  - f. NMRT, Erin Kinney, on role of the group and options

Monitored Continuing Education, Professional Development Grants, and leadership Institute activities.

4. Gathered information from all states on financial support from state associations and state libraries for the leadership institute:

State Financial Support available for MPLA Leadership Institute January 2004

[Note: most provide this only if individual's library/library system cannot; several have made it available but did not actually have to cover anything so far. Others have paid part of the cost for both years.]

AZ YES From state library or AzLA  
CO YES From CAL  
KS YES From KLA  
SD YES From SDLA  
NM YES Can apply for a grant from NMLA  
MT YES from MLA  
OK YES  
UT YES From State Library  
NE NO

NV NO

ND YES From NDLA

WY YES Can apply for funds from state library.

5. Activate Memberclicks and sent announcement with personal IDs and Passwords to all MPLA members.
6. Membership Directory: Took vote of board to reach a decision about continuing the printed, paper version. Only 7 responses, but consistent in recommending going with online product (Memberclicks) instead of printing. Ran online poll of membership on Memberclicks with much more participation although similar results. Also a good test of the feature that we can use in more situations when feedback is needed.
7. Accepted resignation of Cokie Anderson as chair of Electronic Communications; appointed Eric Hansen.
8. Wrote columns for MPLA newsletter: February, April, June issues published; August copy submitted.
9. With Suzanne Miller, sent attached letter to all state librarians in the MPLA region who are not personal members of MPLA asking them to join MPLA. Poor results; none of the 10 contacted has decided to join.
10. Arranged for past president Judy Zelenski to facilitate session in July on updating the Long Range Plan; obtained approval for Finance Committee to provide a stipend for this and creating the new document. (\$750). Worked with Judy on organization and details for the planning session
11. Reviewed and signed contract for joint conference with Colorado.
12. Conferred with Dail Barbour in Wyoming about dates and theme for 2005 conference in Jackson.
13. Lost a record 4 State Reps: South Dakota (Suzanne Miller), Montana (Ken Kempke), Wyoming (Patty Patterson), and New Mexico (Charlene Greenwood). Contacted State presidents about replacements. New appointments made are Valerie Nye (NM), Bridgett Johnson (MT), Mary Caspers Graper (SD), and Jill Rourke (WY).
14. Took call from the Coalition for Decency and Family Values in Utah about filtering. Their inquiry was about our affiliation with ALA and our position on filtering in libraries. Discussed the position and activities of the group with Peter Kraus, Utah state Representative, and Donna Jones Morris, State Librarian and made them aware of their contact and questions to MPLA.
15. Contacted section chairs about problem with only one nominee submitted for ballot and asked all of them to get two candidates for the election; surveyed them about why only one candidate was running. Discussed problem with David Oberhelman and identified this as an item for discussion at the LRP session and/or the board meeting.
16. Prepared agenda for July Board meeting; contacted committee chairs about reports/action items in addition to usual participants. Contacted David Oberhelman about substituting as Secretary for Basha Hartley for July meeting.