

O-2 Vice-President's Report

MPLA Board Meeting

26 June 2014

MPLA/AzLA Joint Conference Update:

The Program Planning team has met in person with a Go-to-meeting option for those of us attending at a distance. The Program Sub-committee Co-chair Jasper Holt has done a fantastic job of coordinating the call for programs and now, the final selection process. AzLA invites membership to vote on program proposals to ensure that attendees are able to participate in sessions they'll enjoy, this year they included MPLA members in that part of the selection process. As you might guess, soliciting and tallying all those votes is a bit challenging! Nonetheless, the final program is coming together; we are slated to meet next week so I ought to have even "fresher" news in this regard by the time we see one another in Vegas.

The program schedule has been finalized, and I'm happy to report that there will be time for both yoga and hot-tubbing! The featured speakers include Bob Boze Bell, Lee Rainie, Connie Willis, and Maggie Farrell; we hope to also announce (soon!) a "One Conference, One Book" selection, with the author as a fifth featured speaker. Final details about registration fee are being worked out. The model used for the tri-conference last year in Sioux Falls inspired the incorporation of meals into some events, which increases the cost of registration, but also should boost attendance at an author event and the awards session. The MPLA Professional Forum is being incorporated as a program session.

Mary Ann Thompson agreed, on behalf of the Awards Committee, to shift the due date for nominations and selection of awardees, primarily because AzLA includes award-winning authors into their conference in a very public and notable way. It would be nice to, at the very least, announce MPLA's Literary Contribution Award at that event.

We are in early stages of planning for an MPLA basket to raffle from the booth. Typically this basket is filled with items from all twelve states, and raffled as a fundraiser, with revenues going towards MPLA Leadership Institute in one way or another, I believe.