

**Conference Planning**

One of the strengths of MPLA is that it provides a mechanism for library staff from a variety of states and libraries to come together to work on projects that promote our profession. As Vice President, I am privileged to be on the conference planning committee and because of that position I have been working with the conference chairs from North and South Dakota. Although the three of us work in different types of libraries and come from different states and different backgrounds, we have formed a cohesive team that has been working hard to provide the best conference possible for our colleagues. I appreciate being able to work with Kaaren Pupino and Ann Smith and look forward to raising a toast to them when the conference has been successfully completed!

Most of the program proposals that were submitted were accepted. The conference committee considered cost, relevance and duplication of topics when making our choices for programs. We worked hard to provide balance in subjects and programs for a wide variety of library staff. We also made a conscious decision to provide some excellent programs on Saturday morning and a fun casino trip on Saturday afternoon in order to provide something for the MPLA members who will realize a savings by staying over on Saturday night and flying out on Sunday.

Since the conference registration includes the cost of meals and since we were not sure if the hotel could provide a room large enough for everyone to eat at once, we did some creative scheduling in order to provide staggered lunch times. We have also planned some table talk sessions during lunch on Thursday to provide attendees a chance to eat and chat on specified topics. MPLA committees who have work that needs to be completed during the conference may want to plan to meet together during a breakfast or lunch time slot as well.

Another new feature will be the poster sessions that have been planned to occur during the no conflict exhibit times. Planners are encouraging libraries to display some of their "best practices" especially in the areas of collection development and outreach. Poster session application forms are available on the web page.

The newsletter with the preliminary conference program will be going out in the next few weeks. We have about 20 exhibitors signed up but we can always use more. We have space for 40 – 50 exhibitors. Sally Dockter, the exhibits chair, expects to receive more applications from exhibitors but would welcome leads and suggestions from MPLA Board members.

**Long Range Plan**

Rather than providing an update of the Long Range Plan at this time, I am planning on doing a complete update for the October meeting. But I would like to take this time to do a quick review of what we have accomplished so far and what still needs to be done.

### *Accomplishments*

- The Leadership Institute is well underway and its first session in November has plenty of applicants.
- Most state representatives are reporting continuing education opportunities in their state, intellectual freedom challenges and are sending information about their state to the newsletter.
- The newsletter has had several articles that highlight “best practices” or pertinent information to librarians to assist them with their job. This helps make the newsletter a valuable tool for recruiting new members
- The web page has become a successful tool for communicating with members. Manuals and Board reports and activities are easy to find for all members and the page is constantly maintained in order to be up to date.
- The Board approved a job description for a web master and included a line item in the 2002 budget to pay someone to keep the page up to date

### *Still to do:*

- The Continuing Ed committee is aware that they have to make some recommendations based on their survey. The Board will need to review some of the deadlines and possibly make changes.
- The Western State Librarians have been meeting and will have a recommendation for the Board. The Board will need to review some of the objectives and activities that mention this group to see if they are still relevant.
- A Scholarship Committee needs to be formed before Dec. 2002. President Iverson and Vice President Hatfield have discussed this and they will both make appointments so that terms will be staggered. Additions to the Bylaws and Manual of Procedure will need to be made to accommodate a new committee.
- The Distance Ed Coordinator called for in Goal II, Objective C has not been appointed. The Board needs to discuss if this position is needed and to further refine what this position will do.
- The Awards Committee needs to make a recommendation about the Literary Contribution Award to see if it needs to be revised.
- The Public Relations Committee needs to be sure to publicize the Awards winners and the conference.
- State reps need to explore the possibility of having an MPLA sponsored preconference at their state conference. Colorado is doing it this year, but more states could take advantage of this opportunity to promote MPLA and sponsor a continuing education activity.
- More state reps need to promote MPLA to library school students in their state. School media programs should also be targeted for promoting MPLA.