

MPLA Vice President/President-Elect
March 2007 Board Report
Wayne Hanway

I have been involved for the past fifteen months with planning for our first joint conference with the New Mexico Library Association. The theme is "Libraries: Launching the Future." Our goal was to have at least 600 people attend, and as of March 7th conference registrations numbered 660.

Perhaps the biggest challenge has been the hotel problem, because the contracted block of rooms at the original conference hotel, the DoubleTree, was sold out by mid-January, despite some problems with DoubleTree's reservations system, about the time the preliminary program and registration issue of the MPLA Newsletter was mailed out. The DoubleTree was hosting at least one other conference at the same time, so they did not have more rooms to make available. An additional block of fifty rooms at the Embassy Suites also sold out, and after that all that could be done was to list some possible alternate facilities.

I need to say a big thank you to the NMLA conference team: my counterpart as conference co-chair, Louise Hoffman; NMLA's Administrator, Lorie Christian; Linda Morgan Davis and Cindy Burns, co-chairs of the NMLA Local Arrangements Committee; and Joe Becker, Treasurer. They have been a pleasure to work with. MPLA's Executive Secretary, Judy Zelenski, has also been invaluable in ways too numerous to list. Of course, it takes lots and lots of people working together to plan and carry out a successful conference, far too long a list to detail here. And we should express our appreciation to vendors who have made additional contributions to make this a genuinely special conference, including Random House, Library Journal, Gale, BCR, SirsiDynix and Ebsco.

Also, I need to salute a whole bunch of MPLA members who have stepped in to help out by proposing programs, presenting programs, introducing programs, helping to staff the MPLA booth, and more.

Making committee appointments is a big job, and I have part of the job done but still have a good way to go. At this point, I am especially looking for Moderators for the Electronic Communities and members for the Membership Committee. If you or an MPLA member you know would be interested, please let me know.

The date and place for the July meeting of the Executive Board have now been set. It will be Saturday, July 21st, at the DoubleTree Denver North Hotel. An agenda item at the Albuquerque board meeting will be to set a date for our next conference call board meeting, probably in May.