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Vice-President/President-elect Report
Rob Banks

Plans for the 2008 conference in Salt Lake City are progressing. Ice and winter storms delayed our program planning. The program is nearly set aside from a few minor issues. We ended up planning the program online. I was concerned about the effectiveness of using this method for such a complex effort, involving about 10 people in the conversation and lots of proposals, but it went very well. I am very pleased with the programs for the conference. We have something for everyone and cover a broad range of topics. There are a lot of pre-conferences to choose from and the costs are quite reasonable for those.

If the registration website is not live by the time we have the board meeting, it will be very soon after that. There are a few details that need to be completed and it will be ready to go.

Exhibitor relations are progressing and the exhibitors forms should be available soon as well.

The 60th Birthday Bash is progressing even though there has been minimal work online. Annie Epperson has done a lot of research for a visual presentation of the history of MPLA. Carol Hammond is heading a group to update the printed history of MPLA, covering the last 10 years of history. There is an excellent history on the website that covers the first 50 years. It is our hope that this additional history will be available to unveil at the party. I have spoken with several people individually and will be firming up the remaining party issues in the near future.

The major concern for this conference is the relatively small projected income. We have been working with the figures on the budget and it is looking better. One difficulty is the very high costs at the venue. It is something that we discuss almost daily so we will do everything possible to maximize the return on this conference.