

MOUNTAIN PLAINS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2001
DENVER, COLORADO

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In Attendance: Linda Rea, President; Debbie Iverson, Vice President; Mary Ann Thompson, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Hinshaw, Past President; Nancy Deyoe, Technical Services; Paul S. Hoffman, Nebraska Rep.; Linda Deacy, Nevada Rep.; Ara Anderson, Wyoming Rep.; Diana Oedekoven, Preservation; Joe McKenzie, Public Library; Julie Tomlianovich, Children's; Susan Dingle, Government Docs; Suzanne Taylor, Colorado Rep.; Jane Kolbe, Arizona Rep.; Charlene Greenwood, New Mexico Rep.; Brian Greene, State Agencies, Coops & Systems; Melody Kuehn, North Dakota Rep.; Basha Hartley, Oklahoma Rep.; Betty Dance, Academic; Jean Jensen, Utah Rep.; Patti Butcher, Kansas Rep.; Deb Hagemeyer, South Dakota Rep.; Paula Duffy, Montana Rep.; Donna Jones Morris, Long Range Plan Committee; Joe Edelen, Executive Secretary.

1. Call to Order:

- o Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order by President Linda Rea at 9:05 a.m. Linda welcomed everyone and we went around the room making introductions to become better acquainted. It was suggested to add photographs of the board to the web- site.
- o Debbie Iverson moved to accept the agenda, Brian Greene seconded. Motion carried.
- o Mary Ann Thompson put forth minutes for the October 25th, October 27th, and October 28th meetings. Marilyn Hinshaw moved and Debbie Iverson seconded accepting the Oct. 25th minutes. Motion carried. Ara Anderson moved and Suzanne Taylor seconded accepting the Oct. 27th minutes. Motion carried. Marilyn Hinshaw moved and Diana Oedekoven seconded accepting the Oct. 28th minutes. Motion carried.

2. Board Orientation:

Marilyn Hinshaw gave advice to board members about what they should know and do as board members. Know what your positions are. As a state representative, be visible, make noise about MPLA at state meetings. Tell us the state perspective and state news. As a rep. you can host MPLA activities at your state conferences. As a section chair, do whatever you can to represent your section. Put forward programs for the conferences. This brings outside perspective to the conference. Committees have specific duties. They have a task, do it and move on. Everyone needs to recruit, recruit, recruit. Board members need to 1. Attend. 2. Give reports. And 3. Recruit.

The board meetings are in Denver at the Adam's Mark hotel. There are fun places to visit close to the hotel. Walgreen's is nearby, there is a movie theater across the street, the 16th street mall is next to the hotel which is a walking mall of shops and restaurants. The mall

has a free shuttle which you can ride down to Larimar Square which is another location for shops and restaurants.

Another feature of being a board member is the Board Choice Award. This is used as a member development tool. A board member recognizes the potential in a librarian in their state for leadership qualities and involvement in MPLA. They then communicate who the person is and why they were chosen. The award winner will receive a membership and will be featured in the newsletter.

3. General Reports

- President's Report. Linda Rea wanted to clarify who is a voting member of the board. The officers, state representatives, and section chairs are the voting members. Committee chairs are not. She explained that we are not strict parliamentarians, but we conduct things as well as possible according to Robert's rules. She is still looking for some committee members. If members have suggestions, let her know. There needs to be a committee to revise the conference handbook. Debbie Iverson will help by putting down comments as she uses the handbook for the upcoming conference. Some committee chairs will be asked to attend the April and August meetings.
- Vice-President's Report. Debbie Iverson reported that she will do most communication electronically and would like to establish a guideline on the speed of replies. It was believed that a 24-hour turn around time was too short. 48 hours would work for most with exceptions. If it is an important issue, Debbie urged people to answer as soon as possible. If we're not getting a response, a phone call may be necessary. Debbie has started communication with the Arizona conference people and will go to Phoenix next week to meet with them. The time-frame for conference proposals is March 2, 2001. There are forms on the web-site, www.azla.org to make a proposal. People need to reach Arizona counterparts to cosponsor programs. This date will come fast, so section chairs need to get moving. Debbie requested people to give her information/questions to take to Arizona. There was mention of money for some programs. The seed money for the conference was discussed. MPLA puts the same amount of seed money in as the host state does. Joe Edelen encouraged to stress that when the money comes in, the seed money needs to be given back to both groups.
- Executive Secretary/Financial Report. Joe Edelen handed out the new officer's directory and asked for any mistakes to be pointed out to him. He explained that the board is all on the listserv, www.mpla-ex@usd.edu. He encouraged members to make sure your institution is an institutional member of MPLA. If a board member did not receive their leather folders from previous officers, let him know and he'll help get them. Joe encouraged people to make their Board Choice Award soon as it is a calendar year award. He encouraged the state representatives to give out the 10 free memberships that are allowed each year. He also explained there is a booth that travels to each state for their conferences.

Joe explained that the travel reimbursement policy (page 2.3 in manual). The Association does not pay for conferences or for the first meeting as an officer. As

state representatives, you should get support from your state associations. After the first meeting, travel and room can be covered by the association if needed.

If anyone needs letterhead or envelopes, let Joe know and he'll send some to you. He would like everyone to submit reports both in paper and electronically. The reports are posted on the web-site. He thought the idea of digital photographs of the board members was a good one and will bring a camera to the next meeting.

Joe explained that we normally meet here and told about an easy way to get to the Adam's Mark from the airport, taking a city bus for \$6 from gate 5, island 3 straight to the area.

Joe handed out the budget and financial report. He pointed out that membership is up a little, which is good, but recruitment is always important.

- Newsletter Editor. Joe Edelen made the report for Heidi Nickisch Duggan. The October issue is about to be mailed out. Heidi had suggested that there be a combined October/December issue, but Joe said it would be better to have separate issues. The December issue should follow closely after the October and then, hopefully, the February issue will be timely. Heidi will be leaving the position as newsletter editor.

4. Business

- Omaha Conference Report - Paul Hoffman reported that the final report hasn't been submitted yet because not all of the bills have been turned in yet. It was a well-thought of conference, although the facility was criticized. Attendance was very good, Tri- conference registration, 707; pre-conference only, 16; post-conference only, 151; exhibit representatives, 135; WHCLIST, 35; making the grand total, 1044.
- Refine Vision Statement of LRP - Donna Morris Jones passed out a visioning form for members to think about and make comments on. It is time to think about the organization as a whole for the Vision Statement.

Who should be involved? The Executive Secretary, the board, anyone else? What benefits do we want people to derive from MPLA and what results do we want? How will this help this person when he goes back to his job? The Vision needs to be practical.

A lively discussion ensued over who should be involved. Should it include schools or trustees? It was suggested that the Children's and School section officially change their name to Youth and Young Adult services to include a broader spectrum. Donna pointed out that we are looking for a universal who.

A lively discussion ensued over the inclusion of para-professionals and staff members. A side bet for \$1000 between Ara Anderson and Joe Edelen over whether conferences or parts of conferences will be electronic in the future was made.

Ultimately the who came down to librarians (including all types, staff and students) and the state library associations. The benefits were identified as continuing education (including conferences and other learning opportunities), networking, and great conferences. The results were defined as better service to library users and more informed decisions. There was a debate over the results, but all pretty much agree on better services to users and to a lesser degree, more informed decisions. A group was formed to put these together to form a Vision Statement.

Several versions of a statement were created:

- MPLA members, through learning experiences and collegial opportunities, will provide enhanced library services.
- MPLA will provide librarians (the library community, its members) with learning experiences and collegial opportunities resulting in enhanced library services.
- The people of the MPLA region thrive with enhanced library services.
- MPLA will deliver enhanced services to the public through the educational experiences and collegial opportunities provided to its members.
- MPLA will thrive (be more focused and effective) by the delivery of quality learning and collegial opportunities that result in more effective librarians and enhance library services.

It became obvious that a solution would take longer than the time we had, so a committee of Joe McKenzie, Debbie Iverson, Paula Duffy, and Patti Butcher was formed to work out various choices for the Vision Statement and present them to the board through e-mail before the April meeting. Board members will be expected to react to the choices back to the committee.

- PNLA Joint Conference - Linda Deacy reported that the last joint conference only had 32 PNLA attendees. PNLA's membership is dropping. There was a disastrous conference in Seattle in 1997. They are trying to turn this around. Oregon was going to leave the association, but has decided to stay. Another problem with having PNLA join the Nevada/MPLA conference is that the Public Library Association will have a joint conference with the Canadian Library Association in Seattle only a few months after the NLA/MPLA conference. WHCLIST has shown an interest in joining the NLA/MPLA conference.

This issue came up a couple of years ago when PNLA was trying to regroup. Brian Greene went to a conference to see how they worked. At the Montana conference we were approached to see if PNLA could participate in a joint conference. The upcoming Nevada conference was the most convenient. It was suggested to not include PNLA, but to offer member rates to the NLA/MPLA conference to members of PNLA and the California Library Association as a

courtesy. Joe Edelen thinks this is a good idea, but also believes that MPLA should start to look at Idaho as a possible member state.

Marilyn Hinshaw moved to offer member rates to WHCLIST, NCLIS, neighboring states and PNLA for the Nevada Conference. Brian Greene seconded. After discussion it was decided to amend the motion to take out WHCLIST and NCLIS and ask if they want to have their conferences at the same time as the Nevada conference. The motion, as amended, carried.

Linda Rea thanked Linda Deacy for a great job. It was suggested that Joe target Idaho before the conference.

- Newsletter Editor Search - We will be looking for a new editor by June. We should contact our membership and tell people there will be this opening. Heidi Nickisch Duggan has resigned and Joe suggested to her to finish her year in the best way she can. Marilyn Hinshaw said that Heidi was told she needed to do things in a timely fashion and she doesn't seem to have the time to do everything, so we will need a new editor. Linda Deacy mentioned going to the web-site to find the article dead-lines for the newsletter, but couldn't find any. Hopefully the October and December newsletters will be out soon.
 - Historian Committee - Is there an Historian Committee? Roann Masterson established the committee, but no one has ever done anything about it. Individual section chairs and officers can send things to the archives located at the Denver Public Library if they wish. Debbie Iverson pointed out that there isn't much historical or statistical information about MPLA on the web-site. We need information about who we are and how many members there are, etc. there were some historical issues of newsletters that can have the information extracted to put a history on the site.
 - Child Internet Protection Act - Debbie Iverson brought up that as this law will affect several of our member libraries, we should take an official stand on the issue. Brian Greene wasn't sure what we could do at this point. Debbie suggested supporting the groups, like the ACLU, opposing the law. Linda Rea agreed that we should voice our opinion, but was not sure how. It was decided to pass this onto the Intellectual Freedom Committee and ask them to give us a report by the April meeting.
5. Long Range Plan Update/Reports.

There needs to be a chair and committee formed for the Long Range Plan to make sure actions are taken by deadlines. Volunteers were requested. Debbie Iverson believes we can make that part of our board meeting agendas, and yes, the various groups should include items in their reports concerning the plan, but we do need a watchdog group to oversee things. Marilyn Hinshaw volunteered to be the chair. Suzanne Taylor agreed to be on the committee. Another member will be determined later. Joe Edelen pointed out that some of the items needed to be specifically assigned to certain groups. Linda Rea agreed and said that she was working on that.

6. Joint or Tri-Conference Updates/Reports
 - 2001 - Arizona. Debbie Iverson is meeting with the Arizona committee on Monday and things will get moving more rapidly after that. Jane Kolbe reported that people are excited about the joint conference. The question of the amount of seed money came up again. It appears that it might be rather high for this conference, but we need to match the dollars Arizona is putting in, whatever that may be. Marilyn Hinshaw suggested that we decide a percentage of the seed money, depending on how many MPLA members would go. Joe Edelen said that we should go half and half with the state. It is seed money that comes back to us after income starts coming in. They are looking for some evening programming to occupy the out-of-state visitors. Brian Greene suggested a program about how people bring back information to their libraries from conferences.
 - 2002 - North Dakota. Melody Kuehn reported that the conference will take place at the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo, North Dakota. They are looking to include a tie to the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial celebration.
 - 2003 - Nevada. Linda Deacy reported earlier about the conference. The Nevada association will meet in a few weeks and appoint a conference chair.
7. Committee Reports
 - Finance - 2001 Budget. Some of the line items have been adjusted to meet certain needs. Last year the executive board spent a great deal of money because of the Long Range planning. There was a need to increase that amount for the next year to accommodate more travel, etc. Betty Dance mentioned that the Academic Section wants to increase the Professional Forum money from \$100 to \$300. That can be included in the section money line item. The NDLA president goes to the Arizona conference out of the Executive board money. Marilyn Hinshaw moved to approve the 2001 budget, Melody Kuehn seconded. The motion carried.
8. Section and Interest Group Reports
 - Academic - They will be contacting their Arizona counterparts for programming for the upcoming conference. They are working to get the Professional Forum restored and hope to get the information out to various state newsletters. It was asked if Arizona had a similar Forum, but that wasn't known at this time. It was suggested to also publicize the Forum at the library schools in the member states.
 - Children and School - The evaluations for the Omaha conference sessions were included in the report. They were great, the rooms for youth/child sessions are always filled. They are looking at programs for the next conference.
 - Government Documents - They are working with Arizona for potential programs.
 - Preservation, Archives and Special Collections B They are also working on programs for the Arizona conference.
 - Public Library and Trustees - The section is working with the Electronic Communications Committee on putting out a quick and easy survey about pertinent issues for public libraries like the North Suburban Library system in Illinois does. It would be put on our web-site.
 - State Agencies, Cooperatives and Systems - The programs at the Omaha conference were good and they have ideas for programs at the Arizona conference. There was a problem with their business meeting conflicting with other meetings and hope that doesn't happen again.

- Technical Services - They sent a mailing out to members and tried to point out the Long Range Plan and solicit programming ideas for the Arizona conference.
9. State Reports
- Arizona - Jane Kolbe reported that they had just finished their state conference and will now gear up for the joint conference. They now have a new dean of the Library School.
 - Colorado - There is a new president of CLA and another new executive director. Legislative day is in March. Last year the legislature passed a bill allowing for a large funding for school library materials. Those funds have been dispersed.
 - Kansas - The Kansas Tri-conference will be April 4-6 in Topeka.
 - Montana - The MLA has been trying to get a representative on the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee. They have a person involved, but they are not officially part of the committee yet. They have written a job description and goals and objectives for the Montana representative.
 - Nevada - The NLA has decided to track UCITA which deals with copyright in electronic publications. Much of the >fair use= of copyright as we know it, is not international, causing problems with the information on the Internet. The NLA has a law librarian tracking the issue. The Secretary of State and the Attorney General have both come out against it.
 - New Mexico - Charlene Greenwood announced that New Mexico has been rated 5th in the nation in visits to public libraries. The task force for school libraries has made some progress, but right now there is no one in that position. There is a new president of the association.
 - North Dakota - Melody Kuehn announced her Board Choice award goes to Pam Dressen. The NDLA is highlighting each library director in their newsletter each issue.
 - Oklahoma - They are hopeful to be able to increase funding for electronic databases. They are working to keep filtering issues to a minimum. There is a new director of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries. There is a concern about recruitment problems, getting qualified people into positions in Oklahoma.
 - South Dakota - They are having a ALove your Librarian@ program on Valentine's Day.
 - Utah - There is a new library complex in Salt Lake City. It will double the present capacity. The Salt Lake Community College will start a program for library paraprofessionals in which they will receive a certificate.
 - Wyoming - The 2001 WLA conference will be in Cody, Sept. 26-29th.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Thompson
Recording Secretary
January 19, 2001