

MPLA Board meeting July 14, 2006

Attendees: Beth Avery, Sandy Barstow, Shirley Condit, Betty Dance, Sally Dockter, Annie Epperson, Rosario Garza, Carol Hammond, Wayne Hanway, Marilyn Hinshaw, JaNae Kiniken, Richard Landreth, Nina Little, Susan Moyer, Valerie Nye, Sharon Osenga, Barbara Ray, Robert Shupe, Colleen Smith, Susan Spicer, Eileen Wright, Judy Zelenski.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and mentioned a favorite book:

- o Sharon Osenga -- Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen.
- o Wayne Hanway – A Soldier’s Story, by Omar Bradley.
- o Carol Hammond - The Lions of Al-Rassan, by Guy Gavriel Kay.
- o Marilyn Hinshaw – Dune, by Frank Herbert.
- o Barbara Ray -- Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie, by David Lubar.
- o Sandy Barstow – Mog and Bunny, by Judith Kerr.
- o Shirley Condit – To Say Nothing of the Dog, by Connie Willis.
- o Eileen Wright – The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, by Stephen R. Donaldson.
- o Rosario Garza – Midnight at the Well of Souls, by Jack Chalker.
- o Annie Epperson – The Time Travelers Wife, by Audrey Niffenegger.
- o Judy Zelenski -- The 13 Clocks, by James Thurber.
- o Susan Moyer --These Golden Years.
- o Richard Landreth -- Funk Books.
- o Valerie Nye – The Dogs of Bedlam Farm, by Jon Katz.
- o Sally Dockter – The Beast in the Garden, by David Baron.
- o JaNae Kinikin – A Town like Alice, by Nevil Shute.
- o Betty Dance – Warriors Do Not Cry, by Melba Beals.
- o Colleen Smith -- Three Billy Goats Gruff, by Janet Stevens.
- o Beth Avery -- Night Flight
- o Nina Little -- Kite Runner, by Khaled Hosseini.
- o Susan Spicer – Twilight, by Stephanie Myerson.

Announcements – The agenda was reorganized, so Wayne will have enough time for the long-range planning exercise. Lunch will be social rather than a working lunch. The Leadership Institute report will be earlier on the agenda than where it is listed.

Approval of minutes from Feb 22 meeting. There was one correction, the spelling of JaNae Kinikin’s name. Rosario Garza moved, and Richard Landreth seconded, that the minutes be accepted as amended. Approved unanimously.

Sharon mentioned that the draft minutes of today’s meeting will be on MPLA-EX within two weeks after the meeting and we will approve them via e-mail before the next meeting.

2. Officers and Paid Staff Reports (only those with discussions/actions are included in these minutes)

Wayne -- conference report. Val Nye was chair of the interim task force planning the Albuquerque conference. This task force completed its work in April. NMLA local arrangements committee is up and running. Program committee is gearing up, with co-chairs Louise Bolton representing NMLA and Wayne representing MPLA. Assignment for the MPLA board members – think about speakers and programs and give suggestions to Wayne in the next 6 weeks. Opening reception may have Louis Lamour family members speaking on Wed night. Need a keynote speaker on Thursday. We want speakers with broad appeal and marquee value. MPLA's policy is that speaker expenses are not reimbursed if the speaker is employed in a library in the MPLA region or if the speaker is a library vendor (which includes speakers from ALA). For other speakers, expenses are considered on a case-by-case basis, and honoraria are limited and subject to negotiation, unless paid by a sponsor. Reimbursement of travel expenses depends in part on the host state. New Mexico has a limited amount but the NMLA academic section may sponsor the keynote speaker. Random House is sponsoring the Lamour event. The conference will be held March 14 through 16 in Albuquerque. There will be a board meeting on Wednesday, March 14th. There is a conference website already up, at <http://www.nmla.org/abq2007/home.htm>. The theme is "Libraries: Launching the Future."

Long Range Plan Update -Wayne handed out a handout describing the work for the board members to do in small groups. The instructions were as follows: Each group will work on one goal for up to half an hour and come up with ideas to get the plan up to date. Wayne hands out the goals to the groups. We need to take out what is done and look at objectives and decide what needs to be done about them now. Each group will have a flip chart and a recorder and each group will have a report for the whole group.

The exercise began at 9:40 a.m. The small group discussions took longer than anticipated, so the small groups spent 90 minutes in their groups. The action item is that Wayne will synthesize the discussion notes, write a draft, send it to the board (to Beth and Sharon first), and we will vote on accepting the revised plan.

Meeting resumed at 11:10AM

Sharon's report -- Brainstorming fundraising ideas. Susan Spicer recorded suggestions on a flip chart (I did not copy them for the minutes). Board members were asked to send suggestions to Sharon if we think of them later.

MPLA merchandise -- Judy wants us to buy shirts for \$5 each (these were tee shirts and polo shirts left over from the 50th anniversary celebration of MPLA in 1998). Free tote bags were also available.

Audit – we had a formal audit done when Judy took over. It was moved by Marilyn Hinshaw and seconded by Rosario Garza, that we accept the audit. Discussion – audit

was clean. There was a recommendation to reconcile checking account monthly. Vote was unanimous to accept the audit. Judy will make sure the audit report goes to the archives.

ALA Emerging Leaders Program. There was a letter from Leslie Berger, incoming president of the American Library Association. They want MPLA to support sponsoring someone for the program. Berger suggests a \$500 stipend for each person for midwinter and annual conference 2007. There was some discussion in AASL about an age restriction but Berger had removed that stipulation in the final letter we received. Carol spoke against financially supporting this program because we are already committing substantial support for our own leadership institute to benefit our region, and because MPLA has serious budget constraints in a year when we have no conference income. Marilyn said MPLA is multi-state so we wouldn't have direct benefit. Barbara Ray moved we write a letter to respond negatively but diplomatically. Robert Shupe seconded. Sharon will write letter. Unanimously approved this action.

Nebraska invitation for 2012 conference. . Would MPLA be interested in a four organization conference? It would cut our share of profits but it would bring more people to the conference. Net revenue might actually be higher. Rosario said the Iowa Conference is very well attended Carol said "the more the merrier." The conference will be in Omaha, not in Iowa. Motion to accept the Nebraska conference invitation offer was made by Carol, Robert seconded. Unanimously accepted.

As a separate item, Robert moved that we support the Nebraska effort to explore having Iowa in the conference, on condition that we don't take a financial loss as a result. Wayne seconded. Under discussion, Rosario pointed out that the conference will be a big draw for vendors which will increase revenues. A unanimous approval vote resulted.

Announcements from Sharon. Unsung Heroes taskforce did not make a report for this board meeting. There was a letter from the Utah Lib Association thanking MPLA for the \$500 grant for the pre-conference for disaster preparedness.

Thanking long term MPLA members -- Individuals could be recognized with MPLA pins. Institutional members could receive a certificate of thanks. Judy will create them. This would be a mailing for the certificates, and the people can pick up pins at the Albuquerque conference or they could be presented at the various state conferences in 2007. The state representatives could deal with the state organizations. Motion from Carol Hammond moved that long time institutional members (those who have been in MPLA over 25 years) be acknowledged with a certificate to be sent to the Director along with a letter from the MPLA President, and an article in the MPLA Newsletter where they will be listed. Judy Z will design an appropriate certificate and assure this appears in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Annie Epperson. The board unanimously approved this motion.

There was a separate motion to acknowledge individual members. Carol moved that individuals who have been members of MPLA for 15 years or longer be acknowledged

though awarding them an MPLA pin, which will be presented to them by the MPLA state representative in each state, at the appropriate event during each state conference. They will also be acknowledged in the MPLA newsletter. Annie seconded this motion. Nina had question about accuracy of the records. Judy has heard from some people. We should take their word for it if they tell us. Contact Judy if the MemberClicks info is incorrect. This motion was unanimously approved.

Marilyn brought up the question of whether the founding states should have a plaque. Rosario mentioned the 1984 conference where there was a recognition ceremony for the founding states. She thinks there is already a plaque for those states. Maybe we could do something in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of MPLA.

Wayne talked about how to deal with awards at the next conference. Maybe have an MPLA awards luncheon. Barbara asked about an evening reception instead of a lunch, or an Awards breakfast? Carol thinks Wayne should negotiate with New Mexico about a time for an MPLA awards ceremony. Robert and others think we should have a combined award ceremony, as there would be more exposure for MPLA.

The board broke for lunch at 12:30.

The board reconvened at 1:05.

Judy passed around a signup sheet where we indicate if we have an MPLA satchel or not. The documentation from the satchels needs to be archived occasionally.

Leadership Institute -- Marilyn talked about the fact that to be considered the applicant must belong to their state library association. We looked at the data about this year's leadership institute. Valerie and Eileen commented on the value of the Ghost Ranch experience to them. Marilyn talked about expanding the mentors (and participants) to include someone with a school library focus. She also talked about fundraising for the leadership institute. It is difficult to get outside funding. Perhaps getting donations from organizations in the member states would work. MPLA could allocate slots in the institute in exchange for a donation. Budget for the institute is about \$37,000 each year. The registration fee could be raised. Long term we need to decide if it's a program we want to continue to offer. Sharon said we would like to have testimonials from participants on the Website for the Institute.

Beth declared Executive Session at 1:43 p.m. The topics discussed included the evaluation of the interim executive secretary's performance, consideration of renewal of the interim executive secretary's contract, and the amendment of the budget. We came out of executive session at 2:04 p.m.

Beth thanked Betty for the bylaws work. If there are comments, send them to Betty.

Judy – Executive Secretary talked about how the Electronic Communities work with Member Clicks. She also explained some of the general features of MemberClicks. There

are listing and searching capabilities we can use. The main way for the Electronic Communities to communicate is through the E-List. Institutional firewalls sometimes cause some attachments to fail to be delivered to some participants. There are some glitches but Judy does not think we should give up on the E List yet. Speaking as Newsletter editor, Judy is going to try to generate some activity on the E-lists through the newsletter. She is also trying to make the format look less ponderous. The newsletter is our major way of keeping MPLA connected with the members. Judy thinks we should continue to offer a print newsletter. She is suggesting we make the newsletter larger and increase advertising. The newsletter is going to have more information about people and regional issues.

Conference phone meeting cost \$114 last time, versus \$4600 for an in-person conference.

Carol Hammond – Steward: Transition update. Carol stated that her goal is to put herself out of business. One piece still needing discussion is the training piece, related to helping people deal with running meetings effectively in the new technology. Who needs training, what do they need, how to offer it? The other piece is a members-only piece on the website. Sharon mentioned that we thought at the time that we might need to provide training for the moderators of the electronic communities. Carol talked about the difficulties of getting the members involved in the online discussions. She thinks the moderators should pose interesting topics and set up some people to respond to the topics. Maybe we need to train the members, not the moderators. Carol will send an e-mail to everybody to explain how the electronic communities are supposed to work. Wayne said the communities need to be working on program ideas for the conference, over the next six weeks to two months. Carol thinks her work will be done by October.

3. Committee Reports

By-Laws and Procedures – A thorough page by page review of sections 2-5 of the Manual of Procedure was done in the Administration Committee on July 13th. Betty would like any MOP changes by the end of July. She will then post a new draft for us to read.

Membership -- JaNae reported that the Membership Committee is working on a new flyer for the committee to put out. We will have a stylized black and white flyer on colored paper as a stopgap measure. She hopes to have them ready by the end of July. They can be handed out at state conferences this summer and fall. When she has the digital copy, people can print out copies.

4. State Representatives.

Susan Moyer distributed the first draft of the state representative planning calendar. She asked if the information in the draft is correct and what is missing on the draft. Sharon said that some activities don't always occur in the month in which they may be listed. For example, the board meetings aren't on a set schedule because they are phone meetings

and we are in a transitional year. It was decided to move forward on the calendar with an ad hoc group consisting of Susan, Wayne, Richard, Val and Nina. Wayne will coordinate.

5. Final Announcements. None were recorded.
6. Next Board Meeting Date

Next meeting will be telephone conference call at 1 p.m. Mountain time on October 19, 2006. There will be another telephone meeting in January 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Barstow, Recording Secretary