

Minutes of the MPLA Executive Board Meeting
Saturday, September 21, 1996
Adam's Mark Hotel, Denver, CO

Attendance: Judy Zelenski, President; Carol Connor, Vice-President; Cynthia Berner, Recording Secretary; Blaine Hall, Immediate Past-President, Finance Committee Chair and Chair of the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Committee; Joe Edelen, Executive Secretary; Carol Hammond, Arizona State Representative; Susan Awe, Colorado State Representative; Avis Anderson, Montana State Representative; Bob Trautwein, Nebraska State Representative; Roann Masterson, North Dakota State Representative and Parliamentarian; Peggy Cook, Oklahoma State Representative; Mary Caspers-Graper, South Dakota State Representative; Lori Andreason, Utah State Representative; Juanita Karr, Academic Section and Chapter Relations Chair; Donna Gilliland, Children's and School Section Chair; Paula Duffy, Government Documents Section Chair; Sally Dockter, New Members Roundtable Chair; Roseanne B.D. Bory, Preservation, Archives and Special Collections Section Chair; Linda Rea, Public Library & Trustees Section Chair; Dorothy Liegl, State Agencies, Cooperatives & Systems Section Chair; Jean Anderson, Technical Services Section Chair; Heidi Nickisch, Newsletter Editor; Diane Lunde, Awards Committee Chair; Heather McNeil, Intellectual Freedom Committee Chair; Marcia Wright, Public Relations/Membership Committee Chair; and Kathleen Todd, Oklahoma Library Association Conference Planning Committee.

The meeting was called to order by Judy Zelenski. After introductions of those present, a list of board members was passed around for updates and corrections. There were no additions to the published agenda. Carol Connor moved that the minutes of the April 12, 1996, meeting in Wichita be approved as printed. Blaine Hall seconded the motion which carried.

Joe Edelen presented a membership and financial update. There have been some problems establishing a new money market account. The center column of the membership statistics report should read 9/15/96 rather than 6/15/96. Joe clarified that members not renewing by the end of April are dropped from the membership list, resulting in lower numbers of members than at the last meeting.

Roseanne Bory reported for the Preservation, Archives & Special Collections Section, previously named the Preservation Section. The Colorado Preservation Alliance and the Preservation Section of the Colorado Library Association are planning to sponsor a workshop on disaster preparedness in late May or early June. Roseanne moved that the MPLA

Preservation, Archives & Special Collections Section be authorized to co-sponsor this workshop. There will be no expense to the association. Blaine seconded the motion which carried. Roseanne also referred those present to the revised bylaws of the section. These include the new name of the section and a few editorial corrections. The revisions have been reviewed by the MPLA Bylaws and Procedures Committee and have been favorably voted upon by the section's members. Linda Rea moved that the bylaws be approved as presented. Mary Caspers-Graper seconded the motion which carried. Roseanne was asked to send a copy of the bylaws to Dana Boden so that the Bylaws Committee can prepare updates for the Board's Manual of Procedures.

Peggy Cook and Kathleen Todd reported on the upcoming conference with the Oklahoma Library Association. Peggy has a video about Shangri-La which she will loan to state representatives for presentation at state association meetings. Printed information on the resort was distributed. The first issue for action involved attendance of candidates for ALA president at conferences. OLA has a policy which provides travel expenses for speakers, but pays no expenses for ALA candidates. Several board members expressed support for this sort of arrangement, while others suggested that if candidates also present program sessions, then they should perhaps fall under reimbursement policies for program presenters. Judy read from the minutes of the Board's April 10, 1996 meeting where inviting candidates to conferences was addressed but without mention of policies for reimbursement. After considerable additional discussion, Carol Connor moved that MPLA propose to the Oklahoma Library Association that candidates for ALA president be invited to the MPLA/OLA conference and that no reimbursement other than payment of conference registration and a ticket to the main banquet be provided. Linda Rea seconded the motion. Judy clarified that the wording of this motion indicates that this policy is applicable only to the upcoming conference. Blaine suggested that it would be appropriate to adopt this as the official MPLA policy with the understanding that this can be negotiated as part of the conference contracts if an individual state association has concerns about it. Carol and Linda agreed to amend the original motion to state that MPLA invite candidates for ALA president to annual conferences and that no reimbursement other than payment of conference registration and a ticket to the main banquet be provided. The motion carried.

In other information about the conference, Peggy and Kathleen reported that room rates have been guaranteed at \$89 for a double room and \$119 for a suite for 6-8 people. There will be an exhibit opening and an anniversary celebration for OLA on Wednesday evening. The opening general session is a no conflict time on Thursday morning. Luncheons and other

meals may be included in the registration. There will be an awards banquet on Friday evening and the conference wrap-up sessions on Saturday morning. Kathleen distributed program planning forms and encouraged board members to complete and return the forms as quickly as possible. Forms are needed for all program and meeting sessions. Among the programs already being planned are a Dewey 21 preconference led by Arlene Taylor, a Peter Herson preconference on library evaluation, and a post-conference to be held in Tulsa. Joanna Hurwitz, Jonathan Wallace, Julie Tedaro and Ann Symons will be among the program presenters. Program sessions will include the Sequoia Children's Choice Award samplers, ergonomics in the library, programming and library services for home schoolers, Oklahoma authors, outsourcing featuring a panel of vendors and librarians, and a panel including Lee Brawner speaking on crisis management for libraries. The conference theme is "On the Frontier". Among those being considered for the keynote address are Clifford Stahl, Molly Ivans, Stephen Covey, Mary Higgins Clark, Calvin Trillin, Isabel Allende, and Baxter Black. All have expensive speaking fees. Linda Rea and Bob Trautwein suggested Robert Manley, previously from Nebraska and now from Kansas. Joe Edelen suggested Heather McNeil. In addition to traditional conference sessions, there may be golf tournaments, spa packages, bus tours to Wool-a-roc, Tulsa, Grove or Harbor Village, hayrides, horseback riding, or fishing. Blaine expressed interest in organized evening activities. Judy reported that it is the custom of the board to approve fees for registration and exhibits. The conference planning committee does not yet have a budget, but will need to have these fees in place before the next MPLA board meeting. Carol Connor moved that the Executive Committee be authorized to approve registration and exhibit fees when proposed by OLA. Dorothy Liegl seconded the motion which carried.

At this point, the agenda order was amended to allow for a presentation by Marcia Wright, Public Relations/Membership Committee Chair. Marcia reminded state representatives that they need to be working for memberships. More personal contacts and follow-up after dues are paid is needed, as well as more visibility at state conferences. Joe currently sends packets including membership directories to new members. Marcia distributed lists of contacts in each large library in the MPLA region. Membership packets were also distributed. Joe asked about the importance of packets for renewing members. The consensus of the board was that there should be some acknowledgment. Use of post-it notes was suggested, particularly for members renewing during the first few months of each year. It was also the consensus that new members should continue receiving membership directories.

Following Marcia's presentation, discussion returned to the upcoming

MPLA/OLA conference. OLA does not believe that seed money is needed at this time. In case it is needed before the next meeting, Carol Connor moved that the Board authorize up to \$500 in seed money for the conference if it is needed. Mary Caspers-Graper seconded the motion which carried. Judy reminded the board that program submissions are proposals only and not commitments until they are approved by the program planning committee. Blaine asked if there was a schedule for information to be supplied for the pre-conference newsletter and the conference program. This will be decided soon. Joe noted that some consensus is needed about the mailing list for the pre-conference newsletter issue. Last year, the MPLA mailing replaced any separate mailing by the Kansas Association. Traditionally, MPLA mails the preconference newsletter to about 7,000. MPLA pays for member's copies (approximately 1300 copies) and the conference pays for the rest. Judy asked Joe to meet with Kathleen, Peggy, Carol and Heidi to discuss the preconference mailings.

Blaine Hall presented a preliminary budget proposal for 1997. A final proposal will be presented at the next meeting. The \$5,000 of proposed conference income is an estimate. Newsletter receipts include paid subscriptions and advertising revenues. Expenses for conference programs are included in the conference budget rather than the association's budget. The budget for professional development grants remains at \$6,000 although only \$1,200 has been spent to date. Joe Edelen suggested reducing the line for organizational dues to \$100. The jobline is being moved from AT&T to Sprint. When completed this will reduce costs from 27 cents to 16 cents a minute. Joe also suggested that the printing line be reduced to \$2,000. Heidi Nickisch would like the board to consider expanding the size of the newsletter. The change in paper has reduced production costs. Judy Zelenski asked Heidi to research the cost of expanding the newsletter. Judy also asked Blaine to post a notice to the listserv asking for further input on the budget. Mary Caspers-Graper asked about the dues increase. Joe replied that it is already in effect and has been essentially revenue-neutral.

Joe Edelen reported for the electronic communications committee. MPLA-L is open to all association members. Heidi suggested the creation of MPLA-EX for use by board members. Joe sends hard copies of all MPLA-EX postings to members not on e-mail. A home page has been tentatively developed, but has not yet been put up on the Net. This will be done by the end of the year. Judy thanked Joe and Brian Greene for their efforts in broadening communication and access to association information.

Heidi Nickisch thanked board members for comments and suggestions about the newsletter. There are some problems with the current printer so she

will be looking into possibilities with other contractors. A quality product and vendor assistance will be the primary reasons for making this change rather than trying for cost savings. Newsletters are currently limited to 16 pages. There is more information which could be included if the format were expanded by 4 pages. It was the consensus of the board that the newsletter length be flexible and based on need. Heidi reminded board members that the next deadline for submissions is October 1. She will use some narrative from the state representative reports in this issue. Blaine Hall recommended that section chairs use the newsletter as a way to generate support and interest for their constituencies. Board members voiced strong support for the changes Heidi has made to the newsletter format and thanked her for her hard work.

Carol Connor reported that Ann Symons has asked for input on "Questions and Answers: Access to Electronic Information, Services and Networks: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights". This is an information item only with no action needed.

Blaine Hall reported for the 50th anniversary commemoration committee. He has asked Jerry Kaup, Connie Lamb and Ronelle Thompson to serve with him on the committee. They will be generating ideas to make the anniversary a significant event at the 1998 Utah Conference. Blaine asked the board for suggestions for activities. He mentioned contacting all past presidents as one possible idea. Other ideas mentioned by board members included dressing people for the different decades, finding contacts in state associations which have held similar events in recent years, checking the archives for milestones in MPLA history, for titles of former conferences and as possible display materials, doing a series of newsletter articles in the year leading to the commemoration, and interviewing and recognizing long-time association members.

Carol Connor reported that the ALA Chapter Relations Committee is recruiting members for the Executive Director Search Committee. Carol would like suggestions if not a definite nomination from MPLA. Betty Gard and Juanita Karr have discussed nominating Ethelle Bean from South Dakota but Joe Edelen verified that she is not an association member. Juanita, Betty, Linda Rea and Carol Connor all have time constraints which would prevent their participation. Blaine Hall declined to be nominated, but suggested Joe Edelen as a nominee representing MPLA states. Carol second the motion which carried.

All section and roundtable information was distributed in written reports.

Juanita Karr reminded board members that MPLA holds caucuses at ALA

midwinter and annual conferences. She encouraged chapter representatives to remind state councilors about those meetings.

Mary Caspers-Graper announced that Colleen Kirby from Spearfish will begin her term as the South Dakota State Representative in October.

Carol Hammond announced that the Arizona Library Association's home page is up. A link to MPLA will be added when our page is available.

Judy Zelenski announced that the next board meeting will be on January 25, 1997. Joe has reservations for the board at the Comfort Inn.

Judy asked Joe for final thoughts about things which had come up during the meeting. One topic was the relationship between the listserv and the jobline. Blaine suggested a summary in the listserv referring members to the jobline for the full-text of job announcements. On the other hand, it is less expensive to have listings on the Internet rather than on the 800 line. Joe reminded board members to take conference letterhead from the distribution table. He also reminded board members to keep portfolios up dated for easy transfer to successors.

Roann Masterson pointed out copies of the North Dakota Library Association conference program. Susan Awe asked about the role of state representatives in promoting Professional Development Grants, and the possibility of grants for group projects. Blaine and Joe explained that while group projects have been funded in the past, it would be better to bring projects of this type directly to the board rather than to the grants committee.

Dorothy Liegl announced that the Library Services and Technology Act is stuck in a careers bill. There is movement to try to pull LSTA out into a new piece of legislation known as "Careers Lite". She encouraged the board to contact members of Congress and urge their support for this initiative. Dorothy also distributed brochures about the National Film & Video Market. Judy asked Dorothy to post information about both items on the listserv.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Cynthia Berner
Recording Secretary