

**MPLA Executive Board Meeting
October 16, 2017
1 – 5 p.m. Pacific Time
Zephyr Cove Library, Stateline, NV**

PRESENT			
Name	MPLA Position	Name	MPLA Position
Mickey Coalwell	President	Mary Soucie	Leadership Institute Chair
Eric Stroshane	Past President /Admin Chair	Jake Rundle	Membership Committee Chair, NE State Rep
Annie Epperson	Recently Appointed President-Elect	Dale Savage	AZ State Rep
Melissa Clark	Recently Resigned President-Elect	Rachel Rawn	MT State Rep
Leslie Langley	Newly Elected President-Elect	Paulette Nelson	ND State Rep
Kris Johnson	Recording Secretary	Bradley Carrington	NM State Rep
Judy Zelenski	Executive Secretary	Luise Davis	NV State Rep
Aubrey Madler	Leadership Institute Coordinator	Tim Miller	OK State Rep
Roy Degler	Webmaster	Brenda Hemmelman	SD State Rep
Ellen Fockler	Awards Chair	Sam Passey	UT State Rep
Frances Brummett	By Laws & Procedures Chair	Cindy Moore	WY State Rep

Action Items Resulting from this Meeting

- **Zelenski** will communicate with Carrington related to advice about organizing a conference and avoiding pitfalls.
- **Epperson** will add an agenda item to a future board meeting to further discuss the joint membership program for MLIS students between ALA and state associations.
- **Soucie** and the **Leadership Institute Committee** will organize and deploy on online Facebook auction to raise money for the 2018 Leadership Institute. The auction will take place February 2018.

Welcome and Call to Order

- Welcome: President Coalwell called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm PDT after relocating from the Hard Rock Hotel to the Zephyr Cove Branch of the Douglas County Libraries District, Nevada.
- Coalwell noted he would be following an informal agenda structure for his last full meeting as President, using spontaneity to make use of the board’s time together in a constructive way.
- Roll Call: Oral roll call and an introduction of attendees was conducted.
- Coalwell remarks:
 - Thanked the Nevada Library Association and the Zephyr Cover Library for the warm welcome.

- Summary of past and upcoming year:
 - Succession of President Elect: Due to resignation of President-Elect Clark, Coalwell turned to By Laws for guidance, but Bylaws do not specify an action for this situation. Thanked Epperson for agreeing to his request to step-in and serve as President Elect/President.
 - Welcome to Langley as recently elected president-elect. Coalwell will serve not only as Epperson's past-president but will also serve the following year as Langley's past-president, a two-year term as past-president. (As part of the agreement, Epperson will not serve a second time as past-president.)
 - Turnover of state reps. Several individuals raised hands as being the new rep for their state, including: Sam Passey, Utah; Cindy Moore, Wyoming; Bradley Carrington, New Mexico; Rachel Rawn, Montana; Luis Davis, Nevada.
 - Leadership Institute: About half the group raised their hands as being attendees of the Leadership Institute (LI). Mickey singled out Madler and Soucie for their good work, citing LI as the crown jewel of the association.
 - Zelenski Remarks: Coalwell asked Zelenski to say a few words about her role as Executive Secretary.
 - Zelenski has been an MPLA member since 1980 and is a past-president. She started as ES in 2005 on an interim basis, then officially in 2006, working part-time and from home. Previous person had been in the role 33 years. What she does:
 - Maintains all the membership information (database)
 - Maintains the finances using QuickBooks (every third year we have a CPA audit – which is coming up for 2017)
 - Answers a lot of questions. She works from home, and part-time.

Announcements

Coalwell announced his desire to do casual, round-robin announcements from each person in attendance, in a conversational style, and asked if attendees had objections. None. Announcements in order presented:

- **Nevada (Davis):**
 - Reported her library recently hosted an author night with ten local authors, and she plugged the new MPLA author membership category at the event.
 - Moore asked for details about author membership. Fockler responded that any author may join and they need not reside in the MPLA area.
 - Davis noted that for her local authors, this category got their attention, and they liked the idea of being listed on the MPLA website.
 - Davis also commented on the state of Nevada and that the 'library climate' here shows a distinct difference between North and South, which presents

challenges. North is more rural, and some of the rural libraries are one person. She is reaching out to these libraries to learn about programming in order to add things for the newsletter.

- **Utah** (Passey):
 - Donna Moore of the Utah State Library is retiring.
 - SirsiDynix, a Utah-based company, is losing a lot of Utah libraries. Many libraries are migrating to the Koha Library Software.
 - Many libraries are currently struggling with e-rate changes.
 - Coalwell asked: Does Utah have an urban/rural split like Nevada? Passy responded yes, and no. Due to gerrymandering, people in rural area have a lot of political power. There are no special library districts in Utah. All public library boards are accountable to a county or city.

- **Oklahoma** (Miller):
 - The state association's executive direction retired after many years. Amigos Library Services will now perform all the association management duties.
 - Oklahoma registration dues are relatively high compared to other MPLA states.
 - Many state agencies lost over 40% in the last three years due to changes in state energy revenues.
 - There are extreme differences in service in Oklahoma depending on the type of municipal entities each library is part of.

- **Wyoming** (Moore):
 - Wyoming has also been hit with energy revenue losses. Public schools and universities are suffering. U of Wyoming lost 80 professor and 100 staff members.
 - Many people are leaving the state. Laramie has been hit severely.
 - Libraries are struggling. They were able to put on a conference this year but the previous year the conference was canceled for lack of funding and they organized an online conference. This year's conference was successful with ~181 people attending which helped stabilize membership for the association. They held the conference at Sheridan College and allowed people to stay in the dorms, which was a cost savings.

- **Arizona** (Savage):
 - The Arizona library conference will be held next week (Oct. 25-27) at which time Savage will transfer MPLA rep duties over to Cherise Mead from Mesa Public Library.
 - Arizona is not strictly urban vs. rural like some MPLA states, although there are three urban areas, Yuma being the third new large urban area. AZ has islands of geography, some areas difficult to get to, such as deserts and mountains. This affects their association and membership. Many people in their state association are MLIS credentialed from urban areas. Not many members are rural or staff

(non-MLS). There are many 1-2 person libraries, which makes it hard to close the libraries to attend conferences. This affects membership in the association.

- In the off years from MPLA Leadership Institute, Arizona does their own LI with Maureen Sullivan. They also conduct a Leaders Summit, organized by the State Library. They get the top leaders together face to face.
- **Nebraska (Rundle):**
 - Nebraska just wrapped up the conference for the western side of the state. There are three larger urban areas in Nebraska, then the rest of the state is rural. They split the conference between these three areas.
 - Their association hires a part-time executive director and one lobbyist. Their exec director recently left, and they were having a hard time replacing this person, so they decided to go with a management group instead.
 - Because this is a PLA year, many libraries won't participate as much in the state conference, or will only send folks for one day vs. the full conference.
 - The Nebraska School Library Association has been talking about whether they should rejoin the 'regular' association, which they used to be part of.
 - The state library commission is taking an 8% cut.
 - Nebraska has a lot of millennials, and retiring people, but not a lot of Gen Xers in the library workforce.
 - In 2019 Nebraska will join with Iowa for a conference in La Vista, Nebraska.
- **North Dakota (Nelson):**
 - The state library took a cut, which was passed down to local entities.
 - In ND, they have one big library area in Fargo, then 'the rest of the state.'
 - They just completed a successful conference in Grand Forks, bringing in John Spears from the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado to lead 'Transforming Your Library, Transforming Yourself.'
 - They are trying to reduce the size of their state association board, down from 18 people, so it is not so unwieldy. She recommends the book "The End of Membership as We Know It" by Sarah L. Sladek.
- **New Mexico (Carrington):**
 - Because New Mexico will be hosting the joint conference in 2019, Carrington is interested in learning about conference planning. He will connect with Judy, who offered to give advice about how to avoid some conference pitfalls.
 - In NM they have five big libraries, and 85 small libraries. Their Development Bureau focuses on small libraries. They also have the Tribal Libraries in their state.
 - NM is also an energy state, so they are experiencing budget cuts as well.
 - The state librarian recently resigned very abruptly and went back to New Jersey. They will run a nationwide search to find a replacement.

- **Montana (Rawn):**
 - The Montana State Library is also experiencing budget cuts and have been eliminating staff. The Historical Society has been hit with the same cuts.
 - The association board meeting just occurred in Chico Hot Springs.
 - The state is unique in that they have the Montana Shared Catalog.
 - Epperson noted Montana participates in the joint membership deal with ALA and is curious to know if participating in the program is having an impact on membership for the states.
 - Miller noted Oklahoma participates and is seeing a positive impact. Members join ALA, then ALA gives money back to the state association.
 - Rundle qualifies this, stating that this program is only available to library school students.
 - Epperson would like to put this on the agenda for a future meeting.
- **South Dakota (Hemmelman):**
 - They just hosted their state conference and added ten new members to MPLA (South Dakota has the highest number of members in MPLA than any other state.) They have a tradition of doing very large push for membership in MPLA at their state conference.
 - They host a leadership institute for public library directors in their state every year. They offer a Library Institute: A four-year program. This is where their LSTA monies are expended, as well as on databases and a school library boot camp (for CE credits.) They don't offer any grants to libraries in SD with their LSTA monies like in other states.

Action Items

- **Approval of the September 22 Executive Board Meeting Minutes:**
 - No corrections, changes, or additions to Draft Two of the minutes sent via e-mail.
 - A **MOTION** was made by Soucie to approve the minutes as presented. **SECONDED** by Hemmelman. Minutes **APPROVED**.
- **Recognition of Outgoing President Elect, Melissa Clark (Coalwell):**
 - Clark has moved out of the MPLA region to work as the Student Engagement Librarian at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, TX. Coalwell thanked Clark for continuing her work with MPLA and the conference in particular during her transition. The group officially thanked Clark for her service.

Committees

- **Leadership Institute Committee (Soucie):**
 - Because vendor contributions are slow Soucie sought permission to conduct an online auction via Facebook. The North Dakota Library Association conducted a similar auction with good success. Soucie explained the logistics and the types of

items general auctioned, including cookies, jewelry, and scarves, items typically less expensive to mail to recipients. All proceeds would go to the LI.

- A **MOTION** was made by Soucie asking the board to approve the LI Committee moving forward to organize and deploy an online Facebook auction, with all proceed to benefit the leadership institute. **SECONDED** by Rawn. Motion **APPROVED**.
- Soucie noted she would aim to conduct this auction in February of 2018.

Other Announcements

- **Degler:** We will switch over to having all board members utilize MPLA web mail on January 1st, 2018. He will add all official MPLA e-mail addresses to the listserv first.

Adjournment

President Coalwell called the meeting to a close at 4:45 p.m. PDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris Johnson
Recording Secretary