

April 7, 2011

MPLA General Membership Meeting at the MLA/MPLA Annual Conference in Billings, Montana.

The meeting unofficially began with Eileen Wright giving directions to the Montana Book Award reception and arranging rides for those without cars. Door prizes were handed out then the meeting began officially.

Elvia Landau officially opened the meeting. Elvita's first expressed her sorrow at the passing of Roy Degler's son and passed around a card for members to sign.

The first order of official business was the approval of the minutes of the last meeting.

A measure to help members in transition maintain their MPLA memberships, by temporarily reducing it to the student rate of 15.00, was approved. The motion was moved by Mike Mullen and seconded by Dean Woolen. Reasoning was, with the economy in decline many people have dropped their memberships citing economic hardship. This has resulted in a drop in membership totals. Sharon Sanger brought up the possibility of abuse. Wayne said, Judy Zelinski would screen applicants and determine eligibility. Judy explained the decline in membership, saying, although we are losing some to retirement, that alone doesn't explain the large drop. 314 members from 2010 had not renewed as of early April 2011. Membership Chair, Brenda Hemmelman, asked members to send ideas for improving renewal numbers. Elvita asked all present to recruit new members. Other reasons the budget was down were because of expenses for the MPLA Leadership Institute, reduced conference income and lower interest rates. All of these reasons caused MPLA to dip into reserves for the first time in 2010.

The next topic of discussion was upcoming conference schedules: the next fall conference will be in October 2012 in Omaha, Nebraska. Sioux Falls will host in 2013 and Arizona in 2014. The board approved the Wyoming conference for 2015.

13 nominations for Librarian Road Warrior were submitted. Since all nominees deserved to win, it was decided to draw the name of the winner. Dana Braccia drew the name and The Librarian Road Warrior is Cara Romeo of Aberdeen, South Dakota, nominated by Kim Bonnin.

Thanks were expressed to Innovative Interfaces for their support of the MPLA Leadership Institute.

Certificates of Appreciation were handed out by Elvita Landau for the Executive Board, State Representatives and Committee Chairs.

A change in the Institutional Membership was proposed to include one Individual Membership. The 2010 Leadership Institute was a resounding success and was praised by participants. The newsletter is all online now. We are working on establishing a more prominent presence on social media for MPLA. Professional Development grants are available and applications were requested.

Elvita officially handed the president's gavel to Dana. Dana thanked Elvita, for a great year. Elvita's gift was a donation to the Friends of the Leadership Institute in honor of Eileen and Dana. Dana gave Elvita a plaque and thanked her for her services as president.

Dana began her presidency with thanks to Judy Zelenski, Elvita Landau and Eileen Wright.

Dana continued with an overview of things coming up this year. She then shared the history of the MPLA from 1935 to 2011. The MPLA was officially created in 1948 as a way for librarians, in the 12 state region, to network and further their professional development. By 6 p.m. dinner time the original organizing group had established the association and formed committees. Dana asked the membership, what can we get done by dinner?

Dana is looking at building a community of engagement by taking advantage of social media and technology. How can we make the most of our time with the association?

Dana shared a little of her personal history explaining that she didn't start out in libraries. Her first career was in marketing and her first job in a library was in 2001. Her previous work took her as far away as Guam. Now, she is the Branch Manager and Collection Development Manager of the Scottsdale Public Library system as well as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Arizona Mesa Community College.

After telling the membership about herself, Dana shared a compilation of photos and little know facts about the Executive Board, Committee Chairs and State Representatives. It is clear they are an eclectic and interesting group.

Dana proposed that members should: think of MPLA like AAA; when you have a dead battery or a flat tire and need a recharge turn to MPLA. Think about what you can bring to the association. What do you want to discover along the way? Using MPLA "road maps" and "must see" stops, join the MPLA Twitter and Blog conversations and be an active participant in the organization.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone was encouraged to wear their black and white MPLA scarves to express solidarity with each other and the MPLA.

Minutes taken by Kathryn Plunkett