

MPLA Membership Meeting
Oct. 14, 2005
Timberline I Room, Snow King Resort
Jackson, Wyoming

I. Call to order

Beth Avery called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. Fifty-six members attended the meeting.

II. Introductions

Beth introduced herself. She has worked with people who have been wonderful. They have been active and helpful. She has not called on anyone who has not said yes or I can't do it.

III. Dues structure

Beth informed the Membership that a subcommittee of the MPLA Finance and Management Committee had looked at the existing dues structure and recommended changes. The proposed changes were approved by the MPLA Board for consideration by the Membership.

There are several reasons why MPLA needed a dues structure change. There was a need to pay dues online which is not possible with the old dues structure. The subcommittee looked at dues structures from several different organizations. Estimates were made of how many members would be in each group, so that the dollar amount collected should be comparable to that collected under the old dues structure.

Wayne Hanway pointed out that any minor changes to the text could be worked out after the dues structure was approved. It is important for MPLA now to approve the change in the dues structure.

Sandra Barstow expressed a desire to have a paraprofessional dues category. She fears that MPLA will lose some members if they have to pay \$40 for membership. Wayne said that if we create an additional category, we would need to adjust other dues higher to keep it revenue neutral during the change. Sandra said that she understands the need for revenue neutrality.

Wayne Hanway pointed out that this dues structure is comparable to what state library organizations are charging. The American Library Association, by comparison, is charging much more. ALA is making a push to get paraprofessionals to join and they are being very successful.

Wayne Hanway moved, and Dorothy Liegl seconded, that: the proposed dues structure be approved.

Motion approved by a vote of 55-1.

IV. Bylaws revision

Betty Dance, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, discussed the major changes in the Bylaws. The new Bylaws are more streamlined. The membership categories are better defined. Electronic communities will replace sections. Moderators of the electronic communities will not be elected.

Beth Avery noted that there will be a vote on which electronic communities will be approved. During this vote, any proposed electronic community that has 30 or more votes will automatically become an electronic community. Members may belong to multiple electronic communities. Electronic communities were regarded by the Board as allowing more direct participation in a group, as opposed to having to go to a Conference to attend a Section meeting. Incoming President Sharon Osenga will contact those who were going to run as section chairs and ask if they are interested in being moderators of an electronic community.

Wayne Hanway noted that the moderators of the electronic communities will constitute a new Program Council chaired by the President-Elect. This Council will function as a Conference planning group with input much the same as in the past.

Some of the current committees will become electronic communities. When this occurs, whoever is chairing a particular committee will need to become the moderator.

Donna Jones Morris noted the size of the current Board. By streamlining both the size of the Board and the meeting process, more money will be able to be placed back into continuing education for MPLA members and the Leadership Institute. In essence, this Bylaws revision puts money back into the hands of the librarians and libraries of MPLA. We are in a different world than we were in thirty or forty years ago when we did not have the ability to communicate electronically.

Donna also emphasized that these Bylaws can be amended in the future as needed.

Wayne Hanway moved, and Donna Jones Morris seconded, that: the proposed MPLA Bylaws be approved as presented. Motion approved with one abstention.

V. Conference report

Sharon Osenga said that the Conference attendance was estimated at 315, but is now 479. As of October 3, 138 MPLA members had registered.

VI. Joe Edelen resolution

Wayne Hanway proposed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen has been the Mountain Plains Library Association's Executive Secretary for thirty years, since 1975; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen has been only the second Executive Secretary in MPLA's 57-year history; and

WHEREAS, being Executive Secretary of a professional association with hundreds of members and a huge geographic area is a job with many responsibilities and challenges; and

WHEREAS, during Joe Edelen's earlier years as MPLA's Executive Secretary, he performed the many duties of that position without being paid; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen has worked out the arrangements for many MPLA Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen has played the role of dispatcher extraordinaire in shipping the MPLA booth(s) to everywhere and back; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen has been a key part of MPLA's evolution from a time of everything on paper and by snail mail to this time of web sites, e-mail, and online registrations and elections; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen's experience and service have made him a paragon of institutional memory for MPLA; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen has done all these many things for MPLA and its members with great dedication and as a true labor of love; and

WHEREAS, Joe Edelen received MPLA's Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and the Association has no higher honor to bestow;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mountain Plains Library Association honors Joe Edelen for his many years of service, names him Executive Secretary Emeritus, and wishes him all the best for what we hope will be a truly happy and golden future.

This resolution was unanimously approved and Joe received a standing ovation.

Beth then read some written comments about Joe from members unable to attend. Numerous attendees spoke about their positive experiences and friendship with Joe.

Various gifts were given to Joe in honor of his service and achievement. Each state provided a unique gift for Joe.

Joe noted that he could talk for hours. He reminisced about specific events in his career with MPLA. He thanked all the members for this honor.

VII. Transfer of the Presidency

Beth noted that it had been a distinct pleasure to know all the members in attendance. She invited everyone to Unit 282A for a party and to share moments with Joe. Her last official act is to hand the Presidency over to Sharon Osenga.

Sharon and Beth exchanged gifts.

Sharon noted that there were still some openings on committees. She also shared a poster from the Public Relations/Membership Committee that lists the top ten reasons to join MPLA. Anyone with comments can contact Theresa Dickson. One poster will probably be printed for each state.

VIII. Adjournment

Mary Bushing moved, and Martha Greene seconded, that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.