

MPLA Annual Membership Meeting
March 16, 2007
Albuquerque Convention Center
Albuquerque, NM

The meeting was called to order at 8:16 a.m. MDT by MPLA president Sharon Osenga. Sixty-four members were in attendance. There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes - Recording Secretary Sandy Barstow read the minutes of the previous Annual Membership Meeting, which was held October 14, 2005 at the Snow King Resort in Jackson, WY. There were no changes and Sharon announced that the minutes were approved as read.

President's Report – Sharon reported on the implementation of the bylaws changes that had been approved in 2005. She recognized Carol Hammond for her work on implementing the new structure for MPLA. Sharon mentioned that while most parts of the new structure were working well, the electronic communities were not yet functioning as had been hoped. She has created a working group to study ways of making the electronic communities more effective, with David Oberhelman serving as the chair. The working group will have a recommendation for the July MPLA board meeting.

Sharon also recognized Betty Dance and the Bylaws committee for rewriting the bylaws and the Manual of Procedure to reflect the new structure of MPLA.

One of the most successful aspects of the new structure has been the change from in-person board meetings to having conference telephone meetings. Each in-person meeting costs MPLA approximately \$4000, while a conference phone call meeting costs about \$250. There will continue to be an in-person board meeting just prior to each conference, and one in the summer in Denver, but the rest of the meetings will be by phone.

EBSCO has agreed to provide \$10,000 in funding for the Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute. The flyers advertising the institute will be out soon. Sharon thanked Donna Jones Morris for her work in contacting Stan Terry to consider another year of support by EBSCO. Since its inception 5 years ago, 169 fellows and mentors have participated in the institute.

The board revisited the MPLA long range plan at the July 2006 meeting. The revised plan is available on the MPLA website.

Sharon is the point of contact for people interested in participating in the 2008 Literary Ireland Tour. The tentative departure date for the 13 day tour is July 6, 2008. There will be information on the MPLA website soon. For those planning to go on the tour, the deposit will be due December 31, 2007 and the final payment will be due two weeks before the beginning of the tour.

After Joe Edelen's retirement as Executive Secretary, Judy Zelenski took on the assignment as interim executive secretary. The board offered her the position permanently, and she accepted. Sharon thanked Judy for her hard work in this capacity.

Conference Update – Wayne Hanway mentioned that there were 678 registrants as of Monday. He is already working with Rob Banks, the newly elected Vice President/President Elect, on the details for next year's conference in Salt Lake City, UT. By the way, that conference will mark the 60th anniversary of MPLA, so there will be some special events to celebrate that milestone. Wayne also mentioned that David Alexander has been elected as the new Recording Secretary.

Recognition of Long-time MPLA Members - The board decided to recognize long-time members of MPLA by giving them a certificate and an MPLA pin. Wayne read the list and Sharon handed out pins and certificates to those who were at this meeting. The state representatives will be given the pins and certificates for their states' members who were not at the membership meeting. The institutional members were also recognized by Wayne. There were over 100 personal members and over 20 institutional members recognized. The lists will appear in the next issue of the MPLA newsletter.

Board Choice Awards – Beth Avery recognized Board Choice Award recipients from 2006 and 2007. Each recipient received an MPLA tee shirt.

Announcements – Sharon reminded members to update their MemberClicks profile and mentioned that Judy will help members with this effort if they contact her.

Sharon formally turned over the presidency to Wayne, giving him the two gavels (the lightweight travel model and the solid copper-headed gavel). Wayne presented a plaque to Sharon in recognition of a job well done, and gave her a book, Irish Country Doctor.

After verifying that there was no further business, Wayne adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Barstow
Outgoing Recording Secretary