

**Virtual Meetings:** The CE Committee has met four times in virtual meetings using the Blackboard course site mentioned in the January 2003 Committee Report. None of the four meetings included all committee members due to scheduling conflicts. Nor have all members actually been able to participate live. Two have been able to get as far as the link to the “virtual classroom” but (apparently due to firewall problems or other security restrictions) have not been able to actually enter the classroom. They have been able to follow the meetings by repeatedly opening the archive for the meeting being conducted. Those unable to participate in a meeting have been encouraged to review the archive of the meeting and to send comments on the issues discussed. This has allowed the business of the Committee to move forward.

**Pre-Conference Grants:** In its first meeting, the Committee determined to put an electronic application for pre-conference grants on the MPLA web site and to advertise the availability of these grants through the State Representatives. Jeanne Narum volunteered to spearhead getting the application online and, with Dan Chaney’s assistance, this was accomplished within a week of the meeting. State Reps were reminded via e-mail of the availability of these grants and were asked to let members of their state associations—particularly those on the conference planning committee—know about this program. The response from the States Reps was gratifying. The deadline for those states holding conferences in Spring had already passed and the posting of the application form to the web and the advertising took place with less than a month to go for those states holding Fall conferences. Nevertheless, the Committee received and has approved one application to assist with a pre-conference for AzLA.

The Committee has only approved grants totaling \$500 of the \$1,500 budgeted. Are we free to approve additional grants out of this year’s budget allotment though the money will not actually be expended until 2004 (i.e. to encumber the funds)?

**Action Plan:** In the remainder of its virtual meetings, the Committee discussed the CE provisions in the Association’s *Long Range Plan* with an eye to submitting the “plan of action” called for in I.A.3 of the *Plan*. The report was submitted to the Board via the President on 1 July. Dan Chaney is posting this to the MPLA web site and printed copies will be available at the Board meeting.

**Clearinghouse:** In accordance with the plan of action (if approved by the Board), the Committee intends to focus its efforts from now until the MPLA/NLA Conference on putting together a “clearinghouse” of CE opportunities to be made available from the MPLA web site.