

**Complete Responses from Non-Renewing MPLA Leadership Institute Participants,
Board Choice Members, and Recipients of Free State Conference Memberships
--anonymously presented--**

March 26, 2009

Leadership Institute Participants Responses

1. My decision not to renew MPLA membership stems from limited time and resources, and the need to be very selective regarding the organizations I participate in. My area of work and research is quite specialized. I am working in the area of digital publishing, university libraries, and international library development in Eastern Europe and developing countries, and I've found there are other, more specialized organizations that more immediately align with these activities. However, I remain interested in MPLA. I would eventually like to tie these two interests together and will likely rejoin MPLA at a future time.
2. When I got divorced my tax level went up drastically- but of course not my income. I wasn't quite prepared for that. So I have looked for ways to save money in every area, dropping all memberships. Other places I've worked paid my memberships - which really helped! Where I work now doesn't pay them, but will still pay for me to attend the conferences - at the non-member rate. So that's what I've been doing.
3. I do intend to pay dues again, finances have just been tight lately. We've had some unexpected medical bills to pay and a disappointing tax return this year. Money is tight. I pay for my membership, not my organization. I love MPLA and I very much value all the work it does. In particular, I think the Leadership Institute is one of the best things that MPLA offers. I also always enjoy the conferences. It might be nice to have different interest groups in MPLA offer webinars for those who can't always make it to conference.
4. I actually would not have applied for the Leadership Institute without that membership. I think MPLA is a great and useful organization. We just can't afford a bunch of professional memberships for me. We are a 1 income family so my husband can stay home with out daughter. Once we are back to a more steady 2 incomes I will join again in a second!
5. The reason is economic. I am a member of several associations and I decided I needed to cut back. I think MPLA is very valuable but I was not very active in the association. I decided to limit my membership to associations in which I was more active.
6. One reason, of course, is money. There are many professional associations to which I would like to belong, but I can only afford two or three. This year, my money went to state association and a Children's Literature Association. I didn't renew my memberships in PLA, MPLA, or Reforma.
7. The big reason is that I just don't feel like MPLA has anything more to offer me. The leadership institute was fabulous, but I haven't been impressed since then. I was on a committee for MPLA, and I presented programs at the recent MPLA conferences in Albuquerque and Salt Lake City, so I did try to make an active contribution to the organization. I felt like the committee was a waste of my time - wasn't addressing real issues. Also, I didn't feel the conference in NM was worth attending. There weren't many workshops that I felt would teach me anything new, and the ones I attended seemed fluffy and stale. I was struck by how much better my state conferences were compared to the NM MPLA conference, and I felt it should be the other way around. Pretty harsh, huh? I assumed that MPLA just wasn't designed for librarians like me. I work in a large system, with lots of professional resources, and maybe the state association is a stronger organization than what some states provide. So maybe if I was working somewhere else, MPLA would have more to offer me. At this point, I just don't see what MPLA does that isn't already done better by state or PLA (except, of course, the leadership institute.)

8. Yeah, I feel guilty, but it is mainly a money issue – but broken down over a year, it isn't that much and I should belong because it is a great group. I belong to my own state organization and then usually join MPLA, PLA, ALA etc., IF I am going to go to a convention, otherwise, it is just too expensive. I belong to other non-library organizations that also take money.
9. Not renewing was just an oversight on my part. I will take care of it after school today. Even though I am not able to attend many MPLA conferences, I feel that membership is an important part of my professional life. My participation in the 2005 Ghost Ranch program was one of the most rewarding opportunities I have had in my professional and personal life.
10. There is such a budget cut here that I cannot attend any of the meetings or any other activities for the foreseeable future and that's the main thing that MPLA offers me. I do like it and support it but cannot justify spending money on something I cannot participate in. Hopefully things will get better soon. We're feeling the crunch.
11. Sorry I was not able to renew my membership. I had to make cuts in my budget in regards to professional organizations and donations. I value MPLA but feel I get the area of professional development needed in my organization and to help me handle my budget limitations.
12. I think the honest answer is it just slipped my mind. I didn't really make a decision not to renew, I just never around to it. I apologize, I will add it to my to do list. I think MPLA is a great organization and I do plan to continue my membership.
13. The main reason I didn't renew my MPLA membership was because I never seemed to hear from an 'actual' person. I volunteered for many interest groups/committees and never heard a peep. I didn't seem to be getting much value for my money so I didn't renew. It was unfortunate because I really did enjoy the leadership institute and things seemed so promising there for getting involved but once I got home—nothing. I am now in PNLA and active this year. The number one suggestion I would have for you folks is to make sure your new members get some contact, especially if they are eager and reaching out to you!
14. All of my membership dues are out of my own pocket only. I have not had a raise in several years, and yet my taxes and other cost of living expenses have gone up. I ended up dropping 4 of 7 associations that I was a member of.
15. My AHIP (Academy of Health Information Professionals) credentials were mandatory for my job description at my current facility. Along with this mandatory requirement, I was provided partial support to attend only one meeting a year, the Medical Library Association Annual Meeting. That alone did not cover my AHIP requirements, so all else was out of my own pocket. This year was especially disheartening because I was told that the mandatory AHIP certification is being removed from my job description; changed from mandatory to optional. And there is no longer that partial support for the one meeting. So, at this time that I thought I would be just barely reaching the peak of my career has been turning into some soul-searching thoughts about staying in the profession. And yet, with the economy as it is, we're busier than ever. Ghost Ranch was phenomenal. And it helped elevate my status and standings here at my current facility with others. I highly recommend that Ghost Ranch is continued. Possibly add a track having to do with Administration issues regardless of the library location (ie, Community/County Board, School Administration, Special library Administration) -- not administration of libraries, but dealing with the administration of higher ups who oversee the library, but are not librarians nor users themselves. Some of my facility's leadership members thought it was good that I went to a Leadership Institute, but the moment they heard it was for librarians only, they automatically dismissed it as not as valid or useful as some of the other leadership institutes available. It appeared to me that I got the "pat on the head" with no other promotion consideration. Irksome. MPLA is useful for librarians, but I didn't get much use out of it for Special Libraries. I got the impression that their strengths lie in public, schools and academics. That's fine; it would be asking a lot to cover all types of libraries in a large geographic area. Some additional ideas for adding value would be to add a

weeklong track on “Library Business 101” to include the different areas of business such as marketing, promoting, budgeting, human resources, management, forecasting, and other business core issues integral to the success of a library and their visibility. Business plans, strategic plans goes along with this. It is my humble opinion that librarians who have a good understanding of business knowledge tend to succeed further than those who don't. Ties in with communicating effectively with purse-string holders and decision-makers who are degrees removed from the everyday library. Other additional benefit ideas; discounts for travel services; airfare, car rental, lodging; or discounts for book purchases (even more discounts for being a member of MPLA); a credit card service that provides a percentage back to MPLA; discount on postal packaging services, discounts on any program's education/tuition no matter where within the variety of academic facilities within the MPLA states....that's all I can think of. And these discounts are not for work-related stuff, it would be for the MPLA member's personal discount on purchases outside of work.

16. I wanted you to know that I just submitted my application for membership to MPLA. I am very grateful for all I learned at the Leadership Institute and really support all your efforts to educate future leaders in the field. Probably the only reason I haven't joined before is because I already have memberships with state association and ALA. Now that I know that MPLA is the most fun association around, I'll have to make sure to join every year. Thanks again for the reminder.
17. I just forgot in 2008, for our state dues we get a reminder. MPLA is the greatest and I just didn't get it in. I'll pay up next week.
18. I was given the MPLA membership because I attended the Leadership Institute. The Institute was an absolutely wonderful experience and I would like to show my appreciation by continuing my membership in MPLA. The reality is, though, that my financial circumstances force me pick which professional organizations I join and pay membership dues to. As an archivist my primary organizations are Northwest Archivists and Society of American Archivists. Beyond that, I am a member of the Midwest Archivists (because they have a great journal) and Montana Library Association. In years that I have extra money I renew my membership in ALA and once or twice I've felt flush enough to join ACRL. I honestly have paid little attention to MPLA and so cannot comment on their value to the region or to the profession, though I know that several of my colleagues and librarian friends are members of the organization. I did think that the Leadership Institute was an outstanding experience and I'm sorry it no longer exists. (*answered – jz*)
19. Let me say first of all that I respect MPLA and all it is as an association. I appreciate your inquiry. I am limited in what I can join, and my focus has been on some smaller associations - more local and state. I'll be president of one next year, for example. MPLA offers more regional association - which is cool. But travel funds are limited (even more so after this budget year). I get a lot out of my travel to the ACRL conference every other year. There's a ton of ACRL committees I could join, but I don't see a way to do that, either. I see MPLA as positioning itself between the state and the National organizations.... is that right? (*answered – jz*) I benefited from the Ghost Ranch leadership institute, for sure! But I haven't been able to see my way clear to choose MPLA conferences over state conferences; I haven't tried to expand my relationships to other librarians long distance except through an ACRL section listserv.
20. Perhaps it's simply a lack of imagination on my part, but I can't see membership unless I can both give and receive. I do ponder it each year, but it surprises me now that I've not been a member since 2006. I guess it's like the old saying, “So many books, so little time.” But it's “So many associations, so little time...” Your final request is to give you suggestions as programs or benefits MPLA could provide add value to members... I promise if I could think of any I would tell you! Hmm.... BCR handles the whole regional consortial vendor savings thing. I know the leadership institute was great - perhaps a followup - Institute 2 and 3? I am

focused on academic libraries - maybe something that broadens my focus differently than the state conference does?

21. I do think MPLA is very beneficial organization! But since i relocated to North Carolina it's not (1) financially feasible for me to join a group outside of my region (2) its not financially feasible for me to travel to workshops and conferences far from where I live. I would encourage anyone living in that 12 state region to join MPLA. It found it extremely valuable, a wonderful networking envirnment, getting outside your state to find out whats happening in other states, etc. And Ghost Ranch will always be one of the most incredibly valuable, and life changing experiences for me. If I relocate to the west again, I will definitely join MPLA!!
22. I simply have not been able to afford as many professional memberships as I would like in the current economic climate. Since I now have to be a member of ALA to participate in the specialized copyright groups, I've had to cut back on other memberships. I am, however, currently considering dropping my involvement in the state library association. If the economic situation improves and I can again get involved with things, I think I would prefer to do so at the regional rather than state level. I think it would benefit me better professionally.
23. The main reason I am no longer a member is I moved to a state that is not part of MPLA. I have hoped, and still hope, that I can join again once I get more stable financially in my current situation, even though I am not in the actual region. The main reason I would like to re-join in the future is MPLA has been by far the best association I have ever belonged to. While state associations have their place as does larger national associations such as ALA, MPLA as a region provided an opportunity to look at local issues but in a larger arena. However, it is not so big that you get lost in the organization. I made many, many friends and contacts while part of MPLA and especially value the opportunity I had to attend the Leadership Institute. My favorite part of MPLA has been the conferences. I now attend the state Library Association conference as well as ACRL and ALA conferences, but miss the great presentations and speakers I have seen through the MPLA conferences. I hope to re-join in 2010 and begin attending conferences again. It will be on my own dime but I think well worth it.
24. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to provide input. I am happy to provide feedback. The reason I haven't renewed is financial as much as anything. I am also a personal member of ALA, PLA, ALSC, and state association. To add another substantial membership fee (given my salary) is a bit difficult financially. I wish that I could afford it and hope at some point in the near future that I'll be able to. This is a personal matter and not a reflection on the quality of MPLA at all.
25. My overall assessment of MPLA's value is highly positive. I think it's wonderful when regional libraries can connect and share experiences. To me, one of the best ways to do this is by attending the association's conference, something I've not been able to do. I joined PLA prior to attending Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute, and I think that is a truly beneficial and important program/benefit of membership. I am uncertain whether any part of membership dues helps to defray the cost of that program. (*answered – jz*) The MPLA listserv is useful and of considerable benefit. Is it possible for me to send the equivalent of a third of what would be my dues to help the Institute? (*answered – jz*)
26. I currently belong to a number of specialized associations that support the type of work I do. The costs require me to be selective in the professional associations I join. Currently the only benefit I see of MPLA is a discount to attend the annual conference. Since I am never approved to attend the conference there is no benefit to me. Perhaps if there were more webinars or local programs on small topics it might be more beneficial. However, with state and national association and specialized association dues, there is not much more I can afford.

27. I think MPLA is a very valuable organization and I have gotten a lot out of belonging. The leadership institute is one of the best things that has happened for me as a professional. The reason that I did not renew my membership this year was strictly monetary. We are all experiencing budget crunches right now and even though my institution highly encourages membership in local, regional and national professional organizations, they do not help subsidize those memberships. This year there were two organizations in which I did not renew membership due to finances. I am hoping that things will be a little brighter next year and that I will be able to re-join MPLA next year.

Board Choice Memberships

1. I did not renew due to financial reasons. My university does not reimburse professional dues. Also, my travel funds are very limited (\$300/year), so I would never be able to afford an out of state conference. Other than financial reasons, I would have renewed my MPLA membership as I feel it is a very vital organization to the profession. I look forward to OLA's partnership with MPLA in 2010!!
2. As a library we had to make a choice of belonging to either MPLA or the state association and we went with state association as we have had major budget problems in our county. This does not reflect on the MPLA organization but more on a budget aspect. I know it is not a lot of money to belong to MPLA but I had to find over \$1,000 last year and over \$2,000 this year due to tax abatements paid back in the county and I am sure more cuts to come. I hope this helps with understanding why I didn't join.
3. I'm sorry to say that I have been overwhelmed with work and lose track of what memberships need to be renewed—especially if they come to the office and get lost in all the rest of the mail I get. I'm quite pleased with the organization and don't have any specific suggestions for improvement. The free membership was great. My problem is that I am always at the highest membership level \$\$\$ in library organizations but need to join so many (ALA, ALISE, MPLA, ACRL, PLA state association etc.) that my total annual membership dues exceeds \$1,000. I have recently changed some of these to organizational memberships and named myself as the representative. I really want to be supportive.
4. Yes I did win a free membership in 2006 and enjoyed the publications and associations for that year. I think MPLA is a valuable resource for it's members and I have enjoyed the conferences when they have been joint with the state association. I have never attended one in another state. My reason for not renewing really isn't about being unsatisfied with MPLA. I am very active in the State Reading Council. In order to be a state officer I must also be a member of the International Reading Association so have chosen to use my time and resources for this organization. I recently attended the IRA Conference in Phoenix. when my time in that organization winds down I will look at MPLA again.
5. I was honored to be chosen, but quite frankly, I just do not have either the time or the money to actively participate in MPLA. My membership in ALA and in the state association take up all of the time that I have to devote to library associations. That is why I did not renew. As for the other two questions --overall assessment of MPLA's value as a regional professional association and suggestions for programs or benefits which might add value for a member of MPLA – I am totally unqualified to respond. I would guess that the value might be that MPLA is bigger than any state association and therefore could provide more/better conference programs. Of course ALA does that, but perhaps MPLA is less expensive.

Free Conference Memberships

1. My reasons for not renewing are because we are a small rural library with an extremely limited budget that only allows for one membership per year and that currently is the state association. Also given the fact that you reach a much more broader area at which travelling to your conferences again creates too much of an expense for our budget. I thank you for the free membership and wish that I could be a member again but it is just not within our capabilities.
2. Thank you for contacting me about my renewal. I really enjoyed the one year subscription and i really was privileged for one year, by reading these newsletter magazine i really learned alot from many great librarians and their schools and experiences. I also gained knowledge as to how i can apply for grants. The reason i have not renewed is only because i can not afford it at the time, my husband lost his job of 16years just last month and i merely cant afford it. I would love to be able to continue but unfortunately i cant at this moment. I thank you for your efforts.
3. My reason for not renewing my membership is that I was notified on February 25, 2009 that my position with the library has been eliminated effective June 30, 2009. Until such time that I can secure new employment I will no longer be able to maintain membership with the MPLA or and other organization. I was pleased with the information that I received from MPLA.
4. I think the organization is a worthwhile one. My biggest problem is the lack of institutional funding and support for programs and activities. Since libraries at the university fall under many categories, I also work with general education and split my funding for travel/conferences between the two areas. One year I go to ACRL, the other to gen ed meetings. Timing of our state meetings often prohibits me from attending those if it is some distance away. Membership is limited to ALA/ACRL, state association, and AAC&U. I can't afford more than that.
5. My reason for not reapplying is a result of the fact I did not have time in my free year to really be part of MPLA. We are a small library with only 1 full time staff (me) and four part-time (14 hrs/wk). Two of the four part-time staff relocated; therefore, I spent time hiring and training staff. In addition, the library board is moving forward with a building project which is taking more time due to additional meetings. To justify the cost of joining, I would need to be able to give the benefits. I had hoped to experience those during the free membership period, but as I stated above the timing was not good for that. I hope to join in the future. It may be after the building project is completed next year. Thank you.
6. I've renewed my membership. I kept forgetting to get it done!
7. I did appreciate winning a free membership in MPLA. I found it to be a very helpful organization while I was still active as a school librarian, and for the first year after my contract was not renewed because of budget cuts in the School District while I tried to find another professional position. In 2005 I moved back to Texas but continued to be a member thinking that I might find a new job in a state covered by MPLA, however last year I decided to "retire" and stay in Texas. Since I do not work in the field I feel I no longer need to be a member.
8. Thank you for your email. I appreciate the year of free membership with MPLA. However, I have recently relocated to the D.C. metro area and no longer qualify for membership, since I don't live/work in a state that belongs to MPLA.
9. I am allowed to attend only 1 library conference per year. So I decided I would attend the state association one. I enjoyed the conference and would again someday like to become a member.

10. There are three reasons I haven't taken much use out of the free membership: In 2007 I was heavily involved in state association ... and didn't have the time/energy for other organizations, so the membership came at exactly the wrong time. As for conferences at my university, if we are just attending a conference (as opposed to giving a paper or being involved in the committees), practically we get reimbursed for only one out-of-state conference a year (if we were to attend a second, and if there was any money left, we would get a much lower percentage reimbursed), so I prefer to save my conference-going to ALA. (I will likely attend a MPLA/ state association joint conference, but we don't get reimbursed for attendance at all, since it's in-state.) The programs seemed to be more geared to public/school libraries, or at best academic reference.
11. The reason I did not renew was that my budget for memberships was taken up by state association and national association. I guess MPLA has good value. I do not have any suggestions.
12. The year I received the free membership I was very grateful. I was surprised to see that I have not renewed since 2007. I still get the e-mails and look at them, so I didn't realize I had not taken care of renewing. I think that I get so many e-mails that it just slipped through the cracks. I think you should continue to offer the free memberships, I liked getting mine. I do not know any programming that would be beneficial or worth while for MPLA to offer.
13. I belong because I feel like MPLA is an advocacy organization; and that even though I do not actively participate in the meetings, I am supporting librarianship in some capacity by being a member. I am disappointed to know I have not renewed and will try to remember to take care of that soon.
14. Don't give up on me yet. I am going to renew this in the next few days. We have been in a severe financial crunch since before Christmas. It's not a lot better now, but a little bit, and I'm finally able to pay my various dues. My husband is disabled from a motorcycle accident, so it has been really a big challenge with the economy tanking like it is.
15. Although a lot has changed in MPLA since I moved, I still want to stay in touch with that part of the world. I really enjoyed all the MPLA conferences I attended, and often wish we had the same spirit of togetherness here, where there are 2 library associations and they manage to work out a joint legislative platform each year, but beyond that they mostly keep to their own camps. It's kinda sad. So keep doing what you do. MPLA is a wonderful association.
16. I'm sorry to say that I did not take advantage of my free membership this year and won't renew at this time. It wasn't MPLA's fault. I've just felt overwhelmed and busy in my daily library work and involved with state association here locally. And frankly it didn't seem like I could really take advantage of MPLA events because I didn't think my library system would financially support me in attending anything because of the current economic crunch. So....I was excited at first, but then didn't get involved to find out how MPLA could help me or I could contribute. Sorry.
17. I would consider joining. How much is a year's membership? (*answered – jz*)
18. I graduated in May with my masters and have been the librarian at an elementary school here in town since August. To be honest with you I have been so busy learning my new job and it has been so overwhelming that I have not had much time for anything else!
19. I felt like both MPLA and ALA have been more for the public librarians instead of the school librarians. I have not gotten anything out of being a MPLA member. Other than one or two newsletters and a few emails I have not had any other contact with the group.
20. Though I appreciated the free membership very much and enjoyed the conference I attended, my (and the county's) financial situation doesn't currently allow me to join associations. I also can't attend conferences for both time and financial reasons. We're currently looking at layoffs where I work and, honestly, associations are the furthest thing from my mind right

now. Not to devalue them, but when we don't have enough people to staff the library and we've cancelled all training and travel, they go to the bottom of the list. I also think MPLA is in the position of being caught between state associations and ALA. Most people probably aren't willing to pay for all 3.

21. The check is in the mail! I'm sorry I'm so late-too busy and not paying attention. You might be interested to hear that our state association is dealing with some of the same issues-we are taking a look at some level of reorganization to be more relevant to the members and non-members, hopefully. The first meeting of the committee to get organized had a lot of input that the state association had become primarily a conference organization and was that what was the most helpful for the profession or not? I actually think MPLA can make a better argument for being a conference organization as it is uniquely positioned to provide a big picture view of the region's issues and challenges. I am afraid that with budget cuts all over the place that fewer people will show up and I would like to see a re-focus on web casting conferences and/or getting the information on-line after the conference to be shared. Thanks for the email reminder! PS. I think the free memberships are great.
22. The main reason is budget decisions and our economy. I am cutting my budget next year by more the \$6,000.00. Memberships are one area I have decided to cut this year in order to keep from cutting our material or services to our patrons. State Library is making cuts which affect us. Our circulation increased by 10,000 last year and with postage increases and other increases we need to keep our budget in line during this tough economic time. I would have loved to take advantage of your free membership but my travel budget and our continued education budget can not be increased at this time. Last year fuel prices really took all we had from our travel & continued education line items. I was unable to take advantage of the membership gifam sorry! It all comes down to money and where to get it from. Our community as are others is taking a hit right now from unemployment & real estate decreased value. I do not want to cut services or material for my patrons.
23. MPLA has a lot of great people! I am an academic library technician with no intention of getting an MLIS. I get involved more enthusiastically with the greater issues surrounding my job than my pay and rank within the workplace would warrant but that's the kind of person I am. I did renew my membership with state association for the third time just recently even though I have no plans to pursue announcements of employment opportunities and without an advanced degree of any kind I don't see myself as qualified for the postings. Regarding specifically why I did not renew my membership with MPLA, it would be mostly due to limited financial choices; I felt that the money was more than I felt I could spend on something I won't get reimbursed for, etc. My overall assessment of MPLA's value as a regional professional association is not too helpful because of my low status within my library and my lack of what I label 'credentials'. I don't necessarily understand how the librarians of Kansas relate to the librarians of Utah any more than the librarians of Delaware, so I would think that MPLA might be more appropriate as a group within ALA which it is in some ways but why does it have its own dues? I have thought of joining ALA but think that the state organization is more helpful generally for my limited dollars. I did realize just now that the MPLA guarantees that there would be a conference in the region and always at different places and dates than ALA sets. So the organization allows members an extra chance to get out of state ideas if the ALA convention wasn't going to work for a member any year. Since I pay my own way for attending the conference, I only go to the locally held ones. This year, I'm foregoing the state conference even though it is local because the organizers included the meals in the price of registering and it pushed the cost over what I felt like I could spend. My 'suggestion for programs or benefits which might add value for a member of MPLA' would be more of a marketing strategy. It would include a quick history of why and how MPLA got started, feature that the benefits are comparable to ALA, and why it ends up being more valuable for members.

24. At the 2008 conference, I was very pleased with the selection of programs and workshops. I put my name in for a free membership looking at that if I won, it would add a touch more legitimacy to my attendance and the money I spent. At the same time, I was somewhat hoping to not win because I knew that it was unlikely I would renew my membership when my year expired and then I would have some explaining to do. I think giving out initial memberships is a great way to get people started with MPLA.
25. \$\$\$\$
26. As a school librarian I scramble just to get to my state's library conference. This year I made it to MidWinter for exhibits on Saturday, because it was close enough I could drive. While I appreciated the MPLA membership I feel I have to keep my life managable, time-wise and financially. I have been to several joint MPLA/state conferences and I didn't see an improvement in programming quality. Having served on one conference planning committee when it was a joint conference and having served on just state conference planning committees, I felt we made too many accommodations for MPLA programming, given the space available. When we don't have space for our own state book awards in the program then the balance with joint conference is out of balance. We faced a backlash from the previous joint conference because it seemed to focused on "school", thus we accomodated and omitted school programming or moved to a seperate location so that we had the space we needed for school programs. Perhaps MPLA needs to establish an even larger Web.2 presence and offer some programing via webinar or other 2.0 product. Yes, you have a nice website (but when I went to continuing education what I found was a list of state library associations, while most other links on that page were broken. My district blocks Facebook so that is not a useful site as a school librarian—I'm thinking many other school librarians face that same issue. As a school librarian I would appreciate programming on AASL's updated standards—when they were first released there wasn't much meat to them.
27. Thanks for asking. I'm thrilled to have won a free membership—I never win anything! I have it on my daily planner to renew my membership on April 1 and I wrote down the website where I can do that and I figured that into my budget for April. Is it OK to renew the day after the membership expires or will that constitute a break in my continuous enrollment and make me ineligible to apply for grants later on? *(answered – jz)*
28. I decided not to renew because of financial considerations. I think that MPLA has a lot to offer as a regional professional association but because I am a law librarian, in these tricky economic times, I decided to focus on participating with law librarian organizations.
29. I was very glad to have won the MPLA membership in 2008. I loved the chance to learn about the organization, my manager speaks highly of MPLA, but she's the only one I personally know who is involved. There are two reasons I'm not renewing my membership. First, I've had to cut back on all of my memberships because of the current economy, along with MPLA I'm also not renewing my ALA membership for the first time in five years. Second, I'm not in a personal situation that allows for a lot of travel at the moment, and to actively participate in MPLA, it seems that at least some travel is necessary as the organization covers so many states. I really loved your homepage, it was very informative, and the leadership programs and such sounded wonderful.
30. I thought I would have money out of my college budget to signup and renew, but it was frozen early this year. Since I am the only one working in my family at present, I have to guard money as if it was gold; and since I am involved in state association and ACRL/ALA, I have to pick and choose carefully what I can afford to do this year. I am afraid I am financially limited and cannot do everything I want to do and have memberships in all the organizations I would like to participate in. I am appreciative of the one year of free membership and hope that I have the opportunity soon, when I have some extra money, to renew my membership.

31. I have enjoyed being in MPLA in the past. This year I applied to get onto a committee, but did not receive a reply and was not considered. I am presenting at the joint Conference this year, and think that this is a very positive opportunity for me and very useful as well for my professional development. I hope that there will be a future joint conference with KLA in the near future.
32. My reason for not renewing is I cannot afford it. I offered to do volunteer work for MPLA in exchange for a membership but was denied. I think in exchange to attend the annual MPLA conference and for memberships, volunteer/work study should be considered. I think MPLA/state association/ALA are extremely valuable for a librarian like myself, but with times as tough as they are, I cannot justify paying for either thing. I settle for news on the websites as well as visiting my local city library.
33. The reason I have not renewed is that I simply forgot (school and work caught up with me!). I will try to renew my membership sometime this week. Many of my colleagues are prominent members of the MPLA and I wish to continue with this association
34. I am not able to afford the renewal/membership fee. It is a cost I have to pay myself. When I pay for membership in WYLA that is all I feel I can afford. Also, my school district will not allow me to attend a regional association meeting. I do not have suggestions for programs or benefits. Hope this input is useful in some way.
35. Mostly, it is neglect on my part and the travel expenses to conferences. I did appreciate the membership and reading your offerings. If there are ways to get compensation for travel through your employer, or the associations, it would be helpful. Also if there are offerings that are of interest-I am in tech services but a non-librarian so often the offerings don't apply. I think you should continue to offer this free memberships, as it certainly would draw those who are interested to renew.
36. Thanks so much for the membership and the inquiry. I've intended to renew my membership - just laziness that I haven't yet, I guess. I think MPLA is a good value, I especially like the co-conferences that MPLA holds with member-state library organizations. I'm also quite interested in participating in the Leadership Institute.
37. The main reason for not renewing the membership was because of money. I enjoyed being a member, I would not change anything. I just did not have the money to renew it. Thank you for the free membership and perhaps in the future I will be able to rejoin. Thank you again.
38. I haven't renewed my membership largely due to absent-mindedness! I've just finished my last coursework to get my MLIS and have let a couple of items slide on my 'to-do' list. I intend to renew my association membership and look forward to becoming more involved in future.
39. First of all, I didn't know I had won an MPLA membership for 2008. (*was notified 11-19-07 - jz*) I do recall seeing something about a renewal. Since I can't attend any of the conferences I kind of felt like it was an unnecessary expense. I really can't speak to the value of MPLA as a regional professional association. I think I'm just too far away to pay much attention to it.
40. I think MPLA is a worthwhile association, but as a special/medical librarian it is not as relevant to me as some others, and not as handy as the state association. I can't say that I really thoroughly explored all of MPLA's possible ways of assisting me in my professional life. I think the free membership would be better used by a public, school, or academic librarian.
41. I have been meaning to renew. The free membership was great, and it was fun to win. MPLA should continue this promotion. Working with state conferences is a great idea, too. I attended the one last year in Salt Lake City and enjoyed the presentations.
42. Thanks for asking. Although I believe MPLA provides value to me, I have to pay for my own memberships and ALA, PLA, YALSA are all I can afford. It is probably my fault that I didn't get

43. I did not renew because I am so involved with other organizations. I do not feel that MPLA would be able to add to my professional connections network at this time. If I relocated further east, I would then strongly consider MPLA as an organization for me.
44. As for not renewing, I didn't realize I hadn't, quite honestly, I did mean to. Send me a form so I can have my Wife, the official household bookkeeper, send it in. (*replied – jz*) -overall assessment of MPLA's value as a regional professional association – Very good. I've found it very useful. -suggestions for programs or benefits which might add value for a member of MPLA – I would like to see more virtual meetings / sessions of interest. As our travel budget is limited a virtual session would help.
45. Due to our hospital's cutbacks I don't feel this membership is necessary for the coming year. I think the state association suffices for me.
46. I really appreciate the free membership and opportunity to attend MPLA last year. Actually, I was planning to renew my membership & attend the conference this year in Wichita. I have not yet renewed my membership because I am unable to attend the conference this year - due to a scheduling conflict with the Computers in Libraries conference. I don't know if this is a good reason not to renew my membership, but this is why I haven't yet renewed. Does the membership period always run from April -March? (*answered – jz*) I do plan to attend next year's conference. I figured that I would renew my membership next March. I think MPLA is very valuable as a regional association. I found it very helpful to network with librarians from neighboring states at last year's conference. I haven't paid too close attention to opportunities other than conference. I am now becoming more acclimated to my position and would like to participate more in MPLA the coming years.
47. My reason for not renewing so far is financial. I do plan to join again, perhaps next year, and hope to attend the MPLA conference again, but have had some financial issues that stopped me from doing so since 2006. I feel MPLA is a worthwhile organization that offers a lot to the membership, including an excellent conference every year.
48. I have not been employed currently which is why I didn't renew my membership to MPLA. The free membership is very good and is why I will renew (just did by paypal) Sorry I'm so late!!!
49. I did not renew because I barely have time to keep up with local and state activities etc.
50. I certainly was remiss by not thanking MPLA for the free membership. It was very nice to get it and I really did appreciate it in spite of my rudeness. Since we are a one person library the budget is small and would need to have help if I were to be gone more than two days which would not be an option. I follow what goes on at the MPLA Conferences and having been given a membership, does give me incentive to "pay attention" even if I would not be able to attend. Thanks for writing and yes I do think the free memberships are worthwhile, even if I can't be active.
51. I did keep up my membership for awhile, and thought hard about renewing again this year. I am a member of state association and ALA. ALA is particularly expensive and I basically thought I would pass on MPLA this year to save a little money. I do like MPLA and have gone to and presented at a couple of the conferences. I think it is a good organization. Money is just tight right now.
52. I was thrilled to win the one year membership—and to see via email what a highly organized group of librarians are part of MPLA. I even printed some of the descriptions of workshops I wanted to go to at your conference. Unfortunately, my district will not allow to attend out-of-

state conferences at this time. I would love to remain a member of MPLA, however my finances at this time prevent me from joining all but the most useful and vital organizations I can afford. Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of MPLA, even if only for the year.

53. I decided not to renew my MPLA membership because I am a member of both ALA and state association. My ALA membership is very expensive because I am a division member for a few divisions. I am active in ALA and state committees and that takes up a significant part of my free time. I just simply do not have the time to be involved in another organization and feel that I get enough from both ALA and state association. I know that I can be a member of MPLA and not actively participate, but I just do not have the extra funds to do so. I entered the drawing for the free MPLA membership to see what MPLA has to offer (I was particularly interested in the Leadership Institute), but throughout the course of the year realized that between ALA and state association I am pretty well covered. And, the state now has its own Leadership Institute, so that base is covered. I do think MPLA has a lot to offer, but because of my busy schedule and the amount of money it costs to be members of several associations, it's just not a viable option for me now. If my state didn't have such a strong state association, I would certainly be a member of MPLA.
54. In this time of tight budgets, both personal and school district, I had to weigh cost against benefits. My membership and conference money goes to ALA, AASL, and our state school library organization. I had no negative experience with MPLA but found that most of the correspondence was more applicable to public libraries. From everything I saw MPLA appears to be beneficial for public libraries. Perhaps school librarians in other states feel differently about it if their state organizations are combined.
55. I would urge the board to continue such memberships. I think it is an excellent outreach program. My reasons for not renewing are multi-fold. The first is financial. Multiple memberships are expensive, and I have some associations that I am pretty much required to be a member of for my position. The second is I am overwhelmed this year. I am starting my second year as a professional librarian, and I have several mandated projects in addition to a few voluntary projects. I am simply not able to take on anything else. I do think MPLA has value as a regional professional association. It allows us to network outside of our state. As far as suggested programs, training is always needed. Training is needed in new technologies and innovations. I am working in the virtual environment building an Information Commons in Second Life. It has generated a lot of interest.
56. Here is some information about why I did not renew my MPLA membership. After I won the free membership for 2008, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to get involved in MPLA since I know several other members from my state who have talked positively about MPLA. As it has turned out, my professional obligations to other organizations (state, ACRL, ALA, etc.) have kept me from attending any of the MPLA meetings (which I would consider one of the major benefits of belonging to MPLA) and so decided not to renew my membership at this time. Overall, I think MPLA has a good niche for the library community since it is regional and therefore may be more accessible to the library community than national meetings. I do think that at times the location of the meetings are problematic since the cost of getting to some of the locations can be quick prohibitive especially for those members who live too far away to drive to the conference. I also think that MPLA may have a stronger role for small libraries -- especially public libraries. Hope this is of some value.
57. Probably the main reason is budget. I am a member of state association and ALA and just haven't really thought about budgeting for the additional membership. It was interesting to get the MPLA newsletter for a year but the information was not first priority for me in a small library.

58. I suppose I didn't renew because I didn't really get much out of my free membership. I enjoy the newsletters, but I am not able to travel out-of-state, so I can't attend conferences unless they are in state. I AM about to finish work on my Master's degree, at which time I will be extremely interested in the Leadership training (the one that used to be at Ghost Ranch). So a chance of being eligible to attend that would be a huge incentive to renew my membership.
