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MPLA Webmaster Report
06 April 2011

MPLA/MLA 2011 Conference Handouts

We are posting conference handouts once again. The link:
<http://mpla.us/documents/handouts/2011/index.html>

Not much there as of 29 March 2011, but I anticipate more will be added as we get closer to the conference.

Facebook Fun Stuff!

As I have a new iPhone, I am planning to take photos from the conference and upload them LIVE to the MPLA Facebook page on the fly. Literally the moment I take them. Theoretically. I am planning to make this announcement on Facebook Monday before I leave. I am planning to encourage all our Facebook fans who are at the conference to share their photos. We allow our fans to post comments and photos to our Wall. We have an Event created for the 2011 conference. This is a good place to post photos as well as comments on sessions, activities, the hot tub, etc. I am interested in finding a way to bring Facebook more into our Association's publicity and presence. I think it would be really cool if we can find a way to make people who are not at conference go to Facebook for news and things going on at conference. Put the word out while you are in Billings! Share your photos on our Facebook page! Let's see if we can pull it off!

Website Developments

Lots of MPLA web stuff to report:

- MPLA has purchased some software for the webserver to create and edit webforms. The product is named MachForms and we bought a lifetime license to it for \$39.
- Using Machforms, I completely revamped all the MPLA forms:
 - Individual Membership Form
 - Institutional Membership Form
 - State Association Membership Form
 - Newsletter Advertising Form
 - Professional Development Grant Application Form
 - PDG Evaluative Report Form
 - State Conference Pre/Post Conference Programming Grant Application Form
 - State Conference Programming Grant Evaluative Report FormJudy and I tested the new and improved forms numerous times during the development process. They have since tested fine and are in use.
- I am currently redesigning the MPLA homepage. It's not so much a redesign as a tweaking process.
 - I have added the MPLA social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, Blog) to the website in a variety of manners. That is, I currently have several versions of the home page that I'm evaluating.

- One version has all three newsfeeds/widgets available for viewing both vertically down the far right side of the page, as well as horizontally across the bottom half of the page.
- There is also a version featuring just one newsfeed (at this time Facebook) as well as “Follow MPLA On” links to the other two.
- Links (note: these are in various stages of completeness – these are just variations on the themes):
 - All three newsfeeds horizontally: <http://mpla.us/index2.html>
 - Three newsfeeds vertically: <http://mpla.us/>
 - One newsfeed highlighted: <http://mpla.us/index3.html>
- I’m not convinced I like having all three newsfeeds displayed on the website – it’s an awful lot to take in, and there is some duplication across forums. I’m rather of the mind to just feature one newsfeed and give people the option to get to the other two. If you have any suggestions or recommendations, please let me know.
- I’ve moved the Memberclicks login boxes at the top of the homepage (which Dana suggested), and balanced it off with the MPLA website search box on the opposite side.
- There is a new box called Events and Opportunities, which is something I’ve listed when things are passed along to me. These are not MPLA events and opportunities – these are often continuing education opportunities from the states or outside the MPLA region. I haven’t publicized this as an official MPLA service – it’s something that could quickly grow difficult to manage. Events and Opportunities is also something that goes away when I have something important to post – that is, if we need the prime real estate on the home page, it goes away for awhile.
- Following the revamp of the homepage, I will push through the new style elements across the rest of the website.