

WM

MPLA Webmaster Report

11 October 2008

I don't really have too much to report to the Board at this time. If you read the piece I wrote for the October 2008 MPLA Newsletter, it serves as a report as much as anything I could write here.

I'm still working on the website revamp – the home page redesign is partially complete. Once the home page is redesigned, the rest of the site can start to follow suit, but it becomes a question of timing. I sort of have to draw a line in the sand and say I am not updating parts of the website while the conversion is occurring because it becomes an issue of maintaining two separate filing systems – the old style and the new style. Certain elements of the website are updated frequently, and I cannot simply stop updating them during the conversion period – the MPLA Jobline is a prime example of this. I try to update the Jobline 1-2 times a week.

Then there is the issue of the Board Reports Archive – where we have a majority of our unique html pages. Due to my own lack of foresight when I did the last revamp, I didn't set up the behind the scenes Board Reports Archive well, so to convert them to a new style is going to mean copying and pasting html into a new template, saving it in a different location, deleting all the old files, copying the new stuff back over and uploading. And we have a ton of board reports in the Archive, but that's why I love being MPLA Webmaster. In a warped and perverse way, that level of activity is fun. It's just a question of finding the time when classes start here in the fall.

If you'd like a little taste of what the new site will look like, you can view the revamped homepage at: <http://www.mpla.us/index3.html> Please remember this is a work in progress, and parts of it are not located where I want them yet. I just thought the board might like a taste of where we are on the redesign. The plan calls for the *MPLA at Work and Play/Events and Opportunities* column to be beside the MPLA News – so there are three columns there. This has proven a challenge without using tables for formatting. And if you've ever played with “float” and “clear” variables in cascading style sheets, you know how fun that can be. I'm also not married to the purple color scheme, but because the community portal will take its design elements from the MPLA website, I need to keep Roy aware of any style changes, so I am reticent to implement color changes unless I really must. And I can go either way on the purple.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Chaney
MPLA Webmaster