

ST-10

Wyoming State Representative

March, 2013

MPLA Activities

- Reviewed the reports submitted by the MPLA Committees and by the state representatives;
- Worked with my colleague, Eric Stroshane to develop **Appendix C: Best Practices for State Representatives** for **Section V** of the **MPLA Manual of Practice** document. This draft was then shared with the other MPLA State Representatives for their comments and suggestions. A copy of the document is included in this report
- Sent membership renewal reminders to MPLA members who needed to renew their memberships. I contacted 29 members.
- Submitted a proposal for the upcoming tri-conference in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The proposal was approved.
- Submitted Wyoming news items to Abby Moore for the upcoming MPLA Newsletter.

MPLA, WLA & Wyoming News

- **All State Representatives.** Please remember to write and submit news from your state for the MPLA Newsletter. Abby Moore is our new newsletter editor. Please remember to send state news to her at the following e-mail address editor@mpla.us.

We will be having a State Representatives conference call on this issue. I will let you know when we will have that conference call meeting. The latest MPLA Newsletter is online at <http://www.mpla.us/documents/newsletter/february2013.pdf>. Look it over and be thinking about submissions prior to the next newsletter deadline.

Note: A fair amount of state news filters through the State Library. State Representatives should try to make contact with State Library staff to get state news updates. Thanks to Brenda Hemmelman, from the South Dakota State Library for that suggestion.

- Wyoming Library Association (WLA) is accepting program proposals for the upcoming 2013 WLA Conference. The meeting will take place Wednesday, October 2, 2013 through Saturday, October 5, 2013, at the Little America Hotel and Resort, Cheyenne, WY. The theme for the conference is "Passport to Excellence". The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2013. Applicants will be notified regarding the status of their submission by May 1, 2013. The submission form can be found at the following URL. http://conference.wyla.org/program_form.html

- Personnel from the Library IT Office at the University of Wyoming and personnel from the Wyoming State Library will be working to transition the website. <http://wyomingmemory.org> from a static site to the DRUPAL content management system. The site will be showcasing Wyoming digital collections. The current site was a static site. The new site will be transitioned to DRUPAL which is very configurable and showcases sites very nicely.
- WLA hosted its annual Legislative Reception. The reception took place from 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm on January 24, 2013 at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Boss

Manual of Practice - Appendix C – Best Practices for State Representatives

The duties of the state representative can be grouped into three major categories: communication, representation, and advocacy. Most of the work is done by e-mail, some by phone and some by travel. Here are some practical “best practices” and actionable ideas for advocacy, communication and representation that have been documented by the state representatives in each MPLA member state. While the focus of Appendix A is procedural in nature and focuses on **what** state representatives do; the goal in developing Appendix C is to address **how** the state representatives do their work.

Advocacy

- Obtain a list of librarians and library staff throughout the state. Your State Library or state library organization might have such a list. ALA has a library directory that could be useful;
- Review the list of membership from your state library association;
- Review the staff sections on library websites throughout your state. For example, a number of states organize their public libraries by county. Check these sites for potential MPLA members;
- Compare and contrast your state’s MPLA membership with the state rosters of librarians and staff you have available to you;
- Contact those librarians and staff who are not MPLA members and promote the benefits of MPLA;

Communication

- Submit information to the MPLA newsletter from your State Library and state library organization.
- Take the opportunity to use your State Representative Board updates published for the MPLA Executive Board meetings as a venue to publicize and share your state representative “best practices”;
- Review the State Representative Board updates from the other state representatives. Watch for their best practices and use them accordingly;
- Send MPLA updates to your state organization’s website, your state’s newsletter and to other key library information sites such as your State Library newsletter or website;
- Seek late-breaking, informational updates from your state contacts in various types of library institutions such as public, academic, school and special libraries;
- Submit information/stories to your state library organization’s newsletter;

Representation

- Attend your state organization’s annual conference and represent MPLA by being available at the MPLA booth.
- Some of us are from very large states with small populations. Try to physically represent MPLA by attending library events going on in your state when possible;

- Attending virtually or touching-base with colleagues by e-mail might be the only way to do this -- try to attend events in person when you are able to do so;
- Attend Annual Legislative Reception(s) in your state if your state organization sponsors one. Work with your state library/state professional organization to setup a legislative reception if one is not yet established;
- Establish contact with your county librarians and city librarians depending on the organizational structure in your state. Ask to talk at various library functions.