

#7-04

Al Peterson

Mountain Plains Library Association State Representative

09-12-08

President's Visit to NDLA

Robert Banks, the President of the Mountain Plains Library Association, will be attending this year's NDLA conference in Mandan. He will be there to help me out at the booth and has agreed to speak at one of the general sessions. MPLA will be displaying a new booth and have new brochures on hand. Also will be some memorabilia from the anniversary displayed on the table.

MPLA Professional Development Grants

The final deadline to submit individual grant requests this year is December 3, 2008.

Eligibility requirements:

- Resident of a state in the MPLA region
- Membership in MPLA (for mini grants of \$150 or less the applicant must be a current member of MPLA and must have been a member for the past full calendar year; for regular grants up to \$600 applicant must have been a member for the past two calendar years - total of three consecutive years.
- Currently employed in a library, be a student accepted in an advance degree program in library science or a related discipline, or hold a position or office associated with a library such as a trustee. Grant funding will generally not be awarded to a student unless that student was previously employed in a library or related position in the MPLA region and intends to pursue his or her library career in the MPLA region.
- A past recipient of a professional development grant may not apply for another grant until three years have elapsed following the end of the calendar year in which the previous grant was approved.

Grants are awarded to support the following:

- Attendance as a participant or a presenter at a library or scholarly workshop, seminar, or conference, including the MPLA annual conference.
- Visits to another library to receive or provide significant advanced training in library services or procedures.

- Library related research projects.
- Formal course work leading to an advanced degree in library science or a related discipline.
- Formal course work not leading to an advanced degree but directly related to an individual's library position.

For complete information and link to application form see
<http://www.mpla.us/committees/profdev/grants.html>

KLA/MPLA Conference

The 2009 KLA - MPLA Joint Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency and Century II Convention Center in Wichita, KS. The theme is Libraries: Dynamic People, Places & Ideas April 1-3, 2009. Tracks include the following topics: administration, advocacy, archives/preservation, children, collection development, electronic resources, government resources, instruction, marketing/outreach, professional development, reference, reader's advisory, technology, technical services, trustees/friends, and young adults. Proposals are being accepted Sept 2 - Oct 31, 2008, contact Eileen Wright for more details at ewright@msubillings.edu.

Leadership Institute Task Force

The task force has been looking into some possible locations for the MPLA Leadership Institute. A major point of discussion has been whether to continue trying to offer the Leadership Institute every year or switch to every other year. The next telephone conference will be held on October 8th.

Next Board Meeting

The next executive board meeting for MPLA will be held on October 11 in Denver, CO. I have made travel arrangements to attend the board meeting.

End of Year Report 2007-2008

I have contributed articles to the MPLA newsletter. In selecting articles I tried to pick unique and interesting programs, fundraisers, and stories from all over the state. If you have an event, program, fundraiser, etc that would make a good story, please send it to me at alpeterson@nd.gov so I can share it with other states.

Conference attendance/report

I attended the 2008 ULA/MPLA, *Where Paths Meet: Connecting Libraries and our Communities*, was held in Salt Lake City, April 29-May 2. Over 750 librarians and library supporters attended this conference. In addition to the conference, the Mountain

Plains Library Association celebrated its 60th birthday with a reception at the Salt Lake City Public Library. Past Presidents were recognized for their contributions and dedication to MPLA and professional librarianship.

Community portal

MPLA is working on creating a community portal. This portal will have an array of exciting features for interaction and the creative exchange of ideas and resources. Instead of thirteen separate Electronic Communities that currently exists, there will be a single MPLA-wide community with discussion boards on a host of topics of interest to information professionals, a blog on MPLA news and views, RSS feeds, an MPLA wiki, and other Web 2.0 services to promote online networking, collaboration, and friendship.

Leadership Institute Task Force

A task force has been formed to find some possible solutions for sustaining the Leadership Institute in the future. I am a member of the task force and the first conference call was April 7th. While we all agreed that the MPLA Leadership Institute was important, MPLA got hit with both the loss of the sponsor, EBSCO and an increase in fees from Ghost Ranch, NM. The committee is looking into several possible locations to keep this leadership institute going.

Lapel pins/new booth and logo

MPLA has a new logo and slogan. The slogan is "Big Horizons and Close Community." In addition, there is a new booth, which is a lot easier to set up than the old one. New brochures were printed up. Also available are MPLA Lapel Pins for \$5.00, which feature the new logo.

Membership

Total North Dakota membership in the Mountain Plains Library Association is 64 members with 36 people being currently active.