

#7-03

Al Peterson

Mountain Plains Library Association State Representative

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Conference attendance/report

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. Featured Keynote speaker was Jim Rettig, incoming president of ALA.

Rob Banks, Deputy Director of Operations for the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library was sworn in as President of the Mountain Plains Library Association. Also taking a new position was Annie Epperson who took over the duties of Recording Secretary.

In addition to the conference, the Mountain Plains Library Association celebrated its 60th birthday with cake and refreshments 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 ideas 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.