

#7-05

Al Peterson

Mountain Plains Library Association State Representative

12-12-2008

The winners of the free MPLA membership are are Mari Ferguson, Gail Hasz, Eric Stroshane, Gayla Schill, Mary Lovell, Donna Metzger, Chandra Hirning, Kathy Hill, Cheryl Zimprich, and Karen Joan Kohoutek.

I attended the fall board meeting on October 11, 2008 in Denver. Major items on the agenda were the 2009 KLA/MPLA Joint conference, the conference manual update, some long range plan tweaking, and The Leadership Institute restructuring. Discussion was held about the future of the community portal and current level of frustration of it not working properly. A recommendation was made to bring back the roundtables, but not include roundtable chairpersons on the board (which in the past created an MPLA board of 40+ people), rather have the Past President act as Roundtable coordinator. Roundtables will give members an opportunity to network at conferences based on common interests. It also allows emerging MPLA leaders (for instance, Leadership Institute alumni) a chance to take a leadership role without committing to a board position. Discussion was also held on whether it was economically feasible to cancel the print newsletter and continue with it completely online.

The Leadership Institute will be held every two years starting in 2010. The time frame has been switched to spring, sometime late April and the location will be the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park CO. Funding for the leadership institute is going to be tricky since EBSCO pulled out. Another sponsor will be needed in order to keep costs to participants down. A RFP will be prepared for presenters and a new job description for the Institute Coordinator needs to be written as well. Goals and learning objectives are being written by a taskforce as well.

I was able to meet with the South Dakota State Representative to pick out a year for the next Tri-Conference. Both associations have 2013 open. Since it is South Dakota's turn to host, the site will be Sioux Falls.

Membership in MPLA for North Dakota currently stands at 71 members.