

MPLA Representative (F-2)
2011-2012 Annual Report
Submitted by Theresa Jehlik

The MPLA listserv was discontinued. Official communication is now delivered via MemberClicks. Generic MPLA e-mails were created for board members. Future e-mails will be forwarded to the current individual in each position. MPLA 2.0 was dropped as usage was very low and it was very time-consuming to maintain. More emphasis is now placed on Facebook, Twitter, and other social networking tools. MPLA's Facebook likes are up to 717 as of 8 October 2012.

Robin Brooks Clark served as Nominating Chair for MPLA this year. Newly elected officers are Wendy Wendt, Vice-President/President-Elect and Lea Briggs, Recording Secretary. Wendy is Director of the Grand Forks Public Library in North Dakota and a graduate of the 2010 Leadership Institute. Lea, the former Presentation College Library Director in Aberdeen, South Dakota, has recently moved to New Mexico. She is a graduate of the 2004 Leadership Institute.

I attended the MPLA Board Meeting in Estes Park, Colorado. The board members gathered on Thursday, May 10th at 4:30 p.m. to meet the Leadership Institute attendees and enjoy an evening team-building activity.

The MPLA Executive Board met in on Friday, May 11th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The majority of the meeting was spent working in small groups on key topics for MPLA's long-term sustainability. Each group reported on their discussions and suggestions.

The topics discussed were –

- Building an infrastructure to support financial sponsorship and gifts
- MPLA membership collateral/process review: membership brochure/table presentation/handouts at conferences/drawings etc.
- Newsletter: Challenges with content gathering/number of issues per year
- Academic Forum / Academic Publishing
- Relationships with our State Associations and regional leadership
- State Representative recruitment & orientation process
- Leadership Institute 2014 / Alumni Project

These findings will be used to work on the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan at the October board meeting in Nebraska. I also attended regularly scheduled conference call board meetings and met with the Executive Committee to discuss the progress of 2012 conference planning.

The 2014 Leadership Institute will be held May 4th through 9th at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Maureen Sullivan, ALA President, will be the facilitator.

MPLA/NLA/NSLA Tri-Conference

I met with the local conference planning committee at the LaVista Public Library from January through September 2012. My responsibilities included serving as MPLA liaison, programs, and publicity.

The Membership Committee created a new MPLA brochure and free membership drawing slips for the Nebraska conference

MPLA posted the conference handouts and presentations on its website. Special thanks to Dan Chaney, MPLA Webmaster, for creating the web pages and posting materials promptly.

The Professional Development Committee organized a resume review service for the MPLA booth. A companion program, ***Demystifying Job Postings: Find the Right Job and Ace the Interview***, is on October 19th at 2:30 p.m.

The Nebraska nominees for MPLA Awards are –

MPLA Literary Contribution Award

Jean Lukesh, *The Nebraska Adventure*

From the nomination: Jean is the author of ***The Nebraska Adventure***, first published in 2004. It is a textbook on Nebraska history and is currently used by approximately 85% of elementary schools across the state. ***The Nebraska Adventure*** won the 2005 national Texty Award for textbook excellence in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Elementary-High School level, the 2006 Nebraska Book Award for Children's Nonfiction, and a 2006 Moonshell Arts and Humanities Council Literary Award. Jean also co-wrote a local sesquicentennial history book of Hall County, Nebraska, which won a Moonshell Literary Award in 2008. She worked...with University of Nebraska at Kearney, the Archway Monument, and Kearney Public Schools as an educational consultant for their summer school PAWS project on the Pawnee Indians. She was also a consultant...when the Pawnee came from Oklahoma to do a powwow at the Archway Monument. Jean is working with fellow Nebraska author Roger Welsch on the repatriation and restoration of the Pawnee to Nebraska and recently received a certificate of appreciation from the Pawnee.

Hugh Reilly, *Bound to Have Blood*

From the nomination: Hugh Reilly's book ***Bound to Have Blood*** examines the newspaper coverage of several key events in the Plains Indian Wars. This work of non-fiction analyzes the reporting of the period and how news depictions of Native Americans reinforced negative stereotypes....Using research from many different sources, the author compares and contrasts the atmosphere of the time with the reporting of the incidents.... In addition to reviewing newspaper accounts, this academic

work also details military actions leading up to the conflicts, as well as the state and national political climate before and after the events. Hugh Reilly is an associate professor in the School of Communication at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is a member of the university's Native American studies faculty. He is also the coauthor of *Historic Omaha: An Illustrated History of Omaha and Douglas County* and *Father Flanagan of Boys Town: A Man of Vision*.

MPLA Beginning Professional Award

Robin Clark, Director, Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, Nebraska

From the nomination: Robin has implemented many positive changes (but not always popular, which makes her a great director)...She has an understanding about what it takes to get a problem solved and is a great role model to her staff when solving patron and staff issues. She is a leader within the community and is [a] Lions member besides her numerous other responsibilities. She has initiated change throughout the library and has had to make some hard decisions about what that change needs to be but has always kept her professionalism at the forefront of her decisions. She works well with all ages that are present in the library and has an interest in the teen programming component with her youth services manager. Robin attended the MPLA 2010 Leadership Institute.

Historical Trivia

The states represented at the MPLA founding meeting in August 1948 were Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, and Wyoming. The association was first conceived by the Bibliographical Center for Research (BCR) which was founded in 1935 with a Carnegie Grant.