



# Montana Library Association

*From the Mountains to the Prairies*

## **MLA BOARD REPORTS**

Office held/Chair of: MPLA Representative

Reported By: Eileen Wright

Date: Sept 2016

### **Progress or Successes since Our Last Meeting:**

#### **New Issues:**

**Strategic Plan** – It is was passed through electronic voting to go with the Sage Project Consultants for the strategic planning proposal. They already started with the first focus group (Leadership Institute alumnus), and the focus of this discussion was about ideas to redress and play to MPLA's strengths as an organization. The next focus group will be the State Representatives, and they have found out that the feedback is consistent with the previous groups stated strengths and weaknesses. They are on track to have a value based plan ready for the October board meeting.

**CAL/MPLA Conference update** - There were 155 programs, and 93 were chosen with many from MPLA members.

**Leadership Institute** – They are going to form a small committee to explore venue options, evaluate budget, and how to best plan future leadership institutes. This arose because of the balance cost vs valuable experience – it is getting harder and harder to find sponsorships to help with the overall cost. They also went to an application process for the mentors. It was felt that this went over well and was positively accepted. It made the mentors think about how their skills and experiences would relate to the institute. There were 8 applicants and 5 were chosen.

**Membership Stats: 12-year Membership Statistics** – (I thought you may want to see how organizations everywhere are dealing with lower numbers over the past few years)

**June/July Count**

2005 – 684  
2006 – 655  
2007 – 715  
2008 – 619  
2009 – 627  
2010 – 588  
2011 – 492  
2012 – 555  
2013 – 481  
2014 - 428  
2015 – 437  
2016 - 426

**Author membership category considered:** Ellen Fockler, chair, discussed the addition of a category: authors. Discussion included fees, voting rights, any benefits such advertising in newsletter/static information for website, how do we want to define an author (self-publishing?), and how the addition of this could lead to other opportunities to network and benefit the future of MPLA. They are planning on having a solid plan in place to proposal at the general membership meeting in October.

**Newsletter Editor Search:** President, Eric Stroshane indicated that our newsletter editor will be resigning after the December issue. So, a job search was conducted, and the Administration committee has already done telephone interviews. They will provide to the board their recommendation for hiring for approval at the October meeting.

**Board Action Requested:**

None at this time.

**Other Comments:**