



## MHSLA

2008 Conference Planning Committee Report

**Midwest MLA / MHSLA 2008 Conference**

**October 17 – 21, 2008 at the Detroit Marriott - Troy**

10/16/08

After almost 3 years of planning, the 2008 joint Midwest / MHSLA Conference “Vital Signs: Keeping You and Your Library Vibrant and Healthy” is ready to go.

The conference offers three days of continuing education with 9 course offerings and two days of conference programming. The keynote speaker is Deena Ebbert, presenting the FISH! Leadership Philosophy, and the plenary speaker is MJ Tooey, Executive Director of the Health Science and Human Services Library at the University of Maryland and former MLA President.

There will be a Motown themed welcome reception and a special event at the newly renovated and impressive Detroit Institute of Arts.

The exhibit committee did a great job and attracted 25 exhibitors. There are 19 posters for the poster session and 15 contributed papers, as well as several concurrent sessions and a great Tech Forum scheduled for Tuesday morning. The Tech Forum is included in the conference fee.

The original plenary speaker, Eugenie Prime, had to withdraw due to health issues. M.J. Tooey agreed to fill in as plenary speaker and will be talking about the MLA Vital Pathways initiative. A couple of other speakers / instructors had to withdraw, but were able to provide substitutes.

The paid registrations and CE participants as of 10/15/08 (not including exhibitors) are:

Full Registrations	124	
One day only	15	
Student	8	
CE only	11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>Total Registration income \$35,950</b>

There were 74 MHSLA member registrants, 90 Midwest member registrants and 15 that indicated no affiliation.

CE participants	
8 hour	49
3- 4 hour	<u>55</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>
	<b>Total CE income \$14,570</b>

There will be 23 exhibitors (one, NEJM, was a donation only), and three Sunrise Seminars (Ebsco, Elsevier, and Ovid)\

Total Exhibitor income: **\$25,145**

The current estimated deficit is **\$8,523**, primarily due to anticipated payment for the room attrition rate. We had guaranteed 450 room nights (negotiated down twice) and had a 10% hedge factor, so we are liable for 405 room nights. The rented room nights currently stand at 340. (see attached budget estimates and registration detail).

The room nights may have been adversely affected by a problem with reserving double rooms. In August the hotel was indicating that there were no double rooms available. This problem was worked out, but the solution was somewhat cumbersome, and we may have lost some registrants because of the confusion.

Initial projections for registrations were 175-200. Registrations were very likely impacted by the current economic climate and the fact that the MLA 2008 Conference was held in Chicago this year. The Midwest board may want to consider foregoing a regional conference when the MLA Conference falls in the Midwest region in the same year, or perhaps have an abbreviated regional conference that year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen O'Donnell, Conference Coordinator  
 Sandra Martin, Local Arrangements Chair