



Report to the Membership of the 2006-2007 Year Presented on April 17, 2007

MIPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 182 schools, with 270 advisers. We realize there are still more schools, advisers and students in Michigan who would benefit from membership in our organization. Please help us to spread the word about MIPA and its programs.

The 2006 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 25, at the Lansing Center. Nearly 1,500 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and on-site contests.

Elected to the MIPA Board as trustees were Tim Morley and Paula Pantano. Cheryl Braford's trustee term was over. Jenny Birmelin volunteered to be the Junior High/Middle School chair on the board.

MIPA was involved with two events in May. One was "The Business of High School Journalism" on May 5. Co-Sponsors were JIdeas and the Michigan Press Association Foundation. Another event was "Thy Brothers' Keeper" at the Flint Institute of Arts on May 16. This was a photojournalism experience with keynote speaker Taro Yamasaki, a Pulitzer-Prize winning photojournalist.

For 13 years in a row, the summer workshop has been under the guidance of Betsy Pollard Rau, and this past year she did another incredible job, even though the heat almost killed us all off! Nearly 480 students attended. For this summer, MIPA's 24rd workshop, Betsy has lined up staff and is working on all of her many other tasks. Betsy continues to hire excellent staff members from Michigan as well as from around the country. The theme for this year is "MIPA2007: Journalism is Forever."

More than 2,700 students and teachers attended the MIPA Fall Conference at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing on Oct. 16. There were four learning sessions for students and advisers throughout the day and more than 65 presentations available. The conference ended right after lunch, however, as the construction workers out front had hit a gas main!

MIPA hosted its fourth Junior High Conference on Nov. 2. The half-day conference was held at the MSU Union and attendees could choose four different sessions. An on-site contest was also held. This was the largest one with 500 students and teachers attending.

In conjunction with the Detroit Free Press and the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism at the MSU School of Journalism, MIPA sponsored a one-day workshop on Feb. 28 for Detroit high school journalists at the Detroit Science Center. More than 200 students attended the event, which was titled "Cell Phones, Hurricanes and Mascara: Journalism and the Environment." Students had a chance to meet Detroit media personalities as well as work with journalists from the Detroit Free Press.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 3. It's always a fun day and very well organized, thanks to Julie Price, Lynn Strause and Diane Herder. Thanks to all of those who gave up a Saturday to help!

The yearbook individual contest continues to gain popularity. Yearbook advisers will find the statistical breakdown of entries and divisions in their awards packets. This information will be on the Web as well.

Likewise, the video journalism individual contest continues to grow. Advisers asked to be able to send in three tapes in each category, and this year had a record 23 schools, up from 17 last year, entering 257 entries, up from 175 entries last year. In order to continue allowing three tapes in the contest, however, we will need more participation from MIPA members at judging day.

Many thanks to Rod Satterthwaite for continuing the MIPA Mentorship program. This was an idea that Rod came up with for an independent study three summers ago. This year we had 10 pairs of mentors and mentees. If you are interested in having or being a mentor for the 2007-2008 school year, please contact Rod.

We are continuing to expand our Web site so that it becomes a useful tool for you. The more we use the site, the more we hope to become dependent on it and not the US Postal Service. This can mean a great savings in postage and copying for MIPA. We can take that savings and create more scholarships for the workshop or provide other services. Please use this as a source of information about all of MIPA's activities: www.mipa.jrn.msu.edu. In addition, MIPA now has a Facebook page and is getting new friends all the time!

MIPA is in the final stages of becoming a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization with the IRS. As you know, we needed to revise the bylaws for MIPA and sent them to you via e-mail. Many of you responded with your vote. Thank you!

This year we have had four meetings, chaired by Rod, to align journalism curriculum with the new content expectations from the state. As soon as we have completed the this, we will be posting all of the work on the Web site. Thanks to all of you who have given of your time to work on this important committee. We have been hosted by Haslett H.S. and Holt H.S., and we thank them for their hospitality.

Sen. Michael Switalski introduced SB352 that would prevent censorship of the student press. We plan to work hard on this to ensure its passage, and hope that you will encourage your students to get involved. We'll be in touch with ideas for this. A Facebook group called "Fight for Student Journalists' First Amendment Rights" has been started.

Bookkeeping currently is being handled by Cheryl Pell, with board members and the director of the School of Journalism, Jane Briggs-Bunting, overseeing the operation. The new bylaws state that we need a treasurer, and we are electing that person today, although the day-to-day bookkeeping will still be done by Cheryl.

The MIPA office is staffed by two wonderful students. They are Amy Brandt, office manager, and Jonathan Vereecke, membership and contest coordinator.

Nationally, Michigan and MIPA are recognized as leaders in scholastic journalism. Our workshop is considered one of the best in the country. Many of our student publications win national awards as noted in today's program.

The MIPA executive director, board and office staff are here to serve the membership. Please call us for help, offer suggestions and become involved in our efforts to strengthen the organization and scholastic journalism. Both you and the organization will benefit.

- Cheryl Pell, MIPA executive director
MSU School of Journalism
- Rod Satterthwaite, MIPA president
Dexter H.S.