

Report to the Membership of the 2007–2008 Year Presented on April 21, 2008

MIPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 195 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 2007 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 17, at the Lansing Center. Nearly 1,200 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and on-site contests.

Elected to the MIPA Board as trustee was Sue Spalding as Nikki Schueller's term was over. C.E. Sikkenga was voted in as 2nd Vice President, and he took over for Sandra Strall, whose term was over. Brian Wilson was elected treasurer, a new position.

Under Rod's leadership, work on aligning journalism curriculum with the state ELA and VPPA standards was completed and posted on the MIPA Web site in May.

For 14 years in a row, the summer workshop has been under the guidance of Betsy Pollard Rau, and this past year she did another wonderful job. Attendance was at 436. For this summer, MIPA's 25th workshop, Betsy has lined up staff and is working on all of her many other tasks. She continues to hire excellent staff members from Michigan as well as from around the country. The theme for this year is "Jump Into Journalism."

In September, Rep. Andy Coulouris (D-Saginaw) introduced House Bill 5214, which would make censorship illegal in the public schools. It is in the education committee.

About 2,547 students and teachers attended the MIPA Fall Conference at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing on Oct. 18. There were four learning sessions for students and advisers throughout the day and more than 65 presentations available.

MIPA hosted its fifth Junior High Conference on Nov. 1. The half-day conference was held at the MSU Union and attendees could choose four different sessions. An carry-in contest was held and awards were given out during the last 15 minutes of the conference. 445 students and teachers attended the half-day event.

In December, MIPA's board of directors traveled to Indiana to meet with members of the Indiana High School Press Association board. Both boards exchanged ideas and shared tips for conference ideas.

MIPA hosted a one-day InDesign/Photoshop/Final Cut Pro workshop on Feb. 8. 122 people participated in the classes, which were taught at the MSU School of Journalism.

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 Zoo. More than 200 students attended the event, which was titled "Steroids, Makeup and Panda Bears: 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 collaborated with the Michigan Press Association Foundation to sponsor internships for teachers who would like the opportunity to work at a newspaper for four weeks during the summer. The MIPA Foundation is supplying the salary for these teachers. If successful, we plan to continue this exciting opportunity, and we are thankful to the MPA Foundation for making it possible. Participants are also able to receive credit from MSU if they wish to enroll.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 1. It's always a fun day and very well organized, thanks to Julie Price, Lynn Strause and Diane Herder. We had more than 4,400 entries combined and 65 wonderful judges. Thanks to all of those who gave up a Saturday to help!

Statistical breakdowns for all the individual contests your students entered are in your packet today.

Many thanks to Rod Satterthwaite for continuing the MIPA Mentorship program. This was an idea that Rod came up with for an independent study four summers ago. This year we had 12 pairs of mentors and mentees. If you are interested in having or being a mentor for the 2008-2009 school year, please contact Rod.

An exciting event is planned for the fall. On Sept. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m., we will host an event called "Student Voices: Celebrating the First Amendment." Your students can write essays and be eligible for prizes and the chance to present their essay on the steps of the Capitol Building in Lansing. Please see the information in your program today or visit the MIPA Web site for more information.

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 became a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization in August of 2007. We are now financially separate from MSU in most ways.

Day-to-day bookkeeping is being handled by Cheryl Pell, with the treasurer and the director of the School of Journalism, Jane Briggs-Bunting, overseeing the operation.

The MIPA office is staffed by two wonderful students. They are Amy Brandt, office manager, and Jonathan Vereecke, membership and contest coordinator. We've also enjoyed help from Jayna Salk and Jeremy Whiting.

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.