



Report to the Membership of the 2011–2012 Year Presented on April 17, 2012

MIPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 171 schools, with 244 advisers. This is up about 30 schools, and that is a direct result of our free membership campaign for advisers who have not been members before. 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 2011 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 26 at the Lansing Center. About 1,318 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and on-site contests. This is up about 200 from last year.

On that day, Sue Spalding was re-elected to the board as trustee. Sara-Beth O'Connor was elected to the board as trustee. Brian Wilson was elected second vice president, and Jesse McLean was elected treasurer. Since that election, Dawn Landis, who was on her second year as trustee, left the position. Brian Wilson stepped down as second vice president and was named the JEA chair for the MIPA board. The board appointed Sue Spalding second vice president to fill out his term.

For 19 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 408, which was down about 8 students from the year before. The theme for last year was "MIPA J-Cation: Back to the Beach." Betsy made the decision to retire from being the workshop director, and the MIPA board named Chad Sanders the new workshop director. Chad had been the assistant director under Betsy for a number of years. Rod Satterthwaite was named the associate director of the workshop. This year's theme is "All In," and the dates are July 29 to Aug. 2. We continue to work to keep the cost down for students, and a search for various workshops and camps will find our fee very competitive.

We have some organizations that generously donate funds for scholarships so that students can attend the workshop. They are the MPA Foundation, the Argus-Press from Owosso, the Detroit Free Press and the School of Journalism. We warmly thank them for their contributions.

MIPA has 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 MPA Foundation is supplying the salary for these teachers. No

one took part in this program last year, but 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. The application deadline will always be March 20 of the year of the internship.

The Fall Conference was held on Oct. 18, and attendance was at 1,909, down about 15 people from last year. There were four learning sessions for students and advisers throughout the day and more than 65 presentations available. Our special guest speaker was Linda Puntney, who had just retired as the JEA executive director.

MIPA hosted its ninth Middle School Conference on Nov. 4. The half-day conference was held at the MSU Union and attendees could choose four different sessions. A carry-in contest was held for the fifth year and awards were given out during the last 15 minutes of the conference. There were 210 students in attendance, 71 fewer than last year.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 3, and 4,220 entries were judged by 61 judges. It's always a fun day and very well organized, thanks to Julie Price, Lynn Strause and Diane Herder. If you've never been to the judging day event, we highly recommend it! Thanks to all of those who gave up a Saturday to help!

MIPA hosted a one-day workshop and offered InDesign/Photoshop/Wordpress/Building Next Year's Staff and Newspaper Design. The event was to be held on Friday, Feb. 24, but because of poor weather, the event was moved to March 23. This year, 74 people participated in the workshop, which was down from 30 people last year. All classes were taught at the College of Communication Arts & Sciences Building.

In a move to create a cleaner environment, we have put lists of all winners on the MIPA website. Please go to <http://mipamsu.org/2012-spring-conference/> to see all of the individual category contest winners as well as Spartan contest results. A statistical breakdown for all the individual contests is on the website as well.

Many thanks to Rod Satterthwaite for continuing the MIPA Mentorship program. This was an idea that Rod came up with for an independent study several summers ago. This year we had six pairs of mentors and mentees. If you are interested in having or being a mentor for the 2012-2013 school year, please contact Rod.

Day-to-day bookkeeping is being handled by Cheryl Pell. The treasurer, Jesse McLean, is overseeing the operation.

The MIPA office is staffed by two wonderful students. They are Jayna Salk and Christina Miteff. Both are graduating this year. New to the MIPA office this past spring is Anya Rath, who is a freshman journalism major. She is from L'Anse Creuse North HS.

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.

This coming year will be one of great change for MIPA as several people are leaving leadership positions. Julie Price is stepping down as newspaper chair. Taking her place will be C.E. Sikkenga. Lynn Strause is stepping down as yearbook chair, and taking her place will be Erica Kincannon. As already mentioned, Betsy Rau stepped down as workshop director and Chad Sanders has taken over. All of these people dedicated many hours to MIPA, and we thank them for their hard work over the years. Finally, Cheryl Pell is leaving the position of MIPA executive director after 25 years on May 15. She will continue on as a full time faculty member at the School of Journalism. At this writing her successor has not yet been named.

MIPA is fortunate to have its home in the Michigan State University School of Journalism. In a time when the economy is struggling, it wouldn't have seemed strange if the J-School would have said it could no longer fund MIPA. However, Lucinda Davenport, director of the School of Journalism, and Pam Whitten, dean of the College of Communication Arts & Sciences, continue to value what MIPA brings to the University. For that, we all owe the University our gratitude.

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.

Please "like" us on our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter!

Respectfully submitted,
• Cheryl Pell, MIPA executive director
• C.E. Sikkenga, president, Grand Haven HS