

MHSLA Membership Chair Report 05-26-15

Select members of the board and the 2015 Flint MHSLA Conference team have been trialing the Wild Apricot membership database created April 2015. We have been trialing the \$50/month “Community” level membership because of the enhanced event features and ability to create multiple, tiered-access administrator accounts. The current database can be seen at: <http://mhsla.wildapricot.org>

- The \$50/month price will be increasing to \$70/month as of June 1st. Administrators will be limited to 10 accounts. All other functionalities remain the same for this level.

The membership database was easy to create and will make updating membership rolls much easier in the future. Past membership chairs have used an excel spreadsheet and the current chair has found many inconsistencies and discrepancies due to this ad-hoc database. Wild Apricot makes it easy to upload and manage membership rolls and it allows the administrators to send out automated payment notices, track payments, and send emails to select groups of members efficiently. It also allows members to update their own member profile – reducing redundancies and ensuring up-to-date contact information for members.

We can also create events, allow members to register, and manage event calendars and more on the Wild Apricot database. The testing for this feature is ongoing by the Flint 2015 Conference staff but it could reduce the amount of paperwork and streamline event registrations.

At this time we would not integrate the database with our PayPal account. Although the status of membership dues payments (current, late, lapsed) will be recorded the treasurer would like to keep the accounts separate and investigate integration at a later date.

If we choose to move to Wild Apricot as our membership database we will need to send out an email on the MHSLA list-serv altering members to the change and asking them to add wildapricot.org to their approved email senders list. Currently emails from that domain go into spam folders.

Respectfully submitted,
Iris Kovar-Gough
MHSLA Membership Chair