



M.A.I.N., INC. MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, a number of libraries (hereinafter called the “Members”) have together formed “M.A.I.N., Inc.” for the purposes of supplementing and enhancing a computerized integrated library information system (the “ILS System”) for such libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Members have created a nonprofit corporation of libraries called the Morris Automated Information Network, Inc. (M.A.I.N., Inc.) with full power and authority to do all things necessary as agent to the Members, and to perform all obligations and to exercise all the rights of M.A.I.N., Inc. ; and

WHEREAS, sharing services is a cost-effective method of increasing availability of materials to our residents; and

Whereas, Members are willing to share with other Members all or parts of their individual collections for reciprocal borrowing and demand management; and

WHEREAS, Members agree to release and hold harmless M.A.I.N., Inc. and its employees from any liability resulting from acts of any third parties or other Members; and

WHEREAS, Members agree to abide by the By-Laws, policies and procedures of M.A.I.N., Inc. ;

WHEREAS, active participation is a vital component of membership, and library directors are advised to attend at least one each of Membership, Board of Directors, and Directors meetings annually;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Board of Trustees of:

Library Name

Certifies that it meets the qualifications of membership set forth in the By-Laws of M.A.I.N., Inc.. This Agreement is effective January 1, 2021, and will remain in effect for one year from this date.

In Witness Whereof, M.A.I.N., Inc. and the Member have, through appropriate officials thereof, executed and sealed this Agreement on the dates set forth opposite their signatures.

ATTEST:

President, M.A.I.N., Inc.

Secretary, M.A.I.N., Inc.

Date

ATTEST:

President, Library Board of Trustees
(or appropriate governing body)

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees
(or appropriate governing body)

Date



December 3, 2020

Greetings:

My name is Seth Stephens, I am the 2020 Board President of MAIN. I am also the Director of the Jefferson Township Public Library. I am writing to share with you details of the many benefits that MAIN has provided to its members this year.

Most significantly, MAIN is supporting its members through the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, with guidance on patrons' increased use of eBooks and eAudiobooks; facilitating the switching to and from curbside delivery; organizing parking lot exchanges in the absence of a statewide delivery system; and subsequent development of a MAIN-wide interim delivery service between member libraries.

When not dealing with the impact of the virus, MAIN's Executive Director, Phillip Berg, and his staff were able to complete many projects that benefit the member libraries. In January, a restructuring of the MAIN catalog system was successfully completed. This restructuring of the catalog system created many opportunities for improved data analysis and it positions MAIN to easily take advantage of a variety of new and developing library technologies.

Throughout the Spring and the Summer, MAIN interacted with various mobile app developers and were recently able to release the first MAIN-wide app. The MAIN app is easily customizable for each library and very affordable. The chief benefits of the app are to bring many of the functions of the MAIN library catalog into the palm of a patron's hand, and where enabled, conveniently check out materials from one's own device.

Organizationally, two new libraries will join MAIN in January: Hunterdon County Library System and the Bernardsville Public Library. The addition of these libraries is the fruition of much hard work and persistence by members of MAIN's staff, Board of Directors, and committees. The addition of new member libraries are essential steps in the long-term goal of building a sustainable, innovative, and affordable MAIN.

Included with this letter is a return-on-investment calculation for your library. The document provides context for your library's annual MAIN assessment and offers a comparison of what the costs for the same services would cost with the same vendors if a library were unfortunately not part of a consortium like MAIN. Often the annual assessment is viewed in isolation of the benefits of being a MAIN member. As this year's assessment is reviewed, please consider the value received by your library's membership in MAIN.

Thanks to the careful and diligent work of MAIN's Executive Director and the Finance Committee, the assessments for 2021 are flat. As we prepare for 2021, MAIN is financially sound and well-suited for the future.

In closing, I am grateful for your support and the work of your library director and staff on behalf of MAIN. In an age when pessimism seems rampant, it is extremely rewarding to experience the mutual respect and collaboration displayed by MAIN members. Throughout 2020, MAIN has fulfilled its mission of libraries working cooperatively to enable quality library service to its members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Seth Stephens - 2020 President, MAIN Board of Directors - Director, Jefferson Township Public Library