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NEWS FROM COLORADO – Jan. 2009

CAL Conference

The annual Colorado Association of Libraries Conference was held in November at the Denver Marriott Tech Center Hotel and was CAL's first "green" conference. Most attendees made a real effort to recycle, reuse and conserve during the conference. The conference dates for 2009 are Nov. 19-21 at the Marriott Denver Tech Center in Denver and the theme is "Power On: Avenues for the Future."

Colorado has added 10 new members to MPLA, thanks to the drawing for free memberships. I will be contacting those members who have not yet renewed for 2009 in the next few weeks.

Twenty of Colorado's most outstanding library personnel were recognized at the annual awards banquet during the conference. The number and variety of awards given by the CAL organization have been the subject of some controversy in the past couple years. A special task force representing all library types in Colorado has been created to analyze and evaluate the existing awards and to make suggestions for changes. The task force, chaired by me, has been researching how other state library organizations, mostly in the Mountain-Plains region, recognize outstanding librarianship and will be presenting their recommendations to the CAL Board this coming spring.

The re-structuring of the awards is just one of many projects being undertaken by the current CAL Board in a continuing effort to strengthen the CAL organization and increase its effectiveness for its many members. More on these changes will be reported in future MPLA reports.

Colorado Leadership Institute

Colorado Association of Libraries (CAL) is pleased to announce the participants in the first CAL Leadership Institute. The group includes participants from all areas of librarianship including public, academic, school, and special libraries who represent libraries from across Colorado.

The Leadership Institute is designed to develop outstanding leaders within CAL and the Colorado library community. Participants will engage in a year long-process of leadership development activities including self-assessment, networking, and skills development. Program goals include:

- Explore and understand personal leadership styles.
- Develop key relationship among participants, presenters, and the larger library community through inquiry (listening and understanding others), advocacy (learning about issues and taking a stand), and networking (building collaborative networks and creating coalitions for change).
- Participate in professional development opportunities to enhance leadership skills.

Library professionals who volunteered to serve as mentors have been selected and matched up with their mentees. A day of meetings and training is scheduled for early March. Progress reports will be included in my reports through the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Katherine Katzer
Colorado Representative to MPLA

See you in Wichita!