

ST-2

Around the region

Colorado Report

Among the initiatives on the statewide ballot this coming fall is #55, which affects special districts, the funding entity for many library systems around the state of Colorado. Initiative #55 seeks to prohibit the provision of non-emergency services to illegal immigrants. In the State of Colorado, special districts are the funding and organizational mechanisms for many library systems, as well as municipal and agricultural water, traffic safety, open space, medical services such as paramedic/ambulance, and parks and recreation. Citizens of Colorado would be able to sue “any governmental entity which fails to enforce the restrictions.” Implications of the initiative are far-reaching, not least of which are the costs that would be incurred in simply determining the immigrant status of patrons, users and customers of the services provided by special districts. Supporters must collect sufficient signatures, and the initiative must be approved by the Secretary of State, to have it placed on November’s ballot. For more information, see the Special District Association July newsletter at http://www.sdaco.org/docs/newsletter_july.pdf

The Mountain & Plains Paraprofessionals, an organization that serves Rocky Mountain area library paraprofessionals and support staff, is planning a summer workshop, with the theme of Reaching Out to the Community. Registration for the day-long August 11 event is \$25, which includes a continental breakfast, keynote address by Jamie LaRue of Douglas County Libraries, lunch, and three workshop sessions. See their website for more information: <http://academic.regis.edu/mgarnar/index.html>

Suzanne Taylor, longtime MPLA member and former MPLA/CAL liaison is retiring from Colorado State University’s Morgan Library at the end of June 2006. Her service to MPLA, librarianship, and librarians in and out of Colorado is much appreciated. Suzanne, you will be missed!

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Epperson

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