

ST-4

Montana State Report - October 2006

MLA board passed the motion to send a letter of invitation for a joint MLA/MPLA conference in the year 2011 in Billings, Montana. A formal letter of invitation is being sent.

The Montana Library Association Conference, The Tipping Point – Moving Montana Libraries from Good to Great, will take place April 25-28 in Helena Montana. Two wonderful guest speakers are attending this year: Nancy Pearl will be the keynote speaker and Neil Gaiman will be the featured author. There will also be a public held event with Neil Gaiman on Saturday afternoon.

Libraries from around Montana met for the annual ASLD/PLD retreat in Chico Hot Springs. Hot water and hot topics were enjoyed by all that attended. Sessions such as grant writing, innovative approaches to online catalog interfaces, copyright @ your library, and the after dinner thermal float with book discussion were just some of the topics discussed with much enthusiasm.

“Teen Territory” opened at the Rosebud County Library in Forsyth. The special teen area came about because of two teenagers from the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA.) It has been a two-year project, where they had received a gold award both at the state and national levels of FCCLA for the first year of the project. The first year was filled with surveys, proposals, meetings and discussions, and grant writing, and the second year was the creation of the “Teen Territory.” The library has been supportive with space, advice and encouragement, funding, help with grant writing, and “mostly we’ve cheered at every win-win-win aspect of this wonderful project,” Library Director Cheryl Hesel.

Friends of the Hearst Free Library held their first ever “Reading the Greens” golf scramble. It was a huge success for not only raising \$1,500, which will be used to help fund the campaign for the Library’s Mill Levy Election on November 7th, but also raising awareness through fun among a patron based seldom seen.

“Pennies for Peace” is still going strong, and asking the libraries to continue the drive. It has raised about \$12,000 for the Central Asia Institute.

Montana Library Events Calendar is now on line. The calendar features upcoming library training events and activities, and it can be found at www.calendar.mtlib.org.