

## **ST-5**

MPLA Board Report October 2012

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### **Nebraska eReads Budget Proposal**

The Nebraska Library Commission has submitted an extra funding budget request to the Nebraska Unicameral for an eReads program. eReads would expand literacy across the state by providing books in multiple formats to meet readers' needs. If funded, this program would provide more eBook and eAudio titles to public libraries. Additional funding would also be given to the regional libraries and NebraskaAccess. The Nebraska Library Association's Legislative/Advocacy Committee will have a hand-out about this request and a draft info-graphic to use as an advocacy tool at the October conference. The eReads program is additional money and not intended to replace State Aid to Libraries.

### **National Literacy Month**

The Nebraska Library Association Board approved joining the initiative to declare October as National Literacy Month. Governor David Heineman will sign the proclamation on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. Since it's the first day of the MPLA/NLA/NSLA Tri-Conference, we hope that NLA members, library supporters, and literacy supporters will attend this public signing event. Having library and literacy supporters standing in front of Governor Heineman will remind the public about the connection between libraries and literacy. Special thanks go to Francine Canfield, Ralston Public Library, for spearheading this effort.

### **Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) Now Nebraska School Librarians Association (NSLA)**

NEMA members approved an organizational name change effective 1 July 2012. NEMA, founded in 1969, chose the new name to align with the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). AASL voted to adopt "school librarian" as the profession's official name in 2010. The title "school librarian" sufficiently reflects the role of 21<sup>st</sup>-century library educational programs, support, networking opportunities, and advocacy for school librarians and libraries.

## **Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Elections**

Robin Brooks Clark, Sump Memorial Library in Papillion, was elected Vice President/President-Elect for 2012-2013. Rose Barcal, LaVista Public Library, was elected Secretary. Jake Rundle, Hasting Public Library, was elected MPLA Representative. His term will start on 1 November 2012.

## **Long-Range Planning Conference Committee**

NLA approved the creation of a long-range planning conference committee at its September 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting in Nebraska City. This group would be involved in identifying future conference locations, recruiting keynote speakers, and providing direction for the Executive Director who handles the business end of conferences. Details about the committee's size and members' length of service are still being worked out.

## **MPLA/NLA/NSLA Tri-Conference**

The conference committee met on August 15<sup>th</sup> and September 19<sup>th</sup>. Karen Mier and I have been editing the program schedule and program schedule with summaries and working on the printed program. Changes are posted to the conference website as soon as possible. I arranged a small conference room for a face-to-face Professional Development committee meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The MPLA booth will have a prime exhibit space in front of the exhibit hall doors in the main lobby. The NLA and NSLA booths will also be in this space. The MPLA banner and materials box arrived in my office last week. A site visit to the conference center was done on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The final site visit will be done on October 15<sup>th</sup>. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, we have 144 pre-conference registrations, 836 conference registrations (131 are solely identified as MPLA), 85 vendors (the space was sold out), 623 meal tickets sold and 353 registrations for the Wednesday and Thursday evening social events. I will be driving a car on Wednesday to the Upstream Brewery for the MPLA Dine-Around.