

ST-5

MPLA Board Report April 2010

Submitted by Theresa Jehlik

- Governor Dave Heineman spoke in libraries' favor at the Nebraska Library Association's Legislative Day briefing on February 9th. He also made suggestions about libraries' role in the Nebraska P-16 Initiative to improve school success rates. This initiative covers Nebraska students from preschool through college. One of P-16 Initiative's goals is to increase the number of students who attend 2-year and 4-year colleges.
- Seven Nebraska library volunteers were recognized at the Legislative Day luncheon by Robin Brooks Clark, Chair of the NLA Legislative Committee. These individuals were introduced to the lunch crown by their state senator. The honorees were –
 - Elizabeth Csipkes from Gretna (Senator Scott Price)
 - Dakota Lawson from Randolph (Senator Mike Flood)
 - Carol Remmers from Beatrice (Senator Norm Wallman)
 - Dean Ringlein from Kearney (Senator Galen Hadley)
 - Gary and Vera Salmon from Lincoln (Senator Colby Coash)
 - Karen Tippets from Omaha (Senator Brenda Council)
- The Omaha Public Library unveiled its new logo, tagline, and website on February 13th. Webster Design Associates designed the new logo, tagline, and launch campaign. David Day & Associates redesigned the website. Funding for the project came from the Omaha Public Library Foundation, WOWT Channel 6, News Radio 1110 KFAB, and Friends of the Omaha Public Library. This project was also supported in part by the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and granted by the Nebraska Library Commission. Check out the new look at www.omahalibrary.org.
- Rivkah Sass (former Omaha Public Library Executive Director) spoke at the League of Nebraska Municipalities Midwinter Conference in Lincoln on February 22nd. Her topic was "*What is the Future of the Information Age and the Role of Public Libraries? Are books and literacy as we know them ending?*"
- Marcia Dority Baker and Robin Brooks Clark were selected to attend the MPLA Leadership Institute in Estes Park, Colorado in late April. Marcia is an Assistant Professor of Law Library, Access Services Librarian at the University of Nebraska College of Law's Schmid Law Library (<http://law.unl.edu/library>) in

Lincoln. Robin is Library Director at Sump Memorial Library (www.sumplibrary.info) in Papillion. Congratulations, ladies!

- The 2010 One Book for Nebraska Teens is *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman. In a future America, parents can choose to have their 13-to-18-year-old children “unwound”. If a child is unwound, his or her body parts are harvested and given to others. Connor, 16, is shocked when his parents tell him they have decided to have him unwound. He runs away and strives to survive while encountering others like himself.
- \$51,346.00 in Library Improvement Grants was recently awarded to five Nebraska libraries. These LSTA funds awarded by the Nebraska Library Commission will be distributed after July 1st to –
 - Bennington Public Library for technology-related improvements (\$3,380.00)
 - Columbus Public Library for a public computer lab (\$22,690.00)
 - Keene Memorial Library in Fremont for an emergent literacy program (\$3,390.00)
 - Goodall City Library for a barcode scanner replacement project (\$1,346.00)
 - Omaha Public Library for a “Welcome to Your Public Library” video for refugees (\$20,000.00)
- Carolyn Brown, Kimball Public Library Director, announced that she is departing south for new adventures in March. After 25 years in Nebraska libraries, Carolyn plans to volunteer and learn to quilt in Midland, Texas. Carolyn passes the library torch to her daughter who will graduate with a MLS from the University of Hawaii in 2010.