

## **ST-5**

MPLA Board Report March 2012

Submitted by Theresa Jehlik

### **2012 Library Advocacy Day**

The Nebraska Library Association sponsored its annual Library Advocacy Day (formerly known as Legislative Day) on February 27, 2012 in Lincoln. State senators, legislative staff members, and librarians started the day with coffee at the State Capitol. Ken Winston, the Nebraska Library Association's lobbyist, and Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commissioner, briefed the attendees on the 2012 legislative bills and issues. LB 470 (cities have the power to take over the personnel business of library boards) was advanced by the General Affairs Committee. Janie Rutherford from the State Library of Kansas spoke about their "Snapshot Day" program. Lunch at the Cornhusker was used to visit with state senators and to honor Nebraska library volunteers. Since the Nebraska League of Municipalities was also meeting at the Cornhusker, the attending librarians were encouraged to visit with their city officials and the NLM conference vendors.

### **One Book, One Nebraska**

The 2012 book is *I Am a Man: Chief Standing Bear's Search for Justice* by Joe Starita. At Chief Standing Bear's 1879 trial in Omaha, he said, "*That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same color as yours. God made me and I am a man...*" As a result of this trial, 100,000 Indians were declared "persons" under U.S. law and granted U.S. citizenship. The Nebraska Regional Library Systems have invited Joe Starita to speak at the MPLA/NLA/NEMA Tri-Conference in October.

### **Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska (AFCON)**

Linda Parker requested that the NLA lobbyist follow LB 990 which would require daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in Nebraska public schools. This bill seems to be contradictory to the new civics education act which emphasizes critical thinking skills rather than rote memorization. The NLA Board agreed to Linda's request on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Intellectual Freedom Committee**

The committee is working on by-law changes to transition from a committee to a round table. If the change is approved at the October NLA Business Meeting, officers will be appointed immediately. The plan is to have a slate ready with a Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary by late summer. A promotional flyer will be distributed at the Spring Meetings.

## NLA Spring Meetings

The schedule for the NLA Spring Meetings has been set –

**Paraprofessional Section** will meet March 29<sup>th</sup> at the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln and Sump Memorial Library in Papillion. GoToMeeting will also be used for remote attendees. Their theme is *Show Off Your Library*.

**Public Library and Trustee Section** will meet April 9<sup>th</sup> in Columbus, April 11<sup>th</sup> in Scottsbluff, and April 12<sup>th</sup> in Hastings. Their topics include the Department of Health and Human Services' website, weeding, public library accreditation guidelines, and quick and easy strategic planning.

**Information Technology & Access and Technical Services Round Tables** will meet April 13<sup>th</sup> at Bellevue University in Bellevue. Their theme is *Building the Digital Library*.

**Young Adult Round Table** will meet April 14<sup>th</sup> in Gothenburg.

**New Members Round Table** will meet April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Houchen Bindery in Utica.

**College & University and Special & Institutional Sections** will meet May 18<sup>th</sup> at Grace University in Omaha. Their theme is *Connected and Collaborating: Nebraska Libraries*.

## MPLA/NLA/NEMA Tri-Conference

The conference committee met on January 11<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>. The website is up -- <http://nebraskalibraries.org/triconference2012> and accepting program proposals. Initial problems with the online submittal form have been resolved. April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting program proposals. The deadline for acceptance notification is May 15<sup>th</sup>. All the conference committees now have chairs. Each chair is responsible for finding his or her committee members. Michael Sauers from the Nebraska Library Commission has agreed to assist in streaming the conference for remote attendees. The hotel contract has been re-worked to more accurately represent the number of expected attendees. The Hospitality Committee has arranged for a reception at Sump Memorial Library on Wednesday night and a Pub Quiz based on conference program content on Thursday night. Carpools will be arranged for those needing transportation. The June NLA Board Meeting will include an on-site visit to the LaVista Conference Center.