

State Representatives Report - Nebraska

February 23rd, 2002

Go Figure!--a national traveling exhibit organized by MinnesotaChildren's Museum and the American Library Association (ALA)--opens atthe Morton-James Public Library, Nebraska City, Nebraska June 24, 2002 through July 20, 2002. The exhibit introduces early math concepts such as sorting and measuring through kid-sized environments inspired by familiar children's books. The library is offering free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibit. Go to the ALA's Public Programs Office and Association for Library Service to Children collaborated with the Museum in producing Go Figure!

Paraprofessional 2002 Spring Conference Wednesday, April 17, 2002 Programs:

* "When to Call the System...When to Call the Commission." Kathy Tooker and Brenda Ealey, Eastern and Southeast Library System Administrators, respectively, and Nancy Busch, Deputy Director, and Pam Scott Continuing Education Coordinator at the Nebraska Library Commission, will talk about the unique roles and responsibilities of the Systems and the Commission and answer the question..."Who you gonna call?"

* "Technology and Stress" John Seyfarth, Computer Manager at the Sump Memorial Library, Papillion, will share ways of handling computer problems that will make your life a bit less stressful.

* "When to Throw" Pam Scott will give practical advice on what to do with those worn out but still checked out paperbacks.

Nebraska Library Association (NLA) Legislative Day is set for February 20, from noon to 1:00 P.M. CST. The Nebraska Library Association Legislative Day theme is: "Making a Difference @ your library", and will focus on the number and variety of services that librarians provide for their customers. A seminar will b presented by Mazine Moul, president of the Nebraska Community Foundation. For more information, see the Legislative Committee section of the NLA home page at: <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/>.

Now in its third year, How To Write a Winning Grant Proposal will once again be delivered to various videoconferencing sites throughout the state. Designed to assist both first-time proposal writers and those who simply need to upgrade their skills, this four-part workshop series puts the often mystifying and intimidating task of writing grant proposals on a level everyone can understand. Instructor Sara Woods, Community Service Associate with the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, brings her expertise and experience in the grant system and process to this hugely successful program. The series, delivered over four weeks in March, covers program and proposal development, grant sourcing, budgets and grant management.

Public librarians across Nebraska will pilot a Service Learning project, sponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission and the University of Nebraska (UN-L) and funded through a grant from the Nebraska Volunteer Commission. In May 2001, representatives from Arapahoe, Atkinson, Beatrice, Chadron, Elkhorn, Fremont, Grand Island, Plattsmouth, and Wymore public libraries worked with campus leaders, Service Learning students, and other community leaders to determine needs of communities and youth and list functions that public libraries have traditionally performed to make a difference in the lives of young people. The project has been delayed due to UN-L administrative factors. Service Learning is a method of teaching and learning that engages students of all ages in solving problems and addressing issues in their school, public library, or greater community. Service Learning is a component of the Library Commission's Libraries of Promise campaign, based on five assets that young people need in order to grow into productive adults: teaching, mentoring, nurturing, safety, and opportunities for service.

Grant funding is now available from the Nebraska Library Commission through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) for 2002. An application form with instructions is available from the 2002 LSTA Grant Program Table of Contents Web site, as well as information about the purposes of funding, grant schedule, eligibility criteria, grant categories, and contact people. In addition, a training session over grant preparation will be held via the state videoconferencing system on Tuesday, January 15, 2002, from 9:30-11:00 A.M. CST, at several sites across Nebraska. Grant applications can be submitted online and in print.

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner recently announced the award of \$41,731 in library grants for Continuing Education and Training for library staff and

board members. The Library Commission will distribute the grants to seventeen Nebraska libraries and library organizations. These grants are awarded to projects providing training and education for Nebraska library personnel, supporting skilled and knowledgeable information specialists to serve citizen information needs. The grant program is based on state funds appropriated to help Nebraska libraries move toward achieving excellence in library service and is a result of the Libraries for the 21st Century campaign.

On Saturday, February 2, 2002, the city of Lincoln opened two new branch libraries to serve a growing population of information users: the Loren Corey Eiseley Branch Library and the Bess Dodson Walt Branch Library. The Mayor attended ribbon cutting ceremonies at both openings. Each branch contains state-of-the-art technology, more than 85,000 volumes of books (with a maximum capacity of 110,000 volumes), and ample room for research and recreational reading.

Lisa Olivigni has been selected as the Board Choice Award recipient from Nebraska. Lisa was born and raised in Lewellen, NE, which is located on the edge of the panhandle. She graduated from UNL with a B.A. in English in 1989. She later earned her M.L.S. from Emporia State University's first Nebraska program in 1994. Olivigni has been in her current position as Director of Crete Public Library for nearly seven years. During that time, she has worked with the Library Board and staff to continue and further develop the library's commitment to serving an increasingly diverse community.

The Nebraska Library Association has designed a corporate membership flyer which has been distributed to the Board for its approval distributed. Corporate members will receive reductions on costs associated with advertising in the Association's quarterly newsletter and on booth space at NLA conventions.

Ken Winston (NLA Lobbyist) is reviewing telecommunications bills and education bills before the Nebraska Legislature to gauge their potential impact on state libraries.

NLA has 518 paid members as of 1/22/02. There has been an increase in members from academic institutions.

Submitted by,
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