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MPLA BOARD REPORT

July 23, 2008

Submitted by Julie Beno

A Nebraska Library Future Search Conference was held in early June. Fifty librarians and 30 non-librarians attended including 4 teens. Information taken from the conference will be formatted so it is useable for all types of Nebraska libraries. NLA will benefit from the information in the areas of planning and legislative committee activities. Lowell Berg, from Clark Enersen Partners, attended. At the end he announced that their firm would be setting up a blog so library staff could ask them architectural related questions. He did qualify this by saying he would not design a 40,000 sq foot library for free.

NLA's Legacy Fund has completed the first five year campaign. The board is creating a volunteer position to provide continuity and coordination for fundraising efforts. The coordinator will report to the Finance Committee and serve a two year term. The committee visited with Nebraska Community Foundation and they recommend that we do not make substantial withdrawals until the fund reaches 100,000 dollars. The tasks will include working with the Nebraska Community Foundation Development Team, developing a new brochure for the next five year campaign, working with the Finance Committee, and to communicate giving opportunities to potential donors.

Lobbyist report:

The 2008 Legislative session was a mixed bag of successes and frustrations regarding Nebraska Library issues. LB 768, introduced by Senator Cornett to permit Sanitary and Improvement Districts to contract for library service, was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the governor. LB 572, to permit employees of the library systems to be eligible for state health insurance benefits, was advanced to the floor. However, there was an objection filed to the bill and it was pulled from the Consent Calendar. LB 760 was introduced to deal with the preservation of the State Library in the Capitol and was advanced unanimously by the committee. It was not made a priority bill and was not included on the Consent Calendar so it died at the end of the session. NLA's lobbyist, Ken Winston, felt we should feel good about getting one bill passed and two others advanced from committee. It showed that the senators who hear our message are receptive to it.

Special and Institutional Section is voting to dissolve because of lack of interest. This will be held at their next business meeting.

Scott Childers is resigning as Internet Site Coordinator. The position will be posted soon.

ITART has created the ITART Blog: <http://itart-nebraska.blogspot.com>