

## **ST-5**

MPLA Board Report July 2012

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### **LSTA and Nebraska Library Commission Funding Reductions**

Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission (NLC) Director, reported that Nebraska's LSTA allocation was reduced by \$17,000.00 this federal fiscal year. He also said that it was far less than the \$70,000.00 reduction that occurred in the previous federal fiscal year. State budget cuts made since the November 2009 special Nebraska Legislature session have forced NLC to cut operating and state aid program expenses. These changes include four vacant staff positions; reduced travel expenses; fewer new titles for the professional library science collection; webinars and conference calls in lieu of in-person meetings; scanned and e-mailed items in lieu of mailed print items; and reduced contract services.

### **Library Champions**

Ken Winston, Nebraska Library Association (NLA) lobbyist, met with the NLA Legislative Committee in June. He reported at the June 15<sup>th</sup> NLA Board Meeting that the committee has two goals: 1) to find library champions and 2) to have a planned agenda that benefits libraries. These champions can be any elected official or any influential individual. The overarching goal is that those who love libraries can be proactive and demonstrate this love politically. The primary message is that libraries are extremely efficient at delivering public services and provide the most return on investment (ROI) for public learning and educational opportunities. This push could be part of NLA's strategic plan.

### **Pioneer Library Consortium**

The Pioneer Library Consortium, an integrated library system that uses Koha open source software, has grown from 4 to 16 libraries. This web-based system does not require individual libraries to house servers in their buildings. Lincoln Cities Libraries is the largest member with 8 locations and a bookmobile. Sump Memorial Library in Papillion will be going live soon as the newest consortium member.

## **Information Literacy Month**

The Nebraska Library Association approved seeking a state proclamation for Information Literacy Month in October. Francine Canfield, Legislative Committee Chair, agreed to submit the paperwork in August. She would like NLA representatives to be present at the signing and advocate for libraries. Linda Parker also suggested that someone from the Intellectual Freedom Committee be present at the event.

## **Association of Small and Rural Libraries**

The 2013 Annual Conference will be held in the Council Bluffs (IA) / Omaha (NE) area in September 2013. Conference partners will be Iowa and Nebraska (The Iowa Small Library Association and representatives of the Nebraska library community are co-hosting). Further details will be announced as they become available.

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

The conference committee met on May 16th. The early registration deadline was extended to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Stacy Lickteig (NLSA), Gordon Wyant (NLA), and I met on May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup> to choose the final programs for the conference. Preliminary scheduling was done on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gordon and I met on June 14<sup>th</sup> to iron out some program scheduling problems. More program scheduling issues were worked out at the June 15<sup>th</sup> NLA Board meeting. Karen Mier and I have been editing the program schedule and program schedule with summaries this month. Changes are posted to the conference website as soon as possible. Rooms for the MPLA Admin Committee meeting and current Board meeting have been requested for Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Work on the printed program will begin soon. As of July 17<sup>th</sup>, we have 211 registrations and 60 vendor spaces sold.