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Nevada Report to MPLA

January 17, 2008

Submitted by Janet Mastalir, NLA Representative to MPLA

The Nevada Library Association's Midwinter Board Meeting was held at the West Charleston Library in Las Vegas on January 15. Section, District, Committee and Interest Group Reports were submitted, and the budget for 2008 was approved. A petition to create an Interest Group for the Statewide Summer Reading Program was accepted. The 2007 annual conference held last fall in Carson City generated a profit of \$15,000. The 2008 conference will be held in Las Vegas at the Santa Fe Station Casino & Hotel's new convention area, August 14 -16. The conference theme will be "Bridging the Gap @ Nevada Libraries" and will include opportunities for continuing education credit for school librarians. Conference Chair Nikki Winslow will be accepting program proposals until April 11.

The Friends of Henderson District Libraries 4th Annual Library Tree Lane fundraiser was held during November 15-30, 2007. Proceeds from the sale of decorated holiday trees, wreaths, baskets and a special recipe book resulted in a profit of over \$19,000. The funds have been earmarked to purchase materials for the children's collection at the Green Valley Library.

Steve Davis, Assistant Director of the Nevada Humanities Committee, recently announced new grant guidelines which may benefit libraries. Nevada Humanities is a nonprofit organization supporting projects that "broaden perspectives and encourage intellectual curiosity." Librarians are encouraged to submit grant applications for programs which will engage their patrons in community dialogue. For grants of \$1,000 - \$5,000 the deadline is March 10, 2008; for mini-grants up to \$1,000 there is no deadline.

The Nevada Medical Library Group is co-hosting a Joint Meeting of the Northern California/Nevada Medical Library Group (NCNMLG) and the Medial Library Group of Southern California/Arizona (MLGSCA) at the Flamingo Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas during February 6-9, 2008. Vendors, publishers, document delivery service providers and health database suppliers have been contacted to participate.

Administrators and staff responsible for emergency preparedness, response and decision-making in all types of libraries are invited to attend a disaster preparedness workshop presented by Kris Kern, Preservation Librarian at Portland State University and Chair of the Portland Area Library System's Disaster Recovery Group. Pre-registration is required and will be available in January for Protecting Library & Archive Collections: Disaster Preparedness, Response & Recovery. The workshops will be presented in Reno on March 4 and April 22; Las Vegas on March 6 and April 24; Elko on July 14 and August 25.

Starting February 1, 2008, Henderson Libraries will be closed on Sundays. In the last five years, the district's four libraries and bookmobile have seen nearly 100% increase in use in almost every category, however staff have increased by only 20%. In 2005 tax caps were put in place by the legislature that limited the library district's ability to leverage growth revenues and recover

from negative economic conditions, such as those experienced throughout the state this year. With Sunday closings, staff will be scheduled Monday through Saturday to provide better customer service and avoid staffing shortages. Reduced utility costs and janitorial services will also provide cost savings.

The National Endowment for the Arts announced that the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District received a \$20,000 grant to promote programs related to The Big Read. Big Read activities will be a part of the District's popular adult reading program, "Reading Las Vegas," celebrating its 7th year in 2008. Participants in the program will be encouraged to read *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.