

MPLA Board Report
October 15, 2012
Nevada
ST – 6

Submitted by Ellen Fockler

The Nevada Library Association Conference was held at the Sahara West Library in Las Vegas, Nevada, on October 4-6, with about 160 librarians in attendance, mostly from the Las Vegas area. The drawing for free one-year memberships netted ten new members for MPLA, and just six names not drawn (1/2 price membership offer). However, the posters – particularly the collage of pictures from the Leadership Institute – provided lots of talking points and good conversation. I was surprised, though, at how many Las Vegas librarians did not know what MPLA is. I need to do a better job of getting the word out!

Dana Braccia attended and spoke briefly before the opening Keynote on Thursday morning. It was a delight to see her there, and her talk was well received. While Stephen Abrams was the keynote speaker, Michael Sullivan also spoke twice. I was particularly impressed by his comments about children's services.

I posted a message to the Nevada Library Association listserv, indicating that the last grant cycle for 2012 requires applications to be submitted by December 5th. Professional development and library research grants were definitely one of the topics that generated interest at the MPLA booth. The Leadership Institute was even more engaging, and I found several people who are interested in applying. Arnie Maurins, Washoe County Library System Director, plans to actively promote the Leadership Institute next year (when timing is appropriate).

Two items of concern:

Several months ago, the Storey County Commission closed the Storey County Library in Virginia City, the only library in the county. The entire operating budget, including the salary of the librarian, was approximately \$110,000, and the reason for the closure, of course, was funding. Because the library has been closed, two issues have emerged, and if possible, I'd like to get some responses from other state representatives about how they've seen similar issues handled.

Virginia City is located in between Reno (Washoe County Libraries), Carson City (Carson City Library) and Dayton (Lyon County Libraries, Dayton Valley Branch). The question of reciprocity has come up; in the past, residents of surrounding counties were afforded the courtesy of checking out books from neighboring libraries. However, because, at this point, no reciprocity is possible (to allow Washoe, Carson, or Lyon County residents to use the Storey County Library), some librarians have objected to allowing Storey County residents check-out privileges. What has been the policy in other states when libraries have closed, leaving a town or area without an operating library?

Second.... And directly related... have any MPLA representatives seen former public libraries operated by non-profit groups or Community Chest groups? If so, what are the pros and cons?

In NLA Board business, the planned Joint Conference with Nevada and MPLA was discussed. While it's still some years in the future, Robbie DeBuff has volunteered to be the "conduit" between the present Board and the conference planners. John Crockett, incoming NLA president, will contact Sierra Nevada

College, at Incline Village, Nevada (Lake Tahoe) as a possible site for keynote and breakout sessions. The Reno-Sparks Convention Center has also contacted us about helping to make necessary arrangements for accommodations. While it's still five years away, it's never too early to start planning.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Fockler