

ST-6

Nevada - State Report  
Mountain Plains Library Association  
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*Ellen Fockler*

Nevada's state library conference was held October 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Carson City, Nevada's state capital. Barbara Mathews, NLA president, presided over a conference with the theme "To Boldly Go Where No One Has Gone Before." Favorite episodes from *Star Trek* played in the entry hall, and the keynote speaker, Kenley Neufeld, provide encouragement for a positive approach to library services. A list of awards presented to Nevada Library Association members at the President's Dinner will be available before the next newsletter deadline.

The Nevada Library Association sponsors the Nevada Young Readers Award. The final day of the conference is a breakfast at which awards in the four age-related categories were presented. Mike Fink, author of *Stepping Up* and winner of the Intermediate category, and Kirby Larson and Mary Nethery, authors of *Two Bobbies: A True Story of Hurricane Katrina, Friendship, and Survival* and winners of the Picture Book category, were present to receive their awards. Over 50 children from area schools were at the breakfast to listen to the three authors and to see them receive the awards that the children themselves had voted on. Other winners were Rick Riordan (Young Readers category) for *Maze of Bones* and Walter Dean Myers (Young Adult category) for *Dope Sick*.

Both Leadership Institute and Membership materials were promoted at the MPLA booth, which was placed directly across from the entrance to the Convention Center - a fortuitous spot! I was able to talk with attendees at the conference and received at least two promises of membership renewals and one new membership - let's hope they remember when they get home! (I will follow up with emails early next week.) I also met a young woman who indicated that she was in the process of working on her Leadership Institute application. Information about both the Leadership Institute and the membership challenge was also presented to the Nevada Library Association Board at its morning meeting, and both were received with enthusiasm. A short discussion of the value of MPLA membership followed, and at least one Board member expressed interest in becoming a new MPLA member. Following the conference, I emailed Leadership Institute flyers to NLA representatives and to Diane Hudson, the new Library Consultant at the Nevada State Library and Archives, for forwarding to appropriate lists. An announcement was also posted to the NLA Facebook page, although I was unsuccessful in posting the flyer. I'll try again!

Next year's Nevada Library Association conference is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Las Vegas. Robbie DeBuff, incoming NLA President, will preside; the theme is *Byte the Book*, and the conference will, of course, have a significant reference to technology in the library.

NLA is interested in a joint MPLA-NLA Conference in the fall of 2017, probably in the northern part of the state - possibly in Reno-- or Tahoe if sponsorship can be obtained to offset some of the costs. I'll contact Judy for more information and will also make a request at the October 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.