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New Mexico Library Association
Mountain Plains Library Association - October 2, 2002
Submitted by Charlene Greenwood, MPLA Representative

MPLA Leadership Institute. This will be taking place November 10-14 at Ghost Ranch in New Mexico.

Library Books Bond Issue 2002. The theme is "Libraries Change Lives" and has its own web page at www.nmbooksbond.org with information to help pass the bond. This bond would provide:

- \$7.7 million for 770 public school libraries in all of New Mexico's 89 school districts.
- \$4.9 million for 75 public and community libraries plus bookmobiles serving all 33 counties.
- \$3.4 million for 25 publicly supported colleges and universities libraries in 22 counties.

Election Day is November 5th, 2002. But absentee and early voting dates begin in September and October, respectively.

Tribal newsletter. A new online newsletter, Tribal Health Connections, promotes health activities, events, projects, and programs in the Four Corners area and throughout Indian Country. Tribal Health Connections, to be published quarterly, is an Internet-based health information and education project funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in collaboration with the University of Washington Regional Medical Library and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine health science libraries in the Four Corners states: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

Tribal Health Connections also provides customized training throughout the Four Corners area to help its audience find the most reliable health information available. Staff is available to visit schools, healthcare sites, chapter houses, community centers, and public libraries, and work with health providers, consumers, and educators.

Tribal Health Connections is an outgrowth of Tribal Connections in the Pacific Northwest, a multi-phase project based at the University of Washington that connects American Indian/Alaska Native communities to health resources on the Internet.

For more information, contact to mmcget@u.washington.edu or contact Molly McGetrick and Lillie Peterman, Tribal Health Connections, Dine College, Shiprock, NM; (505) 368-2984.

LIBRARIES VIE IN GREAT RACE. Two New Mexico libraries went head-to-head when the Great American Race came through their towns. Clovis-Carver Public Library and Rio Rancho Public Library each hoped to win \$5,000 when racers in the timed endurance rally for vintage cars voted for their favorite stops in the eight-day trek from San Antonio, Texas, to Anaheim California. The race stayed in Clovis and went to Rio Rancho on the Tuesday, June 18. Clovis won, chosen by the racers as the Best Overnight Stop. Eastland, Texas, won the prize for Best Pit Stop, and Prescott Arizona, for Best Lunch Stop, each winning \$2,500 for their libraries.

One hundred and five classic cars, from a 1916 Chevrolet Speedster to a 1954 Corvette, participated in the race. In its 19 years, The Great Race has visited more than 700 cities and given the libraries of the winning cities nearly \$185,000. Host cities compete in rolling out the red carpet to racers and their shows of enthusiasm.

FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY PLAN. New Mexico's federal depository librarians have worked together over the past several years to draft the State of New Mexico Federal Depository Library Plan. The Council is a governing body with rotating membership established in November 2001, with the initial charge of completing the final draft of a state plan, which was completed in late spring of 2002. The final draft was submitted to the New Mexico depository librarians for review and comment. With minor editing, the assessment of the plan was positive, and a clear majority of New Mexico's federal depository librarians voted to recommend that the plan be adopted.

The State Plan provides goals and objectives to guide libraries in working together to assure the optimum availability of federal government information to the citizens of New Mexico. The plan establishes a framework for the discussion of a range of issues including the transition to electronic information in the Federal Depository Library Program. It is to be viewed as a flexible, living document that will be expanded and amended as needs dictate. The final step in the adoption of the State Plan involves the approval of the directors of New Mexico's depository libraries. The State Plan was sent to library directors for review and comment on July 25.

For more information about the State of New Mexico Federal Depository Library Plan and to see the text of the Plan as sent to librarians in May of 2002, go to the State Library web site www.stlib.state.nm.us.

STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Through funding from the State Legislature, the New Mexico State Library distributed \$350,000 in state aid to 75 libraries in 2002-2003. Of those receiving aid, 65 were public libraries and ten were developing libraries. Sixty-four libraries exceeded the \$1.50 per capita eligibility criterion, resulting in \$61,805.50 of matching collection grants going to them.

Eight of the developing libraries received an additional amount of \$1,000 beyond the base development grant in a competitive process that required submission of a proposal.