

ST-7

New Mexico Library Association

Report to the MPLA Executive Board
December 8, 2001

New Mexico librarians are organizing a legislative effort to improve public, school, and academic libraries (see HH # 1419). The Library Bond Taskforce presented the \$35 million General Obligations bond proposal to the Legislative Education Study Committee on Tuesday, November 13. The Library Bond Task Force is a group of public, school, and academic librarians working together to win the support of the Legislature and the Governor to allow the bond package to appear on the November 2002 ballot. The bond would purchase books and other materials, such as periodicals and electronic databases, for libraries supported by public funds. The last statewide library GO Bond initiative, Bonds for Books Plus, was passed in 1994. The New Mexico Library Association and the New Mexico Municipal League have endorsed this proposal.

This proposed 2002 Bond would break down as follows:

\$9 million for New Mexico public libraries. To be distributed on a per capita basis to New Mexico public libraries as supplementary funding to purchase books, electronic information resources and the tools needed to share information. Statewide, this is about \$5 per capita, or less than the cost of one paperback book.

\$18 million for publicly funded school libraries. To be distributed both with a minimum per school amount and a per student allocation. On average, this amount will purchase 3-4 new books per student. School libraries are woefully under funded and most science and other dated books are over ten years old. The New Mexico Task Force for School Libraries wholeheartedly supports this effort.

\$8 million for academic libraries. To be distributed on a formula basis to all academic libraries in the state. This amount will purchase approximately two library books, or other materials, for each full-time student in a New Mexico college or university. The New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries has also supported this Bond concept.

Other news: Advocacy for School Libraries, a Special Interest Group of the New Mexico Library Association together with the NM School Library Task Force, the NM State Library and the NM Library Foundation has been actively promoting the importance of school libraries to educators and school administrators by sponsoring library information workshops and booths at conferences throughout the state. The Association is also sponsoring a new award this year to be given for an outstanding school library program.

Conference Update: New Mexico Library Association will hold its 79th annual conference April 17 - 20, 2002 in Las Cruces, NM. Information can be found on the NMLA website <http://nmla.mwds.net> - You are all welcome.

Reported in the November 19, 2001 Hitchhiker, a publication of the NM State Library: Bees close library. Baldwin Cabin Public Library, serving Datil and the surrounding region, was closed by an invasion of bees on September 22. Ann Sullivan, who serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Library Board, told Hitchhiker that the library was forced to close for a day when a few, then a few more, and then a lot more bees began coming into the library. The children's program scheduled for the day had to be relocated to Swingle Canyon, a mile away where Ann lives. An exterminator was called in from Arizona who said that these were Africanized bees, and they probably have a hive in the ceiling. The cabin was chinked on the outside and the building sprayed, getting rid of the bees, as least for this year.

More news and information can also be found on the NM State Library website www.stlib.state.nm.us

Respectfully submitted,

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