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Al Peterson
North Dakota State Representative
1-09-2009

MPLA Business:

I wrote an article for The Good Stuff newsletter that promoted the Mountain Plains Library Association.

I contacted the winners of the drawing of the free membership held at the NDLA annual conference and encouraged them to attend the next MPLA joint conference in Kansas.

North Dakota:

The North Dakota Library Association met on December 12th. Among the items discussed was making a joint bid with the South Dakota Library Association for a Tri-Conference in 2013 in Sioux Falls, SD. The next NDLA conference will be in Dickinson, ND.

Plans for the North Dakota State Library Spring Workshops are in the works. Destination: Library will be held in Bismarck, March 23-24 and in Fargo, March 26-27. This year our guest speakers will be MPLA members Dorothy Liegl and Christine Kujawa. Dorothy will present on workshop entitled, "Your Library as a Community Center" and Christine will present on library marketing. There will also be workshops on gaming in public libraries, the 2009 Summer Reading Program, basic book repair, Go Local North Dakota (health resources in North Dakota) and Medline Plus, as well as featuring presentations from ProQuest, Gale, and EBSCO trainers.

New MPLA member, Eric Stroshane, Head of Public Services at the North Dakota State Library, was among a small number of state employees nominated for the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service to State Employees. This prestigious award recognizes state employees for their dedication and contributions to the people of North Dakota.

The 2009-2011 North Dakota State Legislative session began on January 6. Governor Hoeven presented his 2009/2011 budget to the legislature on December 3. It contained funding for the current North Dakota State Library services, including \$1.2M for State Aid to Public Libraries, \$237,000 for Library Vision 2010, \$200,000 for Online Library Resources, reference and interlibrary loan services, training, talking book and radio reading services, and cataloging and state document services. It also included an optional package of \$100,000 for State Aid to Public Libraries and \$120,000 for Online Library Resources. We'll have to wait and see how the session goes to find out if the additional funding passes through.