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NORTH DAKOTA MPLA BOARD REPORT

By Sally Dockter

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The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and the North Dakota State Library are sponsoring “Think Tanks” across North Dakota. These “Think Tanks” are open to any librarian, library board member, or citizen of North Dakota. This is an opportunity to brainstorm about current library services in North Dakota and study, compare, plan, and define library services of the future.

NDLA is busy planning its centennial conference in September of this year to be held in Fargo, where the original conference was held. Projects underway include: sewing a quilt to be auctioned off with proceeds going to the Continuing Education fund; creating a cookbook filled with scrumptious recipes from the good cooks/librarians around the state and a snapshot in time of all the libraries in the state to be posted on the NDLA website. Former members will be invited back to help celebrate. A series of articles from the NDLA archives are being written for The Goodstuff.

The Intellectual Freedom Committee was monitoring the situation in Fargo regarding John Grisham’s novel, “A Time to Kill”. A parent who felt the book should not be taught in a Fargo North High English class made a challenge. The parent wanted the school district to eliminate the novel from the curriculum and the school libraries. The parent later altered the challenge and said a copy of the book could be kept in the libraries. School board members, however, felt the book met community standards so the book will continue to be part of the English curriculum. Parents, however, may decide whether they want their children to read the book.

The State Library is planning spring workshops around the state on topics ranging from using the new online catalog, to book repair, to measuring the economic impact of your library, to getting the most out of various electronic databases.