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Al Peterson
North Dakota State Representative

2008 North Dakota Library Association Conference:

The 2008 North Dakota Library Association held its annual conference in Mandan, ND from September 24 to September 27. The theme for this year was “Librarians under Construction: A Life of Continuous Education.” The keynote speakers included Jenifer Grady, director of the American Library Association’s Allied Professional Association and author Margaret Read Macdonald. The North Dakota Library Association was honored to have MPLA President Robert Banks in attendance.

The 2008 Librarian of the Year Award went to Michael Miller, director and Bibliographer of the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection housed at North Dakota State University. Other winners of the 2008 NDLA Awards include the Friends of the Leach Library in Wahpeton, ND, who won Major Benefactor of the Year and the Youth Excellence Program of the Year Award went to the Bismarck Public School Libraries. Also honored was NDLA President and MPLA member Donna James who won School Library Administrator of the Year. Commendations Awards were given to Valley City State University and The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, Educations Standards and Practices Board for their work in supporting school library media programs in the state. MPLA member Aubrey Madler won a Grassroots Award from the New Members Roundtable. Grassroots Grant winners receive a free registration to the next conference. The North Dakota Library Association also recognized long time members. Mary Miller, Kathryn Thomas and Toni Vonasek were recognized for thirty years of membership and Marry Ann Henderson, Amy Bryn, Pegi Ecker, Kristi Engle, and Mary E. Fischer were given recognition for twenty years.

This year, a continuing education track for school media specialists was offered. School librarians could earn one or two credits for attending the conference by either participating in a blog discussion during the conference to share what you have seen/heard or write and submitting a reflection paper following the conference. To earn one credit, school librarians had the option of choosing one of the following attendance options: attend the half-day pre-conference and one full day of the conference, attend the half-day post-conference and one full day of the conference or attend two full days of the conference.

The 2008-2009 Flicker Tale Award winners were given out at the luncheon on Friday. The winners are as follows: for Picture Book was *Bad Dog Marley* by John Grogan, Intermediate Book was *Toys Go Out* by Emily Jenkins, Juvenile Fiction was *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* by John Grogan, and Nonfiction was *Go to Sleep, Gecko!* by Margaret Read MacDonald.

2009 Legislative Session

The North Dakota State Library submitted its 2009-2011 biennial budget request to the Office of Management and Budget on July 3, 2008. Included in the supplemental request is a 25% increase in State Aid to Public Libraries, as recommended by the Public Library Section of NDLA. This \$300,000 increase would assist public libraries to better serve their communities and to provide updated public library computing services. The State Library also requested an additional \$200,000 for Online Library Resources that would be available to all citizens throughout the state. The base budget request that was submitted continues to include funding for services that are currently being offered. Services include resource sharing and Minitex, State Aid to Public Libraries at \$1.2 million, Library Vision 2010 grant funds, and training.