

ST-10

South Dakota State Representative Report  
To the MPLA Executive Board  
December 2002

SD Native donates to Lower Brule Sioux for Library.

Gregory J. Nedved of Kapolei, HI, is donating \$12,000 to help the library on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation. Nedved visited the facility last spring to assess the need. The library needs updated books, furnishings, technology and repairs as well as staff and staff training. Nedved hopes that others will contribute to the library. Anyone wishing to participate should contact him at 808-672-6039 or gnedved@worldnet.att.net .

Prairie Visions

MPLA winning author, Elizabeth Cook Lynn, toured the State of South Dakota with the Prairie Visions program. Ms. Cook Lynn read selections from several of her books, including her yet to be released book. Questions from the audience promoted very lively and compelling interchange. In Pierre, Ms. Cook Lynn met with advanced placement high school English classes. Other cities on the tour were Rapid City, Aberdeen, and Brookings. This program is designed to bring authors to local community libraries for readings and workshops. Prairie Visions is a joint effort by the State Library, the Arts Council, and the Humanities Council.

New Building to Open

It is an exciting time for Brandon, SD, where a new city/high school library will be opening after the Christmas holidays. The new facility is five times the size of the current high school library and 14 (!) times the size of the current public library. This growing community recognized the need for a quality facility and raised the \$1.15 million necessary for the construction. Financing included a federal and a state grant and private donations from residents. The facility will not disappoint residents. It has a comfortable reading area with chairs and sofas, ample study tables and a large children's room. There is also a meeting room with AV capabilities. Congratulations! Brandon. Enjoy your new space.

Add Socks to Your List!

Yankton Community Library has a wonderful holiday activity. Now in its fifth year, the Community Library sets up a Sock Tree, where socks are donated to pay overdue fines. Socks are then taken to the local Contact Center, an organization which provides services to the poor, the homeless, and the women's shelter. The program has been very successful with over 400 pairs of socks donated each year. Director, Jim Scholtz, says that not only people with fines donate socks. People drop off socks even if they don't have a fine. This program certainly keeps the "Community" in the library.

Branch Out South Dakota 2002

Branch Out South Dakota 2002 was the first support staff/paraprofessional conference for library workers in South Dakota. It grew out of the experiences of Deb Yoder and Cindy Mielke at Branch Out in St. Paul, Minnesota in 2001.

Branch Out South Dakota 2002 was held July 29, 2002 on the campus of South Dakota State University in Brookings. H. M. Briggs Library at SDSU and the Brookings Public Library sponsored the event. The Support Staff Section of SDLA organized it. The one-day conference consisted of 19 different presentations in 45-minute time slots. The variety of topics allowed support staff to choose from workshops such as web page design, copyright, developing your professional portfolio, adapting to the changes in our workplace, understanding what a professional is, programming for children, and professional education opportunities for support staff in South Dakota, developing book discussion groups for adults and hearing local author, Kathleen Taylor, speak about her writing and publishing experiences. A light breakfast, salad buffet luncheon and ice cream social were included in the day. Attendees and organizers alike called the event a success and the Support Staff Section plans to repeat the conference biannually.