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MPLA WY State Representative
Board Report November 2003

WLA CONFERENCE

Wyoming Library Association Annual Conference was held in Sheridan, Wy, October 1-4, 2003. The theme Every One A Leader: Libraries in Challenging Times placed emphasis on developing new leaders. WLA and Wyoming Libraries realize that the older leaders are retiring and newer ones need to be encouraged to take over. The Pre-Conference Program was Leading From Where You Are: Contributing Your Best to the Whole. This leadership training program uses the Enneagram nine-step development model. Becky Schreiber and John Shannon are exceptional teachers who have devoted their careers to assisting organizations in transforming challenges of changing customer expectations into strategic opportunities. The Carol McMurry Library Endowment Fund sponsored this program. The opening reception was a Wyoming Writers forum, which was sponsored by a grant from Carol McMurry Library Endowment Fund. Panel discussions on the Patriot Act, Patron Privacy and Intellectual Freedom were offered. Round Table discussion about Outreach, Wireless Technology, Volunteer/Friends, Marketing & P R, Internet Sharing and Trustee Issues were just some of the highlights of the conference. Patrick Jones presented New Directions in Library Service to Young Adults. Patrick Jones will be at MPLA in Tahoe. He is a gifted teacher and innovative presenter.

Marcia Wright Retires

After 13 years as director of Campbell County Library System, Marcia Wright is retiring. Marcia served the library community as an active member of several professional organizations. WLA President in 1971-72, WLA Rep to MPLA 1991-1993, chair of the Library and Trustee Section 1997 and Intellectual Freedom Committee 1999-2003. She will be missed. She isn't moving but just spending her days differently.

Wyoming Inventors Database Honored

The Machine Assisted Reference Section of American Library Association recognized Wyoming Inventors Database created by the Wyoming State Library by being added to the list of Innovative Web-Based Reference Services. These lists serve as an information resource for other libraries to model or create similar projects.

Wyoming State Library Created a Leadership Retreat

The WYLD Governing Board, WYLD Regional Representatives and the chairs of three key committees were invited to a WYLD Leadership Retreat in Lander, WY. WYLD (Wyoming Library Database) used this time to clarify roles and responsibilities of leaders and network members. Networking of information and sharing of problems can only happen face to face.

NEWS

Jack Mueller, chair of the Wyoming State Library board has been chosen as 2003 recipient of the WLA Trustee Citation Award. His commitment over the past 24 years to the Wyoming library community demonstrates his love of the library and is appreciated and valued. Jack also was photographed with First Lady Laura Bush at the commissioning of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

Three members of the Wyoming library community will represent the state at the National Book fest, October 4 in Washington D.C. Sandra Donovan, Jenny Ingram and Carol McMurry will take with them marketing materials for "Deep West: A Literary Tour of Wyoming." This anthology featuring works of 19 published authors with deep roots in the state. This book is a project of the Wyoming Center for the Book at the Wyoming State Library and the Wyoming Arts Council.

Chris Van Burgh, Wyoming State Library Outreach Librarian, has added WYLD Network Training Coordinator to her responsibilities. State Librarian, Lesley Boughton hopes this will integrate training of the electronic databases, SIRSI and Fret well-Downing (ILL) allowing for regular scheduled training.

WYLD is featured in the Client Spotlight on the Sirsi web page this week. State Librarian, Lesley Boughton says that the information is not quite correct with the WLA Outrider being known as the Outsider.