

ST-12

Mountain Plains Library Association

Wyoming Library Association Report

October 17, 2011

The Wyoming Library Association held its annual conference at Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The conference took place from September 29th through October 1st. A Pre-Conference was held on September 28th and featured three programs including:

Bridges out of Poverty by Tim Thorson

This workshop is based on the book Bridges out of Poverty. Participants were informed about how miscommunication can occur between those in poverty, those in the middle class and those in the wealthy class.

Speak Up! Empowered Voices at Your Service by Crystal Havelly Stratton

This session focused on breaking the stereotypes of the shushing librarian and offered ideas on how to speak with confidence. Effective communication skills are essential in providing superior customer service. The workshop focused on the key elements of speech preparation, writing techniques and delivery methods to compose and present an engaging message.

Wyoming's Heritage Online - Multiple Speakers

Increasing amounts of Wyoming's information is being made available online through various digital projects from different institutions across the state. Presenters demonstrated and discussed their projects. Some of the initiatives included: Wyoming Trails, Rocky Mountain Herbarium, Wyoming History (Wyoming State Historical Society) and new and improved Wyoming Places. Presenters also summarized some of the issues they encountered as they planned and implemented their projects.

Some of the main conference presentations and handouts are available on the WLA site <http://conference.wyla.org/2011/>. During the conference, new interest groups were formed. These interest groups include:

- Leadership
- Library Instruction
- New Technologies in Libraries
- Outreach
- Reference
- Teacher-Librarians

- Wyoming Book Award Interest Group
- Young Adults
- Youth Services

During the conference Debbie McCarthy and Stephen Boss marketed the MPLA Leadership Institute.

The Wyoming Library Association Board meet during the conference and a general membership session meeting was also held towards the end of the conference.

Next year the Wyoming Library Association will hold its conference next year September 26th through September 29th in Casper, Wyoming.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Boss & Deborah McCarthy