

ST-12

Wyoming Report  
October 16, 2009

The Wyoming Library Association meeting was held in Laramie Sept. 30-Oct. 3, at the UW Conference Center and with just under 300 people attending it was a good turnout for WLA and on par with the last few years. Keynote speakers George Needham and Joan Frye Williams were a hit with the group, and the author luncheon featuring Chris Crutcher was a highlight of the conference. Submissions are now being accepted t <http://wyla.org/confcommittee/form/form.php> for WLA 2010 in Casper, which will be held September 29 – October 2, 2010.

At WLA Michelle Havenga of the Sheridan County Public Library won the Distinguished Service Award and State Librarian Lesley Boughton was honored with the Unsung Hero Award for her efforts to provide MP3 players to all members of the Wyoming National Guards' 115th Brigade, currently deployed to bases in Kuwait and Iraq. With their Wyoming library cards this allows them to download books and music from WYLD for free, provided a needed diversion for the soldiers.

An article in Library Journal <http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6701001.html> highlighted the 50% library budget cut at the University of Wyoming Libraries. You can read about the cuts across Wyoming at <http://will.state.wy.us/statistics/>

In happier news, the renovation of Coe Library at the University of Wyoming is almost complete, and the grand opening ceremony is set for Thursday, November 19, 2009. After working in a construction zone for three years, the staff are pleased that the end of the project is in sight.

With both The WYLD visioning group and the WLA Crossroads Task Force, the way libraries work together in Wyoming is being reviewed to see if changes and needed and if so where. The hope is to develop a model that better serves the people in the state. Information about the WYLD visioning is <http://will.state.wy.us/admin/WYLD-Visioning-FINAL.pdf> and information about the WLA Crossroads Task Force is forthcoming.

Respectfully submitted,

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