

MPLA Vice-President's 2002 Conference Report O-2

Who: North Dakota Library Association (host organization)
South Dakota Library Association
Mountain Plains Library Association

When: Wed. Oct. 2 through Saturday Oct. 5, 2002

Where: Ramada Plaza Suites and Conference Center
Fargo, ND!

How Much:

Registration:

Full Conference: Members \$140 – meals included
Non-members \$175 – meals included

????Meals included are:

Wed. evening
Thurs. breakfast
Thurs. lunch
Thurs. evening
Fri. breakfast
Fri. lunch
????Sat. breakfast

Separate registrations would be needed for Fri. night Awards banquet and for Saturday Children's Book Awards/Author Presentation luncheon

Daily Rate: Members \$50 – no meals included (except Sat.)
Non-members \$70 – no meals included (except Sat.)

Early Bird Registration deadline Sept. 6
Groups of 7 or more registering together, all in the same envelope, will get a 10% discount on registration

Lodging:

Ramada Inn
Single \$71
Double \$81
Suites also available
Can have up to 4 in a room

Come On In (near the Ramada)
Single and Double \$55

Hotel and local Information:

Ramada Plaza and Suites <http://www.ramadafargo.com>

Conveniently located across the street from the West Acres Shopping Center with its 100 stores. You will be within walking distance of 20 restaurants and lounges, 12 movie theaters and many other major attractions. You'll find easy access from both Interstate 29 and 94. There is a free hotel shuttle from the airport which is just 6 miles away.

Amenities include: Indoor pool and whirlpool (open 24 hrs. day) with a water slide! Possibilities for pampering (masseur, sauna, exercise facilities). Large, newly decorated rooms. Suites include sitting area and bedroom area with wet bar and microwave and they sleep 3 – 4 people.

Local Attractions include a children's museum, North Dakota State University, Plains Art Museum, Bonanzaville USA and other local attractions (including a really far out family fun center near the hotel!)

Highlights/Keynote Speakers:

Pat Wagner as kick-off speaker

Mitch Friedman (President of ALA) will speak at Awards banquet on Friday night

Possibly Louis Sachar (children's author) at Saturday banquet

Possibly Patrick Jones (YA specialist) on Saturday

Poster sessions on "How we do it good..." (particularly focusing on bookmobiles, programming and outreach)

Possibly presentations by Lewis, Clark or Sacajawea

The Theme:

"Exploring New Pathways to Information"

Logo will be a map of the Lewis and Clark Trail and conference materials will be in shades of green.

Exhibits:

2 no-conflict times will be scheduled plus we plan to have the keynote/kickoff on Wednesday evening done by Pat Wagner in the exhibits area

The NMRT will be hosting the opening reception (Victor Lieberman at UND is the chair and he would like to work with NMRT chairs from SDLA and MPLA to coordinate this event)

Exhibit spaces range from \$500 (8x10 booth near the entrance) to \$150 (8' tabletop with no power source nearby). We are offering exhibitors an opportunity to sponsor events or to donate additional money to help defray costs. We are also hosting 2 breaks in the exhibit area for additional foot traffic.

We hope to attract 50 exhibitors. Some of them may be doing short "training sessions" in or near the exhibits.

Preliminary Schedule:

Wed. Oct. 2	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Preconferences
	????	MPLA Board meeting
	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Exhibitors set up
	4:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Conference Registration
	4:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Exhibits open
	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Opening Keynote and Social in Exhibit area
Thurs. Oct. 3	9:00am – 4:00 pm	Exhibits open
	8:00am – 5:00 pm	Conference programs
		Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner
		Morning and afternoon coffee breaks in exhibits area
		Dinner event includes evening entertainment/speaker
Fri. Oct. 4	9:00 am– 4:00pm	Exhibits open
	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Conference programs
		Includes breakfast, lunch
	6:00 – 9:00 pm	Awards banquet
		not included in conference registration short speech by ALA President Mitch Freedman
Sat. Oct. 5	8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Conference programs
	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Children’s Book Award luncheon
	?????	MPLA Board meeting
		breakfast included?

Preliminary Budget (see attached) –

Questions to be answered:

1. Is the registration fee too much? Should we include meals or not? What should be the charge for registration after the early bird deadline?
2. What should we suggest for Thursday evening event?
3. What preconferences are suggested?
4. Will people stay over for Saturday or will they come just for the day?
5. How can we make the exhibitors happy?
6. What “field trips” do people want? NDSU is willing to give a tour of their library.
7. Has MPLA sent their \$1,000 “seed money” to conference treasurer? Does this happen after board approves budget?
8. Is there a cap on how much we can offer speakers?
9. Do we pay presenters who are from MPLA states? Who are MPLA members?
10. How does MPLA publicize the conference?

Timeline for Planning:

March 31	Program Proposals are due
April 30	Preliminary schedule and conference materials will be prepared
May	Preliminary mailing – especially to school media personnel
July 10	Deadline for copy for conference mailing?
August	August issue of newsletter is mailed
Sept. 6	Deadline for early bird registration

Items to Remember!!!!

- 1.** All sections and committees requesting a **business meeting** need to fill out a program proposal!
- 2.** All proposals are due by Mar. 31 to Kaaren Pupino, NDLA vice-president.
- 3.** There is limited space for concurrent programs so work with section counterparts in other organizations.
- 4.** Sections need to publicize the conference to their members as much as possible!
- 5.** Fargo isn't really that cold! (Especially if you wear heavy socks and sweaters)
- 6.** There are only two airlines that fly into Fargo so plan your travel in advance.
- 7.** We will be inviting members of the Minnesota Library Association and the Manitoba Library Association to come to the conference at the member rate. This could be an INTERNATIONAL conference.
- 8.** The Paul Bunyan statue in Brainerd is farther away than it seems in the movie.
- 9.** The Ramada Plaza in Fargo is a great family spot so bring your kids.
- 10.** Let your vendors know that the NDLA/SDLA/MPLA conference is a great place to exhibit and encourage them to have a booth.