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REPORT FROM COLORADO REPRESENTATIVE

To the Mountain Plains Library Association

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By Louise Treff-Gangler

Colorado Association of Libraries will be the name of the new single organization comprised of the state's two library associations, the Colorado Library Association and the Colorado Educational Media Association (school librarians). This single organization will be comprised of four associations or divisions for public, school, academic, and special/institutional librarians, staff, and other members. Divisions, sections, and interest groups may also be formed by the membership for more focused, librarian-specific activities. The bylaws adopted by both CEMA and CLA members are available at: <http://www.cla-web.org> and <http://cemacolorado.org>. There will still be a representative from this new organization to the Mountain Plains Library Association.

The task force for merging the two organizations is working on policies and procedures. Elections for the new organization will take place in February 2002 and the new officers will take office March 15, 2002, when both CLA and CEMA will official dissolve.

The final CLA conference will be held in Colorado Springs, October 26-29, 2001, at the Adams Mark Hotel (formerly known as the Antlers). Among the speakers scheduled is Marc Holtzman, Secretary of Technology, Office of the Governor; Joyce Meskis, owners of the Tattered Cover, presently involved in legal challenges over customer records; and Colorado historian-author Tom Noel. Visit the CLA web site for continuing updates and registration at <http://www.cla-web.org>.

Bulgarian Library Project Report -- A group of five librarians, four of whom are from Colorado, traveled to Bulgaria in June to meet and share information with Bulgarian librarians and present two conferences in Sofia (the capital) and Veliko Turnovo. The Bulgarian Library Project, a continuing partnership between the Colorado Library Association and the Bulgarian Library Association, promotes the sharing of library resources. The librarians were Nancy Bolt, Colorado State Librarian; Patty Gibbons, Eagle Library District, Colorado; Catherine Kielty, Jefferson County School District, Colorado; Mary Nicholaou, New York State; and Susan Simmons, Broomfield Public Library, Colorado. Nancy Bolt presented a conference on digital partnerships and Ms. Gibbons, Kielty, and Simmons presented another on children's and young adult services. Children's topics included storytelling and summer reading programs. The librarians discovered that there are more similarities than differences between American and Bulgarian libraries. Pictures are to appear on the CLA website soon. Earlier in June, Jack O'Boyle, Mayor of the City of Lone Tree in Douglas Public Library District, visited Lone Tree's partner library in Dobritch, Bulgaria. The newest partnership getting underway is between the Arkansas Valley Regional Library Service System and the Plovdiv Regional Library. For more information contact the Colorado State Librarian, Nancy Bolt, at 303/866-6733, nancybolt@earthlink.net, or the web site Balkan Connections, <http://home.earthlink.net/~nancybolt/> Nancy is planning a 10 day trip to southwestern Bulgaria in the fall of 2001 and will send details to anyone interested.