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Nebraska MPLA Board Report  
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Submitted by Nina Little, Nebraska Representative

#### Virtual Places, Physical Spaces-Nebraska Libraries Now

The 2004 NLA (Nebraska Library Association)/NEMA (Nebraska Educational Media Association) Conference was held October 6-8 at the Midtown Holiday Inn and the Riverside Inn in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Two pre-conferences, Ways to Construct an Evaluation and Hispanic Voices @ Your Library helped set the tone for the two days of conference sessions that followed. Folks that arrived by Wednesday evening were able to attend a Chuck Wagon Dinner on the Plains at the Stuhr Museum. Before dinner was served, attendees were able to choose between two one-hour sessions: Pawnee Life, presented by Thor Elliot and held in an authentic replica of a Pawnee Earth Lodge or Treasures at Stuhr, presented by Leslie Vollnogle. Chris Sayre, a talented and versatile musician who plays a number of "old-time" instruments including the saw, entertained during dinner and after dinner folks were able to wander through the galleries in the museum.

Keynote speakers on Thursday and Friday were Dr. Katie Johnson, Associate Professor of Communication at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota and Dr. Mary Pipher of Nebraska, a clinical psychologist and author of "Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls", "Another Country: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of Our Elders" and "The Middle of Everywhere: The World's Refugees Come to Our Town".

Dr. Johnson spoke knowledgably and with passion on media literacy and Dr. Pipher told the story of how Lincoln, Nebraska became a gathering place for refugees from all corners of the globe leading her audience through an exploration of how "cultural brokers" (teachers, caseworkers, public health nurses, library staff, volunteers and American friends) can help new arrivals make intentional decisions about what to accept and what to reject in America, helping us to ease into each other's cultures.

Sessions with interesting titles such as Fear Factor: Finding Traditional & Alternative Medical Resources on the Internet, Fish (and Other Things to Throw at Your Library), From Dinosaurs to Penguins: Collaboration Between the Second Grade Teacher and the Media Specialist, More Angst & Attitude-Young Adult Literature, National Issues Forum: Involve Your Library and Making MPLA Part of Your Professional Life were offered.

By banquet time on Thursday evening, there were 460 people registered for the conference. Tracy Bicknell-Holmes, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Love Library and 2004 president of the Nebraska Library Association, turned the gavel over to incoming president Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System Administrator.

Traditionally, one of the most crowded sessions during the conference is the Golden Sower Awards Presentation. Attending this year's conference to receive the 2004 Golden Sower Award for the Grades K-3 winner Salt in His Shoes, a book about Michael Jordon, were co-authors Deloris Jordan (Michael's mother) and Roslyn Jordan (Michael's sister). Also attending for the presentation was Kadir Nelson, illustrator of the book.

Fifty-seven exhibitor booths had been reserved and were divided between the two conference hotels. In addition, there were 17 tables, each occupied and staffed by representatives of non-profit organizations including MPLA. Visitors to the table were able to register for a drawing being held to give away 10 free one-year memberships to MPLA. Tootsie pops were given as a reward for stopping by the table.

Winners of the one-year memberships in MPLA were Susan Franklin, Republican Valley Library System; Julie Osnes, Wayne Public Library; Linda McElvain, Goodall City Library in Ogallala, NE; Mary Cassner, University of Nebraska-Lincoln CY Thompson Library; Maelyn Toelle, Battle Creek Public Library; Brenda Ealey, Southeast Library System; Debra Nadrchal, Clarkson Public Library; Pat Hughes, Hastings College; Joan Chesley, Keene Memorial Library in Fremont, NE; and Ramona Ratliff, York College. Congratulations!