

ST-5

MPLA Board report

NEBRASKA

Respectfully Submitted by Julie Beno

Highlights from Nebraska Library Association Board meeting Friday Jan. 19, 2008:

- The Legislative committee is gearing up for Legislative day on February 12th. Senators will be invited to a breakfast and a lunch. Postcards promoting libraries will be delivered to all Senators. Library volunteers will be recognized during the morning session and during the luncheon.

Legislative Day is a beginning of a longer campaign to connect with senators about why libraries matter. The committee is working on talking points around 3 main points: Literacy, Learning, & Quality of Life. These sub-points will be the concrete things that can be done to help keep libraries viable and visible.

- Bills to be aware of in this Unicameral session:

LB 768: Sanitary & Improvement Districts may contract for library services

LB 572: Nebraska Regional Library Systems' Health Insurance under NE State Insurance

LB 760: Create the NE State Library Task Force to conserve Capitol library

LB 361: Prohibits public funds for the purpose of paying dues or membership fees to an organization if revenue from these sources would be used by the organization for the purpose of a ballot campaign.

NLA went on record as supporting LB 768 and LB 760. LB 361 is still in the infancy stage and we are already on record supporting LB 572.

- AFCON reported the student free expression bill will not be introduced this legislative session. Currently 10 states have free expression laws including Nebraska's neighbors: Iowa, Kansas and Colorado.

- A statewide Libraries Futures Conference will be held in early June of 2008. It is a two day event gathering Senators, the public, and Librarians to discuss the future of libraries. The last one was held in 1991.

- The Para, College and University, Public Library, SCYP, and New Members Round Table have Spring meetings planned. ITART is sponsoring a Webinar.

- Marcia Baker attended the ALA Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia as part of the Emerging Leaders 2008 program. She is part of group I, sponsored by CALM, the combined committee on archives, libraries, and museums.

The Emerging Leaders website is: http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/Main_Page

Group I's wiki will soon be published at:

http://wikis.ala.org/emergingleaders/index.php/2008_emerging_leaders_program

OTHER:

The Nebraska Library Commission and Systems are sponsoring a bus to PLA in Minneapolis. Instead of AIBUSquerke it will be the PLABUS!

YART, Young Adult Round Table, is now a NLA recognized round table. Kudos go to Susan Steider for initiating this. Susan has taken a strong leadership role since attending the Nebraska Leadership conference. NLA's and MPLA's Leadership conferences make a difference.

Total attendance for the NLA/NEMA Fall conference was 476.