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MPLA Board Report

Oct. 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted by Julie Beno

The NLA Board is gearing up for the conference Oct. 15-18, 2008: **Vision for the Information Age** in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel.

<http://www.nebraskalibraries.org/conference/2008/>

Keynote speakers are renowned author Kent Haruf and Professor of education and library science Annette Lamb. To promote a green conference we are going bagless (attendees are encouraged to bring their own) and presenters are encouraged to post their notes before the conference. In a first, the Legislative Committee is sponsoring two programs:

**Political Influence: How you can be effective** presented by Brian Mikkelsen, Director of Political Activity for the Nebraska State Educational Association

**Political Issues Facing Nebraska:** Sens. Adams, Avery and Heidemann will be a panel with discussion on what issues we as librarians should be aware of and those larger issues that will be demanding the senators attention this legislative year.

The one wrinkle in this year's conference is that the Iowa Library Conference is being held the same week and we competed for exhibitors.

This year's NLA election was held online. Participation was only 18%. We are polling conference attendees to find out why they did not vote. In last year's paper election 60% of the members voted.

One project for next year is developing criteria for funding requests. NLA is sponsoring one lawyer to attend the Lawyers for Library conference in November.

Legislative Day for 2010 is planned for February 10th.

Lori Brezina of Omaha Public Library has been selected as NLA's 2009 Emerging Leader. She was selected from a pool of very talented applicants.

Mayor Chris Beutler announced his appointment of Pat Leach as Director of Lincoln City Libraries effective Monday, September 22. Leach has worked full-time in the City library system since 1981 and has served as Youth Services Supervisor since 1997. She will follow Carol Connor, who retired this month after 30 years as Library Director. The Mayor said Leach's passion, experience and vision will help move the library system forward.