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Nevada Report to MPLA

October 3, 2008

Submitted by Janet Mastalir, NLA Representative to MPLA

The Nevada Library Association's 2008 Annual Conference was held at the Santa Fe Station in Las Vegas on August 14-16. "Bridging the Gap @ Nevada Libraries" was the conference theme. NLA President Denise Gerdes hoped the theme would cross the cultural, technological, economic and educational divides in our society. Over 200 library staff members attended the conference, spoke to vendors and enjoyed a multitude of activities.

NLA is currently promoting and rebuilding. The existing website has been updated and a Website Committee has been appointed to explore new and improved alternatives. John Crockett, Chair of the Publicity Committee created a new NLA brochure for distribution to all Nevada libraries.

NLA leadership drafted a 2009-2011 Strategic Plan, and presented it at the annual meeting. Specific attention is being directed to increase membership and build models for each officer, group and committee. The models will provide continuity for the organization as leaders are replaced after elections.

Virginia City hosted an annual Labor Day Parade. Librarians were featured, with Storey County Library Director, Lucy Bouldin serving as Grand Marshal. The parade included the Comstock Civil War Re-enactors, the United Auto Workers and other unions, veterans groups, and equestrian teams.

Since 2007, money has been accumulating in the State's License Plate Project from the sale and



renewal of plates. The special license plates generate approximately \$10,000 per year, which will dwindle as time goes by and people do not renew their license plates. According to the methods and procedures approved by the NLA Executive Board in January 2008, the funds are to be distributed to the Summer Reading Program (40%), scholarships supporting continuing education of librarians (40%), and scholarship fundraising to support education of librarians (20%). On August 13, 2008, the NLA Executive Board allocated \$26,570.50 to the three programs.

The 2008 Nevada Young Reader Award winners are:

Picture Book, Sweet Tooth by Margie Palatini

Young Reader, Ghost's Grave by Peg Kehret

Intermediate, Magyk by Angie Sage

Young Adult, Uglies by Scott Westerfield

45,154 votes were cast by students from 107 Nevada schools.

A Statewide Continuing Education Advisory Committee sponsored by the Nevada State Library and Archives was established to set goals and educational activities for the upcoming year. Members of the committee include Tanya Brown and Chris Bundren from the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District, Corinne Dickman from Washoe County Library System, John Fitzsimmons from Truckee Meadows Community College, Sandy Marz from Washoe County Law Library, Barbara Mathews from Churchill County Library, Shar Murphy from Mineral County High School, and Wendy Starkweather from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. NSLA sponsors continuing education in Nevada utilizing Library Services and Technology Act funds.