

ST-7

New Mexico Library Association

Mountain Plains Library Association Report - November 5, 2003
Submitted by Charlene Greenwood, NMLA Representative to MPLA

NEW STATE LIBRARIAN ON BOARD - Richard G. Akeroyd, Jr. has been named to be the new State Librarian for the State of New Mexico. "We are very pleased to be able to bring to New Mexico a State Librarian with such outstanding credentials," said Rubén A. Smith, Secretary of the New Mexico Office of Cultural Affairs. "Mr. Akeroyd has the leadership experience to bring the New Mexico library community into the complex informational world of the 21st century." Mr. Akeroyd comes to New Mexico as his previous position as director of library programs with the Bill & Melinda Gates Library Foundation winds to a close. In that capacity, he became acquainted with the public libraries in New Mexico when the Foundation's program placed computers, software, related hardware, Internet connections, technical support, cash grants, and training into the state's 89 public libraries. The Gates Library Program placed over \$300 million into 13,000 public libraries in all 50 states, Canada, the UK, Chile, and Mexico. It also generated a special effort for Native American libraries through a special project begun in New Mexico. Mr. Akeroyd became familiar with the various tribal groups in the state during that part of the project.

In a long and distinguished career, Mr. Akeroyd studied at the University of Pittsburgh where he completed his Master's of Library Science degree in 1969. He has served in various capacities at the Denver Public Library, the National Commission On Libraries and Information Science, the Connecticut State Library, the University of Connecticut Library, and the Manchester Public Library. From 1986 to 1997 he was the State Librarian of the Connecticut State Library where he managed an annual budget of \$10 million and oversaw the activities of a main research library, the State Archives, the State Public Records Administration, the Museum of Connecticut History, the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and two Library Service Centers.

He has chaired the Advisory Committee for the second White House Conference on Library and Information Services, and co-chaired the White House Conference in 1991. He was on the U.S. Department of Education Working Group on E-Rate Implementation to bring large savings to schools and libraries in telecommunications and Internet costs. Mr. Akeroyd has also served on the Council of State Library Agencies of the Northeast and on the Boards of Directors of the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

Mr. Akeroyd has been or is a member of the American Library Association, The Public Library Association, the Coalition for Networked Information, the American Society for Information Science, the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies, the Council of State Libraries in the Northeast, and the Colorado, Connecticut, and New England Library Associations. He has written numerous articles in the professional literature and made many presentations in the United States and Canada.

NEW GO BOND - The Library Bond Task Force has been re-established. New Mexico librarians are organizing a legislative effort to improve public, school, and academic libraries. The 2004 New Mexico Library Bond Task Force is a group of public, school, and academic librarians working together to win Legislative support and convince the Governor to allow a \$41 million bond package on the November 2004 ballot for books and other materials, such as periodicals and electronic databases. The last statewide library GO Bond initiative was passed in 2002. Librarians asked for \$35 million and received \$16 million. The Task Force hopes to pass another bond using the impetus of the last bond, which would bring our libraries in New Mexico up to a healthy and sustainable level.

Ben's Run - Ben Wakashige, former New Mexico State Librarian, may have left New Mexico to be director of Pacific University's library in Oregon, but New Mexico hasn't left Ben. This event attracted over 65 sponsors for his run in the Portland Marathon and completed the race in 3:45 hours. The total amount pledged to the New Mexico Library Foundation from his sponsors was \$2,700.

NMLA Mini-conference - The annual New Mexico Library Association fall mini-conference was held on Friday, October 17, at the Holiday Inn in West Gallup. The theme of this year's conference was "Libraries: Weaving the

Fabric of Community." There was something for everyone, plus a distinctive Native American flavor to acknowledge our state's cultural heritage and the history and traditions of some of New Mexico's First Peoples.

MPLA Leadership Institute - The MPLA Leadership Institute will be held at Ghost Ranch in northern New Mexico November 9 through the 14. From NM will be Olivia Li of the Los Alamos Public Library; Valerie Nye of the New Mexico State Library; and Cassandra Osterloh of the University of New Mexico.