

ST-8

North Dakota Library Association Representative Report
to Mountain Plains Library Association (MPLA)
13 June 2002

NDLA Rep to MPLA, Susan Dingle, was on vacation at the March NDLA board meeting. In advance, she briefed the NDLA president about the Institute and its importance to MPLA and as a leadership/mentoring experience to attendees from the Mountain Plains states. Sent to NDLA board members and posted on the NDLA [at-large, not just EXEC] listserv were: the news release; the MPLA Leadership Institute brochure; information about the institute and applicant qualifications, money, travel requirements, place, date, and info about the institute presenter, Maureen Sullivan. Copies of the same information also were distributed at the board meeting. Past NDLA Rep to MPLA, Melody Kuehn, was in attendance at this meeting and she answered questions about the Institute that she had information for. Apparently, there was little discussion because it was at the end of a very crowded agenda.\

NDLA's executive board transacts some of its business by email and then affirms the actions taken at the next board meeting. NDLA's executive board discussed by email the need to fund the costs of attending the MPLA Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute at least to \$1,000 per NDLA-selected attendee. Costs of traveling to Ghost Ranch plus the tuition fee would come to \$1000 to \$1200 for travelers from North Dakota, even with booking flights far in advance. In email discussion begun in April and concluded in May, NDLA's executive voted to set aside \$2,000 for this year's attendees and to form an ad-hoc committee to discuss ways to cover the funding in the future. Anticipated choices are by fund-raising, special contributions, use of some of NDLA's funds in reserve, seeking underwriting for our attendees from local vendors or businesses, or other means the committee might decide to recommend. The committee is to have its recommendations ready for the first NDLA board meeting after the annual meeting in Fargo, 2-5 October 2002, the TriConference with NDLA, SDLA, and MPLA. [This NDLA board meeting typically takes place in December or January.] These decisions were affirmed at the NDLA special board meeting to discuss TriConference program arrangements in Fargo at the Ramada Plaza Suites on Friday, 6 June 2002.

On 3 June 2002, Susan Dingle began to serve as Editor at the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Consequences of this change in position are moving out of the State Archives and Historical Research Library to Museum & Education Division and ending her library-association and genealogy-related positions to concentrate on the responsibilities in this new job. At the conclusion of the October 2002 meeting, Susan will no longer hold any positions with MPLA or NDLA or the local historical and genealogical society. Soon, the NDLA President, LaDean Moen, should be announcing who has been appointed to fill out the remaining two years of the three-year term as NDLA Rep to MPLA. For the MPLA GOV DOC incoming Chair position that Susan would have taken in October, Chair Louise Treff-Gangler, the people on the slate for the chair-elect, and the nominations and elections committee were discussing ways this position could be filled. Susan also will resign from the MPLA Finance Committee and her term on the MPLA Continuing Education Committee ends in October 2002, anyway.

NEWS OF LIBRARIES IN NORTH DAKOTA

Marvia Boettcher and Traci Juhala of the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library told stories at the Former Governors' Mansion [a North Dakota State Historic Site] on June 2002. This is an ongoing program in cooperation with the State Historical Society of North Dakota. Marvia is a children's librarian and specialist in storytelling. Traci is a reference librarian who also enjoys part-time work with children. Bismarck Public Library has a range of storytelling programs planned for this spring and summer. Storyteller Ceil Anne clement kicked off the summer reading program. Timestep Players Children's Theater of Chicago performed "The Winning Team" on June 19, a motivational reading program. This troupe will visit other libraries in North and South Dakota throughout the summer.

Bismarck Public Library celebrated the anniversary of the 100th year since the birth of author John Steinbeck with programs on Steinbeck's impact on American culture and film, with discussions on his short novels. Members of Jamestown's Louis L'Amour Heritage Committee celebrated the author and North Dakota native's birthday at the Alfred Dickey Public Library. Donations for the celebration came from L'Amour nephew Richard Waldo, mayor of

Danville, CA. Byrnes-Quanbeck Library staff at Mayville State University were given the Comet West Teamwork Award, an all-employee recognition award given at Mayville State U's annual Employee Recognition Dinner. These staff members are Edith Anderson, Doreen Rosevold, Sarah Batesel, Shannon Hofer, and Marge Fugleberg. Kathy Spencer, Manager of the University of North Dakota Geology Branch Library received the 2002 Chester Fritz Library Outstanding Library Support Staff Award at a reception on February 27th.

Fargo Public Library sponsored a session for public and school librarians in Fargo and Moorhead on youth collection development and programming. Dr. Timothy Wadham, Children's Coordinator at Maricopa County Library, Phoenix AZ, gave the program sessions. He has written on children's programming, fantasy literature for children, and services to Spanish-language youth. Instruction, demonstrations, Q&A, and work in the library's online training lab all were featured. The North Dakota Library Coordinating Council and North Dakota State Library in February through May sponsored three Think Tank sessions to get feedback for reconsidering and updating the Library Vision 2004 state plan, a long-range planning and mission statement about library resource sharing, cooperation, programming, and library state funding needs and priorities for the future. Think Tank sessions were held in Bismarck on February 27, Minot on April 26, and Valley City on May 3. Librarians, library trustees, and interested members from the public at large gave their thoughts and feedback in sessions facilitated by Dr. Kent Hjelmstad and Dr. Larry Klundt.

Visually, physically, and reading-impaired persons may qualify for large-print books or magazines and postage is free. The ND State Library coordinates this service. A person such as a medical doctor, ophthalmologist, registered nurse, optometrist, or professional staff member of a hospital or other institution or agency must sign a written statement certifying that they applicant is unable to read material in conventional format because of the person's physical impairment. Williston Community Library, in partnership with Leadership Williston, is beginning a new program for homebound people in it service area. Volunteers will deliver materials for shut-ins and will visit with them every three weeks. Materials available from this service include large-print books, videos, and music audiocassettes and CDs.

Mandan Public Library expanded its investment section with a donation of books from Edward Jones Investment representatives Bob Lemnus and Dave Fitterer. The Mandan Public Library is preparing to move into much-expanded quarters in the remodeled form Burlington Northern Freight House. Director Thom Hendricks, Assistant Director Kelly Steckler, and staff have been working on a photo exhibit and requesting donations of new materials for the library.

MPLA member Marlene Anderson, former Technical Services Librarian at Bismarck State College Library and its Interim Director, was named Director of Library Services effective July 1. Former director Marcella Schmalz retired in December 2001.

Karen Chobot, MPLA member, and Reference and Serials Librarian at the Mildred Johnson Library at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton, was promoted to Director of the Library upon the retirement of its director, Jerald Stewart..

Iris Swedlund, Librarian at the Velva Public and School Library, has been fighting cancer and community members and North Dakota library staff members raised money to help cover her medical and transportation expenses with a spaghetti supper on April 24, 2002. Iris's library was able to add some new technology and library furniture with funds raised by the Velva Woman's Club and these were installed in the new \$750,000 library built in 1995.

Bottineau County Library added new children's books with a grant from Libri Foundation Books for Children and it has a grant from Gates Foundation for a new computer. With funds raised by Women of Today, the Glen Ullin Public Library added new children's books with a 2-for-1 matching grant from the Libri Foundation. Zeeland Public School Library also received a matching grant for children's books from the Libri Foundation.

Kindred Public Library is planning for a new public library. Kindred Area Economic Development Corporation found space for a building and is helping with plans for remodeling of the former clinic building. Operation Round-

Up gave a \$5000 grant and additional monies have been coming in from individual donations and grants from other sources.

Hope-Page Schools got a grant from the North Dakota State Library to link them to ODIN [Online Dakota Information Network]. The libraries will dispose of their card catalogs and install a modern computer system.

Lakota City Library received \$5000 from the estate of Irene Howser of Lakota; and Harvey Public Library got a check for \$1000 from former resident Dr. Alan Berg, now of Lincoln, NE.

--submitted by Susan Dingle, NDLA Representative to MPLA
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