

ST-8

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North Dakota State Representative

## MPLA

I wrote an article for the April newsletter.

I set an e-mail out to North Dakota MPLA members regarding renewing their membership.

I sent out an e-mail of support for Sally Dockter's run for MPLA President Elect and encouraging North Dakota MPLA members to vote in the elections.

I recruited one member to the ranks of MPLA who is interested in attending the KLA/MPLA Joint Conference.

## North Dakota

The 2009 North Dakota Legislature is currently in session and will be wrapping the session up in April. North Dakota is one of three states not facing a budget deficit. The Governor's budget contained funding for the current North Dakota State Library services, including \$1.2M for State Aid to Public Libraries, \$237,000 for Library Vision 2010, \$200,000 for Online Library, Resources, reference and interlibrary loan services, training, talking book and radio reading services, and cataloging and state document services. It also included an optional package of \$100,000 for State Aid to Public Libraries and \$120,000 for Online Library Resources. In HB 1013, state aid was raised to 1.3 million, an additional \$100,000 from the Governor's budget. The \$120,000 for additional online resources was left intact. The bill was heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee March 5th. It has been referred to the Education Subcommittee. We are keeping our fingers crossed.

By the time this report goes out, the North Dakota State Library will have finished the 2009 Spring Workshops (and I will take a breather). Destination: Library will be held in Bismarck, March 23-24 and in Fargo, March 26-27. This year our guest speakers will be MPLA members Dorothy Liegl and Christine Kujawa. Dorothy will present on workshop entitled, "Your Library as a Community Center" and Christine will present on library marketing. There will also be workshops on gaming in public libraries, the 2009 Summer Reading Program, and basic book repair, presented by MPLA member Eric Strohane. The electronic resources portion of the workshop will feature Go Local North Dakota (health resources in North Dakota) and Medline Plus, as well as featuring presentations on the ProQuest, Gale, and EBSCO databases. A new feature will be a roundtable discussion on various topics including Dealing with Difficult Patrons, fund raising ideas, developing a rapport with your state representatives, developing a working relationship with your school administrator, and library/library board relationships.

The book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt, that had been challenged at the Beulah High School last fall was officially banned by the Beulah School Board on January 15. The following week the Beulah School Board reversed the ban. The incident was reported in local and state newspapers. The high school librarian, Kathy Jo Cline did an outstanding job of handling the challenge, following the school district's policy on challenged materials. The school board reversed their decision four days after the ban was placed on the book. Author of the book, John Berendt, sent a letter to the editor of the Bismarck Tribune regarding the incident. A letter to the editor of the Bismarck Tribune regarding the importance of intellectual freedom and the role libraries play in upholding intellectual freedom was sent by the NDLA Intellectual Freedom Committee.

The 2009 North Dakota Library Association Annual Conference will be held in Dickinson, September 23-26th at the Days Inn Grand Dakota Lodge and Conference Center. The theme is "Evolution of the Library."