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South Dakota Library Association  
Mountain Plains Library Association Report, October 2006  
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2006 SDLA Convention held Sept. 20-22 in Rapid City, SD. – Three visiting authors entertained librarians during the Convention.

Sue Grafton entertained librarians and many western South Dakota mystery readers at the beginning of the 2006 SDLA Convention. Grafton shared her early writing experiences and how she began writing mystery novels – she could not be arrested for murdering her ‘soon to be ex-husband’ if the murder took place in a novel! As the mysteries have worked their way through the alphabet (currently, she’s working on “T”), Grafton has been asked what comes next when “Z is for Zero” is finished. Sue Grafton feels that she will be ready for retirement after the “Z” book. It takes 2-3 years for her to complete a book. At that point, Grafton hopes to be able to continue autographing books, probably arriving at the signing events in a PINK ambulance!

Nancy Pearl, author of *Book Lust* and *More Book Lust*, also shared her writing experiences and her love for reading. When asked how she had time to read all the books she has recommended in her 2 *Book Lust* books, Pearl said, “I have no life – I read all the time!”

Joseph Bruchac, children’s author, presented his desire to give an accurate portrayal of Native Americans in children’s literature. Bruchac won the SD Prairie Pasque Reading Award for the book, *Skeleton Man* in 2003/2004. His other recent books include *Winter People* and *Code Talker*.

MPLA President, Sharon Osenga, attended the 2006 SDLA Convention. She presented highlights of the MPLA Leadership Institute during one of the convention sessions. Sharon also worked at the MPLA booth, encouraging people to register for the free MPLA membership drawing. Sharon also drew five of the 10 free memberships and announced those 5 winners during the evening Awards Ceremony. The other 5 free memberships were announced at the ending author luncheon.

Greta Chapman is the incoming 2006/2007 SDLA President. Her theme for the year will be “Honor our past, Build our future: Renew, Recruit, Celebrate.” SDLA historical archives will be Renewed by digitizing them and including them on the SDLA website, an SDLA Past Presidents Oral History project will be instituted, and Staff Contracts will be updated. SDLA Membership Recruitment and participation will be of utmost importance. SDLA will Celebrate its successes by telling its story through an SDLA Traveling Exhibit Booth to be shown during several SD educational/academic/technology conferences.

The new George and Eleanor McGover Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service was dedicated Oct. 7 on the Dakota Wesleyan University campus in Mitchell, SD. Former President Bill Clinton, Al Neuharth, and other dignitaries spoke during the event. Peter, Paul and

Mary and the 147th Army Band Brass Quintet provided musical entertainment during the festivities.

South Dakota State Library begins to implement changes recommended in the 2006 State Library Study. The SD State Library will focus its efforts on serving South Dakota State Government and South Dakota libraries – providing training and electronic materials which will allow local library staff to do the best job possible of delivering local library services. Much of the existing State Library book collection will be dispersed to libraries throughout the state and will remain available to all SD citizens through inter-library loan.

Three new electronic databases will be provided by the SD State Library and will be available to local libraries throughout the state. Those databases will include American Newspapers – Aberdeen, SD and Sioux Falls, SD; Learning Express Library (includes many of the standardized testing manuals); and the Gale Virtual Reference Library.

The SD State Library has several training opportunities scheduled for librarians throughout the state. On-line training workshops are being provided through the University of North Texas – the most recent workshop deals with Using Volunteers in the Library. Other in-person workshops have been scheduled – the most recent workshop, “Creating or Updating a Collection Development Policy.”