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South Dakota State Report – March 2009  
Elvita Landau, State Representative

The South Dakota Library Association is planning its annual conference scheduled for October 7-9 in Aberdeen, SD. The theme is “Back in Circulation”. Speakers scheduled so far include teen author Walter Sorrells, ACRL president Erica Linke, and Lauren Burnett.

The South Dakota State Library has announced the schedule for its Library Training Institute, a four-year program of continuing education for library practitioners, support staff and trustees of small public libraries. It will be held June 7-12 at Northern State University, Aberdeen. Public library staff and trustees who attend the Institute will learn the basic skills necessary to run a public library in a small or medium-sized, South Dakota community. Participants earn a minimum of 162 contact hours over the 4-year period, receiving a Public Library Management Certificate upon completion. They also may earn two college credits each year from Northern State University.

Young people across South Dakota are currently voting for the winners of the three SDLA sponsored book awards. The Prairie Bud award is selected by kindergarten-third graders, Prairie Pasque Award by fourth-sixth graders, and the YARP (Teen Choice) Award by grades seven-twelve. The winners are announced during National Library Week, April 12-18.

Several legislative bills not supported by SDLA were defeated during the 2009 Legislative Session.

Brenda Hemmelman, SDLS’s Executive Secretary, has resigned to take a position at the State Library. A new job description was approved and the position advertised.

Due to uncertain funding and shortness of planning time, the SDLA Board has chosen to cancel its annual Spring Forums, a day of continuing education at two locations across the state.