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Report to MPLA Executive Board

Wyoming
October 2002

WLA

The Wyoming Library Association (WLA) met in Casper, Wyoming September 18-21. There were many well-attended programs. Over all there were 304 registered, a large number by comparison to past WLA conventions.

Wyoming Library Leadership Institute

Library Leadership Institute (LLI) provides an opportunity for librarians and others associated with libraries to learn about leadership potential. The program was developed because there was a recognized need to cultivate library leaders, which prompted the Wyoming State Library (WSL) to seek funding for the institute.

In early 2001, the State Library received a two-year McMurray Library Endowment grant to create a leadership institute with the goal of developing leaders within the library community.

Through a competitive application process, sixteen individuals were selected for the first institute. Those attendees represented a cross section of employees including paraprofessionals, directors, support staff, library media specialists and special librarians. Topics for the institute included a personality inventory, leadership skill building, teambuilding principles, communication skills, leadership and decision-making styles and conflict exploration.

The Uinta County Public Library recently converted to the Wyoming State Library WYLD Cat System, becoming the last county in the state to "go WYLD." By the end of the summer, all 23 county libraries will be using the WYLD System.

Mary Lynn Corbett Lincoln County Library director retired after serving as Lincoln County Library director for the past for 11 years. Before that, she spent 12 years working for Natrona County Public Library, where she held a variety of positions. Her main responsibility, however, has always been public service.

A Wyoming Public Library Directors' Handbook will soon be sent to public library directors. A committee was organized to create a handbook that would serve as a reference tool for new library directors.

Patty Myers, Platte County; Isabel Hoy, Goshen County; Lucie Osborn, Laramie County; Susan Simpson, Albany County; Jill Mackey, Crook County; Marcia Wright, Campbell County and Jerry Krois and Joe French, Wyoming State Library are members of the committee.

www.gowyld.net

This is the URL to Wyoming's portal to learning and knowledge, developed and maintained by

Wyoming libraries and maintained by the gowyld web team. This is necessary for those looking for information on Wyoming.

Wyoming libraries have been busy with the migration to SIRSI. These changes continue to occupy much staff time throughout Wyoming's libraries.

The Wyoming Library Association invites MPLA to join them at Jackson Wyoming the first week of October 2005.

Please welcome Patricia Patterson; she is the Youth Services Coordinator from Park County Public Library in Cody Wyoming, and Wyoming's new state representative.

Thank you all for the valuable experiences I have gained by serving on the MPLA board. It has been rewarding.

Respectfully,
Ara Anderson