Public Library Statute Successfully Revised Other Issues Unsettled

by Joe Sabatini

The 1999 Session of the New Mexico Legislature passed a budget and funded other appropriations of concern to librarians. However, Governor Johnson vetoed all money bills, and will be calling a special session to resolve philosophical and money differences. The fate of electronics data products funding, increased state aid and the academic library funding formula are still in doubt. In the vetoed general appropriations act, Senate Bill 2, there was $200,000 for electronic data products and $300,000 in added funding for state grants in aid to public libraries, but the academic library formula was not funded. By the time you read this, there may or may not have been a Special Session.

One piece of legislation which was passed and signed was House Bill 15 by Representative Jose Abeyta. This legislation was an outgrowth of work done over the past two years by the Public Library Funding Task Force of the New Mexico Municipal League. The Task Force originally proposed legislation allowing the creation of special taxing districts to fund libraries in multi-jurisdictional areas. This proposal was thoroughly debated and rejected by members of the League’s Resolutions Committee. Several of the elected officials who spoke against special districts suggested instead that multi-jurisdictional service agreements could already be created through contracts and joint powers agreements. Following the Resolutions Committee meeting, six members of the NMLA Legislation Committee held a scheduled meeting at the Sagebrush Inn in Taos. We concluded that despite the rejection of special districts, the deficiencies in the current public library statute still needed to be addressed. The two areas needing correction were the lack of clear language authorizing county governments to operate public libraries and the need to state explicitly that municipalities and counties could contract for regional library service. At a Legislation Committee meeting in early November, our lobbyist Tom Horan suggested language which could also include school districts and academic libraries in multi-type library service agreements.

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- June 24: ALA Conference, New Orleans
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from the president's paw

How soon the last column arrives! Now to prepare for the big hand-over of the gavel and the President's gray book to incoming-President, Charlene Greenwood. Now to file all the sets of minutes that I meant to file as soon as I got them, I really did mean to... I want to say thank you to the Executive Board, singly and as a group, for making my year as President so smooth. It's been a wonderful year--thanks to all the members, on and off the board!

This is an appropriate time to review NMLA's accomplishments for the past year, and we had several. To wit:

We joined the Mountain Plains Library Association, becoming their twelfth library association member. This will open up a huge realm of continuing education opportunities, joblines, and conferences for NMLA members.

We held a retreat to review the five-year plan and attendant goals and objectives. Membership will be voting on a new mission statement and new plan and goals at the annual business meeting at conference--another reason to attend the business meeting, folks!

Governor Gary Johnson signed HB 15, which, as Joe Sabatini has pointed out in his e-mail Legislative Bulletins, "rewrites the basic statute governing the establishment of public libraries by municipalities and counties. It also specifically provides for the use of contracts and joint powers agreements to establish multijurisdictional and multitype library-cooperative arrangements." This bill came out of the hard work done by the New Mexico Municipal League Task Force on Public Library Funding. Many thanks to those who served on that task force.

I'm sure NMLA has accomplished many, many more things during the past year, and I'm also sure we will hear about those things during the reports at the annual business meeting--yet another reason to attend!

Congratulations to the incoming officers and committee chairs for NMLA, and to those of you who were not elected--don't give up. Your turn may be just around the corner. And to all NMLA members, even if you never considered running for an office, when the Nominations Committee comes calling, please say yes.

And for all those keeping up with The Multitude, we fixed 34 kittens last year, and three so far this year, and are holding at 97 total.

It has been a pleasure to serve you as President, and I'm quite looking forward to the dynamic and exciting conference in Carlsbad. And once again, thanks to all of you who make these things "go".

Sincerely,
Ellanie Sampson

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conference update

Well, the conference registration packet went out and of course there are changes. Just to update you on what you did not see in the program:

Changes, Additions, Subtractions

An added program will be "New Mexico State Library Dialogue" presided over by Ben Wakashige, the State Librarian. This will be an opportunity for New Mexico librarians to express their concerns and make comments about the State Library's programs and activities. Representatives of the NMSL Staff will update the participants of their activities.

Another added program will be "How Suite It Is! Leading the Way: Follett's Solution" with Warren "Woody" Wood. If you have a technology vision that includes remote access to the Internet from the resources in your online catalog, you won't want to miss this opportunity for an in-depth look at WebCollection Plus and learn about the exciting new ways to work with MARC records, the 856 tag (electronic access), the 658 tag (curriculum objectives), the 526 tag (for programs like Accelerated Reader), plus the new data services from Follett that can help you maximize the power of your MARC database.

The "Copyright Law and Libraries" session on Friday is sponsored by NMAARL. There will be a short meeting for the membership following the session.

Caroline Garrett who was to do "The Golden Age of Illustration" will not be able to present this year.

Reminders:

The Youth Services Luncheon will be held on Friday April 30 from 12:00pm - 1:15pm. Barbara Robinson will be accepting the 1998 Land of Enchantment Book Award. Her book, The Best School Year Ever, was chosen by students from all over New Mexico last year. The award is sponsored by NMLA and the NM Council of the International Reading Association.

1999-2000 book list will be presented and book-talked by members of the Land of Enchantment Book Award Committee at a conference session Friday morning. If you enjoyed last year's luncheon with Lois Lowry, you'll have fun at this year's. Come and join others to celebrate reading, literacy, books and preparing for the youth of New Mexico. Be sure to sign up for the luncheon on your registration form.

Don't forget the Job Fair. If you are interested in learning about possible positions, be sure to come prepared with several copies of your resume. It will be Friday April 30 10:00am - 11:30am. For more information, contact Jeanne Houghtaling at jhoughtaling@carlsbad.net or 505-885-6776 in Carlsbad.

Thanks to these sponsors for their generous support:
(We still want more sponsors.)

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Grolier / Children's Press / Franklin Watts / Grolier / Susan Erbe - Youth Services Luncheon
AMIGOS - Past Presidents Reception
EBSCO Subscription Service - Past Presidents Reception
Forbes' - sponsoring an author, Michael McGarrity

Table Talks:

Some of our vendors will be presenting short talks during the Grand Opening at lunch on Thursday. There will be tables set up for you to sit and eat your lunch and learn some more. Some topics include:

Parental Involvement Workshop by Susan F. Erbe, Area Representative for Children's Press, Franklin Watts, Orchard Books, Time-Life Education, and Raintree Steck-Vaughn - A smorgasbord of ideas on getting parents interested in choosing appropriate books for their children. Parent Books plus an assortment of high interest children's books will be introduced. Samples and hands-on activities will be included.

PBS Video Database of America's History and Culture by Charles Snell of PBS Video - The most comprehensive, easy to use
teaching and planning tool available today using a revolutionary method for video use.

Professional Document Systems by Matt Bowman - Las Cruces, New Mexico is an authorized Canon Image Filing Dealer. We will be discussing linking microforms to the digital world through Canon Microfilm Digital Scanners and Ariel / Simplify ILL routing software.

Explore SIRS Discoverer/Researcher on the Web by Lois Bacon, Regional Representative, SIRS Mandarin, Inc. Researcher is a database of thousands of full-text articles related to social issues, the sciences, and global events. Discoverer is an interactive reference tool for the young reader, makes learning fun and intuitive. Designed to develop research, reading and writing, and language skills. SIRS Discoverer also teaches basic computer skills. The database is comprised of full-text articles selected from more than 450 magazines and newspapers, with children in grades one through eight in mind.

"Are you ready?" with Colleen Gavin, Perma-Bound Representative. An informal question and answer session about Accelerated Reader—its plan, implementation, benefits, and headaches from the library perspective.

Conference Logo

As a conferee viewing the program for the Carlsbad conference, you may think, "I understand the millennium concept, but why the image of a monumental bronze?"

When Carlsbad Library celebrated their Centennial in 1997, the Board and Friends of the Library arranged for Wren-Prather Stroud to create a bronze statue signifying the event. "The Reader" is a classic piece and is somewhat timeless. As the sculpture represented the library's crossing from one century to the next, so this work of art moves easily from one millennium to the next. The work is a pyramid shape, the base being books. Each book is named, an interesting challenge for librarians, sculpture, and friends. With The Complete Works of Shakespeare as a cornerstone, one will find Cat in a Hat and Carlsbad, Caves, and a Camera, as well. In "The Reader's" hand, and readable to the observer, is Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself."

Sculptor, Wren Prather-Stroud, will be on hand at the Carlsbad Library tour and attendees can also look forward to seeing her around the conference. The bronze is in front of the Carlsbad Library and the special tour is on Wednesday afternoon April 28. (See the registration packet for more information and signing up.)

Carlsbad welcomes you:

The people of Carlsbad have promised their best weather for you. It is possible for it to be in the 90s at the time of the conference. It is very likely that it will be windy - bring skirt clips! Enjoy this summer like weather as well as the pleasant view of the lake from the Conference Center. This is truly a lovely and pleasant site for learning, renewal, and fun.

Contacts for information:
See our great web site - http://www.carlsbad.net/library/confer.htm - created by Lorie Mitchell from the Carlsbad Public Library. It includes a registration form that may be downloaded and mailed in.

Registration information: Linda O'Connell at nmia@Rt66.com or 800-898-6652 or in Albuquerque at 899-3516.

Local Arrangements Committee Chair: Ellen Harbaugh at eharbaugh@carlsbad.net or 505-865-0731 (in Carlsbad)

Program information: Charlene Greenwood at cgreen2224@aol.com or 505-256-1379 (in Albuquerque)
Youth Services / Land of Enchantment Luncheon with Barbara Robinson

Youth Services of NMLA and the Land of Enchantment Book Award are co-sponsoring a luncheon honoring Barbara Robinson, author of The Best School Year Ever. Barbara Robinson is the winner of the 1998 Land of Enchantment Book Award.

The Land of Enchantment Book Award is an annual children's choice award to encourage the youth of New Mexico to read more books of good quality. A Master List is chosen by a statewide committee of children's librarians and teachers. Students who have read 3 books, (or have had read to them) are eligible to vote each April. This award is sponsored by the New Mexico Library Association and the New Mexico Council of the International Reading Association. Contact Meredith Bowers in Naaba Ani Elementary School, Bloomfield (505) 632-8001 for ballots and voting information.

Friday, April 30 1998. 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Carlsbad Conference Center

Luncheon includes Vegetarian Lasagne, hors d'oeuvres, garden salad, garlic bread, dessert with coffee or tea. $14.00

If you are registered for the conference, your ticket will be included in your registration packet. Non-registrants may attend the luncheon for only the cost of the meal. Non-registrant tickets may be picked up at the Registration Desk. Exhibit passes are free for those not attending the conference, but MUST be worn in the exhibit area.

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Once we had the basic principles of the legislation established, we publicized the concept in an article in the NMLA Newsletter. We also worked with Bill Fulginiti and the staff at the New Mexico Municipal League. We were concerned that our legislation would appear to be circumventing the clearly expressed decision of the Resolutions Committee. We pointed out that we were doing exactly what had been suggested to us about joint powers agreements. Research was done on the legislative history of the public library statute, to determine when and why the provision allowing counties to operate public libraries had been dropped. Our proposal was thoroughly reviewed with Kelly Orrick at the New Mexico Association of Counties, and with Margaret Seipel of the Lordsburg Hidalgo Public Library, the only library in the state operated by a County government. In late November, Representative Jose Abeyta of Wagon Mound was contacted and asked to sponsor our legislation. Jose had been an active supporter of the 1994 Connections and Collections legislation, and his rural Northeastern New Mexico district was the type of area which could particularly benefit from cooperative library arrangements. He sent our draft bill to the Legislative Council Service, which prepared an official version for introduction. We saw this draft at the end of December, and suggested a few changes. Carol Brey sent a letter to the Executive Board of the Municipal League, requesting their support. We also contacted Senator Stuart Ingle of Portales to carry the bill in the Senate.

One advantage of our preliminary work was that the bill was introduced on the second day of the session. This resulted in early committee hearings in the House. The Government and Urban Affairs Committee heard the bill on February 2nd, and voted to give it a do pass recommendation. Committee Chair James Taylor of Albuquerque noted that his South Valley district was well served because of the existing joint powers agreement between Albuquerque and Bernalillo County. Bill Fulginiti of the Municipal League expressed the League's support for the bill. In the House Education Committee hearing on February 8th, Representative Ray Begaye of Shiprock raised the question of whether tribal governments could participate in joint powers agreements. Ben Wakashige and I described programs designed to support the establishment of library services in Native American communities, and said that we believed that tribes could be participants in cooperative agreements. This precluded a possible amendment which could have delayed passage of the bill. The Education Committee gave HB 15 a do-pass recommendation. On February 11th, while NMLA was conducting its Legislative Day, the House passed HB 15, by a 62-0 margin.

Then we waited. HB 15 was referred to the Senate Public Affairs Committee, which was giving preference to hearing Senate bills. The slow pace of the session was a concern, as we did not want to lose our bill in the crush of business. With some prompting by our sponsor, the bill was finally scheduled for a Sunday hearing on March 7th. Three members of the committee were conducting hearings informally; I was called to testify even though our sponsor was not yet in the room; he arrived as I was giving testimony. When the committee got a quorum, they concurred with their "subcommittee's" do-pass recommendation. The Senate passed House Bill 15 on Wednesday, March 10th, by a vote of 32-0.

In order to inform Governor Johnson about the bill, Ben Wakashige and I had a conference call with State Library Commission Chair Maude Rathgerber. We reviewed the legislation and asked her to communicate with the Governor. NMLA President Ellanie Sampson wrote a letter to the Governor expressing the Association's support. Governor Johnson signed HB 15 on Friday, March 12th. New Mexico now has a public library statute which reflects current practices in municipalities and counties. It has a public policy in support of multi-type, multijurisdictional library cooperative arrangements: HB 15 was a simple and non-controversial "technical" piece of legislation, but its passage exemplifies the detailed work that goes into creation and promotion of any piece of legislation.

Joe Sabatini
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celebrate international library day with SLA

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Saturday evening, April 24, at 6 PM we will be celebrating International Library Day with a potluck at Judith Bernstein’s house. Bring your favorite dish and have a fun evening with SLAer’s and friends. Judith promises to show us some slides of her many trips that are connected with the IFLA conferences around the world. - Turkey, China, India?? Come and see the sites.

Location: 900 Vassar NE
Albuquerque
Contact Judith at 277-5054; 262-2320 or rosen@unm.

give us an update on ASI activities at the national level.

Facing the Text is a participatory workshop which focuses on the practical processes of indexing. We will survey the steps that indexers follow as we interpret texts and create index structures, using examples and hands-on exercises from a range of real texts and indexes. While this is not a basic introduction to indexing, novices as well as experienced indexers should benefit.

Do Mi Stauber has been a full-time back-of-the-book indexer for the past eleven years. She indexes scholarly books, textbooks, and government documents in all of the social sciences and humanities, and has been the chair of the Wilson Award judging committee.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, May 1st, from 8:30 -5:00, in Albuquerque, NM. The cost is $75 for ASI members, $85 for nonmembers; late registrations (after April 19th) will be an additional $10. For more information or to receive a registration form, contact

Caroline Parks
cparks@mindspring.com, 505-286-2738

spring indexing workshop

The New Mexico A to Zia Indexers Chapter of the American Society of Indexers (ASI) invites you to join us on Saturday, May 1st when indexer Do Mi Staubér will present her workshop Facing the Text: Content Analysis and Entry Selection in Social Sciences and Humanities Indexing. ASI president Lori Lathrop will also be here to give us an update on ASI activities at the national level.

Facing the Text is a participatory workshop which focuses on the practical processes of indexing. We will survey the steps that indexers follow as we interpret texts and create index structures, using examples and hands-on exercises from a range of real texts and indexes. While this is not a basic introduction to indexing, novices as well as experienced indexers should benefit.

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Caroline Parks
cparks@mindspring.com, 505-286-2738

nmla conference website

The NMLA conference website is located at: http://www.carlsbad.net/library/confer.htm
The conference theme is titled “From This Millennium to the Next” and features programs to prepare all of us for the upcoming millennium. Be sure to stop by the website today!!

Lorie Mitchell
Carlsbad Public Library
congratulations are in order

Please join me in congratulating the following new members of the NMLA Board of Directors. They join Charlene Greenwood, President; Kris Warmoth, Secretary, and Drew Harrington, ALA Councilor for the upcoming year.

Laurie Macrae, Vice President/President-elect
Carol Brey, Treasurer
Toni Beatty, Member at Large
Nancy Osterberg, Member at Large
Isabel Rodarte, Member at Large

Thanks to all who ran for office this year and to each of you who voted, as well as to Marilyn Reeves, Betty Long, and Dinah Jentgen who served on the nominations committee.

There are a number of committees of the Board and volunteers are needed. Those of you who may be interested in serving as committee members are encouraged to contact Charlene Greenwood as soon as possible at (505) 256-1379 or CGGreen2224@aol.com.

Again, welcome to the new Board of Directors, good luck, and have fun!

Mary Pat Kraemer, Chair
Nominations & Elections Committee

seeking conference sites

The conference site committee is seeking sites for annual and mini-conferences.

Annual Conferences
April 26-29, 2000 Taos
April 17-21, 2001 ABQ
Spring 2002 YOUR CITY?
Spring 2003 YOUR CITY?

Mini-Conferences
October 1999 YOUR CITY?
October 2000 YOUR CITY?

Please contact Susan Deese-Roberts, Committee Chair, for conference site guidelines:
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nmla newsletter contributions sought

The NMLA newsletter seeks news articles, ideas, interest groups, research, updates, etc. The deadline for the June/July 1999 issue is May 17, 1999. That issue should arrive in your mailboxes by mid-June.
Send submissions to Jackie Shane (UNM) at jshane@unm.edu; phone 505/277-5327.
Electronic submissions (e-mail or disk) in Word is preferred. The editor reserves the right to edit contributions.

New Mexico Library Association Newsletter

The New Mexico Library Association Newsletter (ISSN 0893-2956) is published six times a year (February, April, June, August, October; and December) Submissions can be sent via e-mail (preferred), on disk, or printed (double spaced). Electronic format is highly preferred.

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