2008 Legislative Session to Consider Several Library Proposals

Joe Sabatini, Co-Chair, NMLA Legislation Committee

The 2008 New Mexico Legislature will have plenty of opportunities to support libraries during its 30 day session beginning January 15th. The priority for the New Mexico Library Association and other library groups is the placement of a bond issue on the 2008 general election ballot. This proposal was presented to the Legislative Education Study Committee on November 15th, and was favorably noted at the Legislative Finance Committee on November 29th. Rep. Ed Sandoval will be the primary sponsor. As details become available on this bill and other library legislation, it will be reported on the NMLA e-list. Don't miss out on this important information; get on this list by sending a request to admin@nmla.org.

We can send a message about library needs on NMLA Library Legislative Day, Thursday, January 24th.

The day will begin with an orientation session at the Santa Fe Public Library Main Library, 145 Washington St., and one block north of the Santa Fe Plaza. It is recommended that participants park in the Municipal Parking Lots, as the library’s lot will need to be available for patrons when the library opens to the public at 10:00 am.

Parking downtown is available at the Cathedral Parking lot, just south of the Basilica on Cathedral. It is $1.80 an hour or $9.00 for the day. Also close is the Masonic (Pink Building) parking lot on Paseo de Peralta at Washington, it is $4.00 a day. Both are about 1 and ½ blocks from the library. You can also use the City lot on Water Street at DeVargas, or the Sandoval Street parking garage.

Participants can enter the building from the back entrance (white staff door by parking machine) starting at 8:00 am. Presenters from the Legislation Committee and the GO Bond Steering Committee will review pending library legislation, and describe how to visit with legislators. This session starts at 8:30 am and conclude at 9:30 am. Participants can walk to the State Capitol in time to be in the gallery for the beginning of the House and Senate sessions at 10:00 am. During the opening ceremonies in each chamber, several librarians will be seated on the dais and will be introduced by Senator Dede Feldman and Representative Ed Sandoval. NMLA will present a gift book to each legislator, supported by funding from the Friends for the Public Library (Albuquerque) and the Friends of the Mesa Public Library (Los Alamos).

This year, instead of doing a midday press conference, we will have a display table with library information in the west end of the Rotunda, near the café. We will have the New Mexico Library Foundation’s “One Book at a Time” historical exhibit as a backdrop. Then participants will visit legislative offices and share their concerns with their legislators. Librarians should encourage their board members, friends and constituents to join in this important demonstration of support for improved libraries statewide.
### NMLA Officers and More

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### The New Mexico Library Association

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Dear NMLA Members,

On the news there is a lot of talk about setting goals for the New Year. Some have to do with nutrition and health; others with career choices or perhaps family concerns. Perhaps you have a long time wish that you are hoping 2008 is the year for fulfillment. And while goals or resolutions are not always kept it is generally thought of as a good thing to do. Have you set your personal and professional goals for 2008?

My questions to members of NMLA include:

♦ What do you see the goals that we should have as an organization?
♦ What would you like to see NMLA doing better?
♦ What would you like to see NMLA doing differently?
♦ What new things do you feel your library association should be doing to help you become a better librarian?

Now of course, most of us can’t always do all the things that we would like to do, or feel that we should do. Sometimes we don’t have the money. Sometimes we don’t have the time. It is the same with most organizations. Resources — personal and financial — are critical to help an organization grow and become more effective.

Please email me, another board member, or Lorie Christian our NMLA administration with your suggestions and ideas. An organization can only be as effective as the members it represents.

I wish for each of you a healthy and happy new year. I wish for NMLA continued growth and vitality so that it can serve the needs of all the people who work in New Mexico libraries the very best for 2008.

Happy New Year!

Louise Hoffmann
NMLA President
hoffmannl@sanjuancollege.edu

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

William Shane Wallace, Chapel Hill, NC

Friends of El Valle de Anton Chico Library:
Breezy Gutierrez, Anton Chico, NM

Pueblo of Nambé Library:
Anthony P. De Vita, Jr., Santa Fe, NM

Isleta Pueblo Library:
Mary Jane Edaakie, Isleta NM

NMSU:
Alisa Gonzales, Las Cruces NM
NMLA Honorary Life Members

Paul Agriesti
Thaddeus Bejnar
Octavia Fellin
David R. Giltrow, PhD
Charlene Greenwood
Elinor F. McCloskey
Carol A. Myers

Linda O’Connell
Calla Ann Pepmueller
Joseph D. Sabatini
Ellanie Sampson
Martha A. Liebert
Cheryl Wilson

A Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members!

These members give extra each year because they believe in NMLA. Thank you, sustaining members! Your confidence is contagious!

Alison Almquist
Susan J. Daves
Elizabeth Rhine Egelhoff
Clyde Henderson
Wendy Hitt
Kathy Matter
Kathleen M. Puffer
Susan M. Sheldon
Lorrie Stepetic
Barbara VanDongen

Thanks to You!

A big thank you goes out to the NMLA members for sending twelve nominations for our annual awards. The committee is pleased to have so many well-qualified candidates to choose from.

Please join us at the Conference Awards Banquet as these wonderful people are honored. And start thinking now about nominees for next year.

Dinah Jentgen
Awards Committee Chair
Cassandra Osterloh,
NMLA Vice President

The NMLA Annual Conference will be here
before we know it. Are you ready to go? We will
be meeting in lovely Las Cruces April 9th through
11th at Corbett Center at the New Mexico State
University campus. The conference hotel, Best
Western Mesilla Valley Inn, is waiting to take
your reservations. It's not too early (or too late,
for that matter) to make your reservations now.
As for conference registration, the registration
forms will be available online toward the end of
January.

Our keynote speakers will undoubtedly delight
and inspire us as well as prepare us for learning
throughout the conference. Thursday morning
will bring us Dr. Loreine Roy, ALA President and
Professor of Library Science at the University of
Texas at Austin. Greg Notess, reference librarian
at Montana State University and noted writer,
speaker, and consultant on all things technical,
will get our day started on Friday.

Get the conference started right by attending the
Opening Vendors/Exhibitors Reception the
evening of Wednesday, April 9, from 5:30 pm
through 7:00 pm. Enjoy refreshments,
entertainment, conversation, and a sneak peak at
the exhibits.

Celebrate our award winners and enjoy
wonderful conversation by attending the Awards
Dinner Thursday night at the Best Western
Mesilla Valley Inn. Dr. Mary Bushing will help us
laud our amazing association members and
entertain us throughout the evening.

A terrific slate of diverse programs will be
presented. The list of the programs being offered
will be available shortly on the NMLA website.
Two other events to put on your list of things to
do are tours of four local school libraries (check
out the website for details) and a showing of the
movie Hollywood Librarian on Friday night.

All Conference information is available on the
NMLA website at: www.nmla.org. Check out the
website and ...... See You in Las Cruces!
People News

Lois Godfrey, NMLA Honorary Life Member, Passes Away

By Joe Sabatini

Lois Erwin Godfrey was born in March, 1928, in Cambridge, MA, and died November 26, 2007, in Boulder, CO, after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. Lois attended the University of Michigan, and graduated from Simmons College, Boston, with a degree in Library Science. She married Tom Godfrey in 1950, and they moved to Los Alamos, NM, in 1954, where their daughter Janet Elizabeth was born in 1955. Lois worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory library for 34 years until her retirement in March, 1988. She was involved in most phases of library operations there, including planning for a new library building which was opened in 1977, and the planning and implementation of the library's automated systems. She organized and co-authored two editions of the Dictionary of Report Series Codes. She was a charter member of the Rio Grande Chapter of the Special Libraries Association. She served twice as its President and represented the Chapter in the national organization. She was selected to the SLA Hall of Fame in 1989.

Her influence on librarianship in New Mexico went far beyond the technical library world. She served in various capacities in the New Mexico Library Association, including President in 1978-79. As a chairman of the Legislation & Intellectual Freedom Committee in the 1960s and 1970s, she testified against censorship bills and advocated improved funding for public libraries and statewide interlibrary cooperation. She was an active participant in the activities that led to legislative funding of OCLC for public libraries. As a chairman of the Bylaws Committee; she assembled and organized NMLA procedures into the "Grey Book" document provided to board members. She initiated orientation programs for new board members. She served as a delegate to the 1979 New Mexico Pre-White House Conference on Libraries and was an alternate to the national Conference.

Following her retirement, she co-chaired the 1989 Task Force to Support the State Library, working for budget restorations during a period of political turmoil for the agency. She was a member of the Library Books ’88 and the 1994 Bonds for Books Plus campaigns for statewide library bond issues. She was honored by NMLA as Librarian of the Year in 1983 and as an Honorary Life Member in 1990. She was the mentor to a whole generation of Library Association leaders who cherished her hospitality, her knowledge, her vision and her commitment to her community and state.

Transitions

Joe Becker's acceptance of a position of Head of Serials at George Mason University (Fairfax, VA) has taken him away from the state of New Mexico. Joe’s participation in NMLA, especially his service as the organization’s treasurer, are greatly valued and his services will be missed.

Clyde Henderson of Navajo Technical College has taken on the NMLA Treasurer’s position. His help and experience are much appreciated.

Alamogordo and Rio Rancho are both bidding farewell to their library directors. Alamogordo’s Adrian McCulloch retired in December of 2007 and Rio Rancho’s Toni Beatty retires in January of 2008. To read what the Alamogordo Daily News and the Rio Rancho Observer have to say about these transitions, please visit http://www.alamogordonews.com/ and http://observer-online.com/archives/ and search on “library”.
By Joe Sabatini, Co-Chair
NMLA Legislation Committee

Following up on its meeting of September 27th, the Committee requested an additional presentation about the State grants-in-aid program from State Librarian Susan Oberlander. They were considering a discussion draft of a committee bill to increase the state aid appropriation from its current level of $273,000 to $3,264,200. This amount was selected in order to bring New Mexico up to the average per capita appropriation of fourteen states with populations below 3 million, i.e., from $.14 per capita to $1.67. Susan was accompanied in her presentation by Karen McPheeters, Director of the Farmington Public Library and librarian member of the State Library Commission, and by Cynthia Shetter, Director of the Los Lunas Public Library and President of the Librarians Section of the New Mexico Municipal League. Also in attendance were Malia Pickett of the Embudo Valley Public Library, Steve Rosenthal of the Vista Grande Library, and Joe Sabatini. Charlie Kalogaros-Chattan of Los Alamos and Julie Trujillo and Sharon Adee from the Truchas Community Library attended the Committee’s morning session, but the Committee did not get to the library presentation until the afternoon.

Susan Oberlander began by distributing an information sheet on State aid in New Mexico and in peer states. Cynthia gave a profile of public library budgets, noting that 18% of the 92 libraries in New Mexico operated on $50,000 or less. Karen McPheeters described studies showing the economic benefits of state investment in public library services, noting that every dollar invested in libraries produced a $5.00 return to the community. She noted that the bulk of public library funding in New Mexico comes solely from gross receipts taxes, unlike most other states which rely primarily on property taxes to fund public libraries. Chairman Debbie Rodella then called for questions.

Rep. Luciano "Lucky" Varela asked if any of the state aid money went to public school libraries. Susan said that it did not. Karen noted various ways in which her library collaborated with school librarians on resources and programming. Cynthia Shetter described examples of working with teachers and students on projects. Rep. Varela then asked if Secretary of Cultural Affairs Stuart Ashman was in support of the proposed bill. Susan replied that Sec. Ashman had not taken a position on the bill. Several other legislators commented on his absence, and Rep. Janice Arnold-Jones observed that she did not believe that the State Library should be part of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Rep. Arnold-Jones expressed her appreciation for the work that librarians did. She noted that the role of libraries had changed and would continue to do so as information technology advanced. She commented that rural libraries providing access to the Internet was important in rural economic development. Cynthia described ways in which libraries helped their patrons learn to use computers and find information resources. Rep. Arnold-Jones then asked about bookmobile service; Susan noted that statewide bookmobile service and books by mail were provided using Federal Library Services and Technology Act funding. Rep. Arnold-Jones wondered about the cost-effectiveness of providing service in this way. Chairman Rodella commented that bookmobiles were still a valid method for serving rural areas.

Sen. Gerald Ortiz y Pino asked how libraries used their state aid money. Cynthia described how Los Lunas used most of its funding to improve library collections in particular subject areas; this year the grant supported enhanced local history and genealogy resources in anticipation of the opening of a local museum. Rep. Peter Wirth asked about the use of state funding for operational costs. Rep. Varela suggested a change in the regulations. Susan replied that state aid was distributed by
regulations and formulas approved by the State Library Commission through a public hearing process. She expressed willingness to work with public library directors through a task force which would review the rule and develop a consensus to recommend changes, which would then be used to initiate the formal rulemaking process.

Chairman Rodella appreciated the efforts of small rural libraries in Rio Arriba County. She noted concerns that she and Senator Richard Martinez had about state aid being used just for books, and not for operational costs. She then moved that the Committee adopt the discussion draft as a Committee-sponsored bill to be introduced in the next session. The motion was adopted without dissent. Senators Rod Adair, Linda Lopez and Gerald Ortiz y Pino and Representatives Debbie Rodella, Richard Vigil, Lucky Varela, Peter Wirth and Kathy McCoy were present when this vote was taken. Senator Martinez would be the bill sponsor, with co-sponsorship by Representative Varela. In addition to the bill for $3,264,200 for state grants-in-aid, Senator Martinez is also working with representatives of small and non-municipal libraries to present an appropriations bill for $1,400,000 to provide $50,000 each for operating costs to the 28 public libraries which receive less than $50,000 of operating support from city/county combined.

PEW Study Offers New Tool for Library Advocacy

Eileen O’Connell, Newsletter Editor

A recently released study conducted by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign and the PEW Internet and American Life Project is of interest to librarians. The study, titled “Information Searches that Solve Problems,” examined how people search for information on topics like health, education, employment, taxes, and Social Security and looked at how the searchers use information sources including the Internet, libraries, and government resources.

The following findings are quoted from the Executive Summary of the report:

• The internet is a go-to source
• Searchers usually end up satisfied
• Libraries meet special needs
• Digital divides matter
• Government documents should be created and delivered in all shapes and sizes.
• E-government is not an option, it’s a necessity.

The report in its entirety offers food for thought and terrific advocacy possibilities for libraries. To see the full report and the questionnaire used to generate it, go to:

http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/231/report_display.asp

Thanks to Natasha Casteel and Bernice Martinez, Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System, to alerting NMLA members to the study and its possibilities.
ONLINE LIBRARY SCIENCE COURSES

Susan Pinkerton

It’s never too late to think about enrolling in an online Library Science course. Several convenient online courses start every month throughout the year at New Mexico State University - Doña Ana Community College. Two brand new courses are being offered this spring: Grant Writing for Libraries and Interacting with the Public in Libraries, along with a special opportunity to get credit for assisting with the NMLA Conference in Las Cruces in April!

Non-degree seeking students who desire single classes for professional development are always welcome, however students may also choose to complete coursework leading to an Associates Degree in Library Science or a Certificate of Completion in Library Science. Additionally the program offers courses that fulfill state requirements for School Library Media Specialist Endorsements. Four upper level or graduate courses related to school libraries are also available. Spring registration is taking place right now!

It’s easy to be admitted and enroll in our reasonably priced courses. Out of state students enrolling in 6 credits or less even receive the in state tuition rates! For further information about courses or degree options, go to the web site at http://dacc.nmsu.edu/bis/libtec/ or contact: Susan Pinkerton: Phone: 575-527-7567 or 800-903-7503 ext. 7567 or Email: spinkert@nmsu.edu, or Nora Bernal: Phone: 575-528-7338 or 800-903-7503 ext. 7338 or Email: nobernal@nmsu.edu

NMSU OFFERS SECOND LIFE

OECS 255: SPECIAL TOPICS: INTRODUCTION TO SECOND LIFE
NMSU-ALAMOGORDO
MARCH 12-MAY 8, 2008 (SPRING, 2008, SECOND 8 WEEKS)

Create a virtual presence for your library! NMSU-Alamogordo is offering an online, 1 credit, 8 week class called "Introduction to Second Life" taught by Library and Information Science Instructor, Jenna Kammer. This class will teach the basics of Second Life, an online virtual world, including setting up your avatar, basic building and scripting and other Second Life fundamentals. The class will explore the Library islands, including the reference desk that is staffed 24/7 on Info International, and libraries that allow you to check out books "inworld". You may register online at http://alamo.nmsu.edu.

For more information, contact jkammer@nmsu.edu or visit http://alamo.nmsu.edu/science/jkammer/
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