Message from the NMLA President

The 2023 Annual NMLA Conference was very successful with 265 attendees in person. Participants got to learn about the past, present, and future of libraries as the conference theme was, “Browse Borrow Renew – 100 years of sharing, advocacy and innovation.”

Coming up soon will be NMLA’s free mini conference in April 2024. The theme of the mini conference is Professional Wellness. To best meet the needs of as many people as possible, help us plan which day to hold the mini conference. Please complete the survey by December 22, 2023 by using the link, https://forms.gle/JHxzK1TBoLAeaAVw5.
Library Legislative Day will be held in Santa Fe on Friday, January 26, 2024. This is a great day for librarians, library staff, and library supporters to visit the State Capitol, network with each other, and discuss the importance of libraries with your state legislators.

Mr. Spencer Naar, NMLA Administrative Assistant, stepped down from this role on November 30, 2023. NMLA owes him thanks for his contributions to the organization over the years, especially for all of his work on the 2023 Centennial Conference. We are currently seeking his replacement. The job announcement can be found on the webpage: https://nmla.wildapricot.org/Jobs/13284968

As we head into the new year, I would like to thank the NMLA Executive Board, Committees, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for their hard work and expertise. Thanks to each of you for your tireless support.

I look forward to working with NMLA’s members and answering any questions you may have.

Ruben F. Aragón
NMLA President
Library Director
New Mexico Highlands University
president@nmla.org
505-454-3332
Archives & Archivists Special Interest Group

The Archives & Archivists SIG provides a home for those who identify as archivists or who are assigned archival and records management tasks in their work. By archivists, we include anyone who self-identifies as an archivist, librarian, records manager, curator, clerk, etc.

The Archives & Archivists SIG works to collectively organize archivists; create networking opportunities; inspire collaborative projects; and create more archival-specific training. We meet on Zoom every other month and offer professional development activities, such as webcasting courses on general archival knowledge and best practices.

Please contact either Abbie Weiser (AbWeiser@salud.unm.edu) or Ada Negraru (ada.negraru@dca.nm.gov) for more information and to join our listserv.
The Native American Libraries Special Interest Group (NALSIG) is seeking a Chair, Vice-Chair, or co-Chairs, and Secretary. Term runs January to December.

- General Chair duties include hosting a monthly or bi-monthly meeting for attendees to hear updates, library activities and to share and ask advice about library services and creates meeting agenda, as well as connects NALSIG members to library and other relevant information. Might write letters of support for tribal library grants and initiatives. Provides quarterly reports to the NMLA Board and renews SIG yearly.

- Vice-Chair (or co-Chair) duties support the Chair, including hosts meetings if and when Chair is not available and is another means of connection to NALSIG.

- Secretary attends all NALSIG meetings, takes minutes and distributes it to the group, as well as creates invitations for in-person meetings.

Submitted by Jonna Paden
jonna_paden@hotmail.com
Submitted by Teresa Ortiz, teresa.ortiz@demigps.org

Have you ever walked down the halls of Deming High School and stopped to search the many faces of friends, family, loved ones, and acquaintances featured in the graduation class portraits?

Under the visionary direction of the current Deming High School principal, Mr. Gasper Lozano, InformationNation! Transformation! Deming High School Library and Media Services was commissioned to carry on a legacy project initiated by Mrs. Janean Garney, former Deming High School principal.

Enter Kimberly Diaz, a stellar Student Library Intern for InformationNation!

A Junior at Deming High School, Kimberly is presently enrolled in Computer Graphics III taught by Ms. Lizeth Gomez. This is the third course within a curriculum designed to impart knowledge in photography, graphic design, and video production.

Kimberly is diligently honing her skills to attain a high level of proficiency in utilizing Creative Cloud applications and digital imaging hardware. Notably, Kimberly has elected to specialize in Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator as part of her focused area of expertise.

This, coupled with discussions of digital curatorial practices through Kimberly’s Student Library Internship, she has successfully applied her digital skill set to produce a high-quality, pictorial, digital curation of the graduating class of 2014.
This was no small feat! Because no digital photos exist for the graduating class of 2014, Kimberly began by scanning the pages of a 2014 Deming High School yearbook. She then cropped each senior’s photograph and placed it on an original digital template. Kimberly also designed an original logo featuring Charlie the Wildcat specifically for the 2014 class.

Once completed and using cutting edge equipment through Ms.Gomez’s class, Kimberly printed a poster-sized sheet on high-quality image paper.

Leveraging the framing prowess of Hobby Lobby, Deming High School has once again added a graduate class picture to the collection.

The goal is to bring the collection to current: nine more graduating class pictures, 2015-2023, must be digitally curated, electronically formatted, physically printed, and framed.

Kimberly has nearly completed the next class and it is her goal that, by the end of the 2023-2024 school year, much of the digital curation will be finished.

Come walk the halls of Deming High School and view Kimberly’s work as you search for the faces of friends, family, loved ones, and acquaintances.
Several major library appropriations will be considered by the 2024 New Mexico Legislature, which begins its “short” 30 day session on Tuesday, January 16th. The NMLA Legislation Committee is supporting a 2024 Library General Obligation Bond Issue funded at the $19 million level that we received in 2022.

We are also supporting a one-time appropriation for the Rural Library Endowment. Appropriations over the past four years have brought the fund to $28 million. Proceeds from the endowment are granted to public and tribal libraries serving populations below 3,000. The goal is to raise the endowment to over $50 million, which would be around one million dollars for each of the more than fifty current and developing eligible libraries.

The Governor’s proposed budget includes an appropriation of $15 million for the endowment, which would bring the fund to $43 million. This would not be a separate bill, but included in the State Library budget as a one-time appropriation. Rural library supporters are asking their local legislators to support a higher appropriation than $15 million. This is not an excessive amount given the state’s current revenue surplus.

Several members of the library community attended the November 14th meeting of the Legislative Finance Committee to show support for library funding. Our delegation included Ruben Aragon and April Kent, N.M. Highlands University; Cynthia Shetter, Los Lunas Public Library, Shel Neymark, Rural Library Initiative and Joe Sabatini, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) Secretary Debra Garcia y Griego highlighted several library priorities within the Department's FY 25 budget request, including the restoration of a Continuing Education Coordinator in the State Library Development Bureau and the Administration’s request for a $15 million appropriation to the Rural Library Endowment Fund.

April Kent represented the NMLA Legislation Committee in a brief presentation in support of robust funding for the 2024 Library General Obligation Bond Issue. NMLA is requesting that the G.O. Bond be funded again at the $19 million level, which New Mexico voters supported with a 62.7% positive margin.

Library Legislative Day will be held on the morning of Friday, January 26th. The Legislation Committee will present a session orientation program. Librarians and library supporters will then contact their local legislators to ask for support for the various library bills and appropriations. In addition to the G.O. Bond, the Rural Library Initiative and the restored Continuing Education position at the State Library, individual library communities may have capital outlay projects that need support. There will likely be continued efforts by the Tribal Education Alliance to fund their proposals to implement the Martinez/Yazzie educational equity decision, which have included substantial funding for tribal libraries.

Additional details about Legislative Day will be posted on the NMLA website and in the Library Legislative Bulletin issued frequently during the session.
Correction

In the September/October Newsletter - it was noted that NALSIG Chair Jonna Paden had been elected as President of the American Indian Library Association of the American Library Association. NALSIG will elect new officers at their November meeting.

This should have read that in July, NALSIG Chair Jonna Paden was elected Vice-President/President Elect of the American Indian Library Association. NALSIG is seeking new officers.

Zazzle

Don’t forget you can purchase NMLA gear at

https://www.zazzle.com/store/nm_library_assoc/products

NMLA centennial logo mug
$16.95 Comp. value $18.95
$13.56 Save 20%

NMLA centennial logo tshirt
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NMLA Executive Board

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president@nmla.org

Vice-President – Nadia Orozco-Sah
vicepresident@nmla.org

Secretary – Sarah Obenauf
secretary@nmla.org

Treasurer – Kelli Murphy
treasurer@nmla.org

Member at Large – Julia Kelso
librarydirector@vglibrary.org

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boleary@cnm.edu

Member at Large – Rachel Patton
rpatton@manzanodayschool.org

Member at Large – Ellen Bosman
ebosman@nmsu.edu

ALA/APA Councilor – Cassandra Osterloh
cassandra.osterloh@dca.nm.gov

NMLA Committee Chairs

Awards Committee -
Julia Kelso
librarydirector@vglibrary.org

Archivist - Jonna Paden,
archivist@nmla.org

Bylaws - Nadia Orozco-Sah
nadiamos.letslibrary@gmail.com

Communications - Robyn Gleasner,
newsletter@nmla.org

Conference Site - Jason Shoup
jshoup@rrnm.gov

Education - Vacant

Fundraising - Julia Kelso
librarydirector@vglibrary.org

Intellectual Freedom - Deirdre Caparoso
dcaparoso@salud.unm.edu

Legislation - Cynthia Shetter
shetterc@loslunasnm.gov

Legislation - Joe Sabatini
jsabatini423@gmail.com

Local Arrangements - Melanie Templet
mtemplet@sandiaprep.org

Membership - Vacant

Nominations & Elections - Kate Alderate
Kate.Alderete@dca.nm.gov

Representatives & Delegates

ASL - Unfilled

MPLA - Erin Wahl
ewahl@nmsu.edu

NMLF Chair - Kat Gullahorn
kgullahorn@gmail.com

State Librarian - Eli Guinnee
eli.guinnee@dca.nm.gov
Send “Newsletter” submissions, advertisements, and other requests to:

Newsletter Editor c/o NMLA
P.O. Box 26074
Albuquerque, NM 87125
newsletter@nmla.org

(ISSN: 0893-2956) is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November.