

At their last meeting on January 25, 2002, the board of the Kansas Library Association, KLA Council, voted to increase the membership fees of the various sections and roundtables by \$2 to cover the administrative costs (copying, postage, conference registration, etc.) of those organizations. This is part of KLA's effort to establish a financial structure that will support a paid executive office versus the heavily-subsidized service currently offered by the Hutchinson Public Library. KLA has also launched an effort to encourage all libraries to maintain an institutional membership as well as individual memberships for staff. The funds received from institutional memberships are currently earmarked to support the legislative agenda.

The legislative priorities for the current session are to secure funding for KAN-ED, a backbone network that will provide affordable Internet service to all schools and libraries in the state, and to seek an increase in state funding for public libraries. As this is shaping up to be a particularly difficult year for the state general fund, just holding the line on the current funding level may become a challenge. To help promote the cause, Library Legislative Day has been set for February 21.

The New Members Roundtable recently sponsored a one-day workshop entitled "Creating a Professional Image." In addition to library staff, the workshop was also available to students in the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) at Emporia State University for one credit upon completion of additional assignments.

The Kansas Library Trustees Association is sponsoring an award for Regional Trustee of the Year in recognition of outstanding Board service in communities of 3,000 or less. In addition, they are also awarding first-time-attendance grants to Trustees in these communities for the state library conference, Tri-Conference, in April.

Kansas is one of the four MPLA states that were eligible for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants this year. Applications were due January 29. Other MPLA states on the list this year were Nebraska, Nevada and Utah.

First Lady Laura Bush was among the honored guests at the grand opening of the newly-renovated Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library. The opening marked the end of a four-year project to add 100,000 square feet to the existing building.