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Nebraska MPLA Board Report  
July 14, 2006 Submitted by Nina Little, Nebraska Representative

NLA is in the process of developing criteria, rules and an official application form for a statewide essay contest directed toward students on the topic "How Libraries Have Made a Difference in My Life."

Plans are moving along for the upcoming NLA/NEMA annual conference to be held Oct. 25-27, 2006 at the Qwest Center in Omaha. Wednesday's day-long preconference will feature Ann Seidl, the writer and producer of the documentary film, *The Hollywood Librarian: Librarians in Cinema and Society* being cosponsored by the Nebraska Library Commission; the Paraprofessional Section; the Trustees, Users, and Friends Section; the New Members Roundtable; and the Diversity Committee of the Nebraska Library Association.

Congratulations are in order for the 2006 Diversity Research Grant Recipients from Nebraska: Jolie Ogg Graybill, Multicultural Services Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries; Charlene Maxey-Harris, Diversity Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries; Charity Martin, Cataloging Librarian, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries; and Elizabeth Rodacker, Associate Professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Division of Humanities.

#### Legislative News

Petition signature gatherers have worked their way across Nebraska to get signatures for putting a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to cap spending by state agencies. NLA is part of a coalition, Nebraskans for the Good Life, fighting this proposed ballot measure. Sponsors of the petition are Mike Groene of North Platte and Americans for Limited Government of Glenview, ILL, which put at least \$100,000 into the Nebraska drive. This same organization has been behind efforts in many other states.

Although these measures vary from state to state they have three common characteristics: They are constitutional amendments, they restrict spending growth to a formula based on population change plus inflation and they require voter approval to spend above the limit. Up to this point, the only state that has adopted spending limits meeting these three criteria is Colorado and at the poles in November 2005, Colorado voters passed a referendum suspending the provisions for five years. In 2005, similar proposals were introduced in many states but none passed. In 2006 this type of legislation and ballot initiative has been introduced or proposed in at least 15 states. It is important that those people who sign petitions, no matter the state, be alert and educate themselves in regard to what they are signing before adding their names to a petition.

#### Spring Meetings

The Paraprofessional Section had the one and only teleconferenced Spring Meeting this year. The focus was on Encouraging Someone @ your library.

The ITART (Information Technology Access Round Table) Spring Meeting took place at the Peter Kiewit Institute – University of Nebraska at Omaha Campus where participants were treated to a tour of the facility. A shuttle to the UNO Library was provided and Karen Hein, Director of Operations UNO Library, demonstrated the Electronic Signage that had recently been installed.

The Public Library Section did their Spring Meeting at three sites across the state. Gaming in the Library was the topic.

The NMRT (New Members Round Table) in collaboration with the Diversity Committee hosted their meeting at the Little Priest Tribal College Library which also serves as the Winnebago Public Library. The library was named WebJunction Library of the Month in May. Although the building looks somewhat like a log cabin from the outside,

it houses a vibrant, interesting and up-to-date collection of more than 18,000 items and serves the community of 750 with 1,200 additional people living in the surrounding rural area and more than 100 students enrolled at the college each semester.

Golden Sower Award Winners for 2006

Primary Winner: Substitute Teacher Plans by Doug Johnson, illustrated by Tammy Smith

Intermediate Winner: Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret

Young Adult Winner: High Heat by Carl Deuke