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MPLA Board Report October 2010

Submitted by Theresa Jehlik

- The annual Nebraska Library Association (NLA) conference was held jointly with the Nebraska Educational Media Association (NEMA) on October 13-15 in Grand Island. This year's theme was "Celebrating the Past, Creating the Future". Joe Murphy, Yale University Science Libraries, presented "*Past to the Future: Meeting Technology Trends*" as the keynote speech on Thursday, October 14th. The keynote speakers on Friday, October 15th, were Maria Reyes and Sharaud Moore, two of the original Freedom Writers (www.freedomwritersfoundation.org).
- The 2010 NLA Award Winners are –
 - **Mari Sandoz Award** – Jean Lukesh (Grand Island Public Schools)
 - **NLA Meritorious Service Award** – Rebecca Pasco (University of Nebraska at Omaha)
 - **NLA Presidential Award for Excellence** – Michael Straatmann (University of Nebraska at Lincoln)
 - **College & University Section Distinguished Service Award** – Joan Giesecke (University of Nebraska at Lincoln)
 - **New Member Round Table Houchen Beginning Professional of the Year Award** – Mo Khamouna (University of Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture at Curtis)
 - **New Member Round Table Houchen Mentor of the Year Award** – Christine Walsh (Kearney Public Library)
 - **Paraprofessional Section Paraprofessional of the Year** – Martha Grenzeback (Omaha Public Library)
 - **Public Library and Trustee Section Excalibur Award** – John Seyfarth (Sump Memorial Library, Papillion)
 - **School, Children, & Young People Section Mad Hatter Service Award** – Judy Henning (Kearney High School)
 - **School, Children, & Young People Section Golden Sower Awards** –
 - **Primary** – *The Secret Service Project That Almost Ate the School* by Judy Sierra and illustrated by Stephen Gammell
 - **Intermediate** – *Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story* by Mary Downing Hahn
 - **Young Adult** – *Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam* by Cynthia Kadohata

Congratulations to all the 2010 winners!

- Governor Dave Heineman recently appointed Sherry R. Crow, of Kearney, to a 3-year term on the Nebraska Library Commission. When notified of her appointment, she said, “Libraries are my passion! I look forward to “rolling up my sleeves” with the other commissioners and the staff members as we support Nebraska libraries in their mission to serve the people of this great state.” Dr. Crow is Assistant Professor of School Library Science and Educational Media at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She has also served as a member of the Meridian Library System Board of Directors.

- The Nebraska Library Commission was recently awarded a \$2,416,400.00 grant by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce to fund Nebraska’s public computer center project, “*Library Broadband Builds Nebraska Communities*”. This 3-year project is designed to expand broadband capacity; upgrade public computing resources in libraries; and advance access to employment, learning, health information, and E-Government services. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation also provided \$1,251,786.00 in matching funds which include a grant and technical assistance to support the project. The total project fund is \$3,668,189.00.

- Check out the Bellevue Public Library on YouTube (www.youtube.com). It’s a great 10-minute introduction to the library’s staff, collections, programs, and services.

- The Nebraska Center for the Book honored its 2010 Nebraska Book Awards winners on November 6th at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln.
 - The 2010 Jane Geske Award was presented to *Plainsongs* and Hastings College. Originating in 1980 at Peru State College and moving to Hastings College in 1983, *Plainsongs* has been a rare survivor among small poetry magazines. It has published 3 times a year for 30 years, maintaining a quality poetry journal in Nebraska and encouraging poets from within, as well as outside, Nebraska to submit their works. *Plainsongs* is indexed by Humanities International Complete. The current editor is Laura Marvel Wunderlich.
 - This year’s book winners are –
 - **Anthology** – *African Americans on the Great Plains: An Anthology* by Bruce A. Glasrud and Charles A. Braithwaite
 - **Anthology Honor** – *The Loren Eiseley Reader* by Loren C. Eiseley, Ray Bradbury, and Aaron Franco
 - **Cover/Design/Illustration** – “*I Do Not Apologize for the Length of This Letter*”: *The Mari Sandoz Letters on Native American Rights, 1940-1945* by Mari Sandoz and Kimberli A. Lee

- **Cover/Design/Illustration Honor** – *Great Plains: America’s Lingerin Wild* by Michael Forsberg
- **Fiction** – *A Sandhills Ballad* by Ladette Randolph
- **Nonfiction** – *“I Am a Man”*: Chief Standing Bear’s Journey for Justice by Joe Starita
- **Nonfiction Honor** – *Louise Pound: Scholar, Athlete, Feminist Pioneer* by Robert Cochran
- **Poetry** – *Garden of Stars* by Dwaine Spieker
- **Young Adult** – *Some Girls Bite* by Chloe Neill