

ST-7

New Mexico Library Association

Mountain Plains Library Association Report - January 4, 2003  
Submitted by Charlene Greenwood, MPLA Representative

The library bond issue passed! In the statewide election held November 5, the voters of New Mexico approved the Library Books Bond Issue 2002. The bond, which will allocate \$16 million for public libraries and publicly funded school and academic libraries, received a vote of 59.6% to 40.4% in favor.

With backing from the New Mexico Library Association, New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries, the New Mexico School Libraries Task Force, and the New Mexico Municipal League, the State Legislature approved the General Obligation Bond for Library Acquisitions bill on a virtually unanimous vote during the legislative session. NMLA's Legislation & Intellectual Freedom Committee and the specially formed Political Action Committee, an independent body of librarians and library supporters, worked together with an advertising agency to develop a public awareness campaign called "Libraries Change Lives" to promote the bond issue to the public. Chaired by former Governor David Cargo, the committee created fact sheets, handouts, flyers, a web site (<http://www.nmbooksbond.org>), and radio and television spots that supported the efforts of local campaigners to get the word out to the New Mexico public.

The bond will provide \$7.7 million to approximately 770 public school libraries in 89 school districts, \$4.9 million to about 100 public libraries in 33 counties, and \$3.4 million to 25 college and university libraries throughout the state. The last time that New Mexico passed a library bond issue was in 1994 when a similar issue called "Collections & Connections" brought \$10.6 to the public, school, and academic libraries of the state.

Dr. Camila A. Alire is the new Dean of Library Services at the University of New Mexico since September 16. Alire was dean/director of the Auraria Library of the University of Colorado at Denver, where she previously served as assistant director for Instruction and Research Services. She was the director of the Learning Resource Center at Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Springs. Other previous positions held by Alire include assistant to the dean/director at the University of Denver, Graduate School of Librarianship and Information Management; librarian/information specialist for Mathematica Policy Research, Denver; and library director for McCook College, McCook, Nebraska. Alire is the author of numerous writings and publications as well as several books. She is also the recipient of various grant awards and several recognition awards and honors. Recently, she was recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the U.S. Alire earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Adams State College, her Master of Library Science degree from the University of Denver and her Doctor of Education degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

New vendor for statewide periodicals database - At the end of October, the New Mexico State Library's three-year contract with ProQuest expired. A new contract with the Gale Group for InfoTrac electronic resources went into effect on November 1, giving uninterrupted access to database services to all public libraries, academic libraries, and high school libraries both public and private.

Federal Depository Library Plan - New Mexico's federal depository librarians met in November of 2002 and there was a unanimous vote of approval by those present. The text of the State Plan adopted reflects the ideas and concerns expressed by deans and directors who suggested changes to governance procedures; a more thorough examination of the transition from paper to electronic information; and the need for the plan to consider the unique circumstances of law libraries in the federal depository library system.

An electronic edition can be found on the New Mexico State Library website - <http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/libraryservices/feddeplibraries/spfinalmay.pdf> World Book Day - The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Library System and the National Hispanic Cultural Center will celebrate World Book Day, on Wednesday, April 23, 2003 at the magnificent facilities of the Cultural Center in Albuquerque. World Book Day is a growing international celebration of literature, literacy, community, and culture. Commemorating the

incredible coincidence when Shakespeare, Cervantes, and the Peruvian writer, Garcilaso de la Vega all died on the same day in 1616, the festival began in Catalonia in 1930 and has spread throughout the world. Albuquerque became part of this international celebration on April 23, 2001. The Library's permanent installation of a suite of original artworks by New Mexican artists in various media will be exhibited at the Center for this festival. Each of the works illustrates a vignette from Cervantes' great work, Don Quixote. For more information, please call Jeff Bantly at the Albuquerque Library (505) 768-5115, e-mail [jbantly@cabq.gov](mailto:jbantly@cabq.gov).

NMLA conference planning is still progressing for April 23-25, 2003 in Albuquerque. The theme is "The Future Is Now."

NMLA Mini-Conference was held in Ruidoso November 1, 2002 and had over 100 participants.

The NM Library Foundation recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a reception at the NMLA Mini-Conference in Ruidoso on October 31, 2002. About 80 people attended the gala at the Hubbard Museum of the American West.

Institute of Museum and Library Services grants. Santa Clara Pueblo Library will receive \$141,531 to carry out an expansion of its technical services. The Pueblo of Jemez received an Enhancement Grant of equal size for a two-year project to offer literacy programs for community members of various ages, to provide tutoring to students from elementary to college age, and continue the Jemez Library Consortium which supports technology programs including curriculum based computer classes for teachers, basic and advanced computer classes for community members, and development of a distance learning program.

IMLS has also made smaller awards to other Native American libraries in the state. They are Acoma, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Pojoaque, San Felipe, Santa Ana, Zia, and Zuni.