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MPLA New Mexico State Report
January 2009

New Mexico's quarterly Board Meeting will be held on January 30th, 2009 in conjunction with New Mexico's Library Legislative Day in Santa Fe, NM. Librarians will visit with Legislators in the morning along with attending the morning session. The afternoon will be the NMLA Board meeting and discuss our upcoming annual conference.

The NMLA annual conference will be held on April 22-24 at the Albuquerque Convention Center. There will be 500 or so librarians attending this conference along with a variety of vendors. Program proposals are now being reviewed and sessions will be posted soon.

New Mexico General Obligation Issue B was passed by a margin of 52.2%. This Bond values at eleven million nineteen thousand dollars (\$11,019,000) and will "make capital expenditures for academic, public and tribal library acquisitions". Funding will be provided by a general property tax and levy. The breakdown of funds will be school libraries (\$3,000,000), academic libraries (\$3,000,000), Public libraries (\$3,000,000) and tribal libraries received \$2,000,000 for the first time. The Public Education Department, the Commission on Higher Education, and the New Mexico State Library will be responsible for administering the funds.

Cassandra Osterloh, NMLA President, along with a committee of NM librarians, is in the midst of creating our first New Mexico Book Festival. The expected date of the Festival will be in September 2009.

We have been notified that the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE) has withdrawn their support to provide monies for MLS students. Ms. Osterloh, along with the NMLA Education Committee, Dean and Associate of UNM, the Deputy State Librarian and others continue to look for ways to encourage individuals to get an MLS degree. Once they receive their degree it will be hopeful many graduates will be able to find work here in New Mexico. More brainstorming will be done on this important issue.

The New Mexico State University, Zuhl Library, participated in Banned Books Week by featuring many students and librarians on READ posters. Displays of banned reference books along with caution tape were used for effect.

Submitted by,
Lynette Schurdevin
New Mexico MPLA Representative