

ST-11

Utah Representative Report
Big Sky, Montana
June 13, 1999

ULA Annual Conference a Great Success!

A very successful annual conference, Reflect, Renew, Relax, @ was held May 12-14 in Cedar City, Utah. Sessions were designed to help librarians reflect about past accomplishments and renew their enthusiasm for future improvements. The relaxed atmosphere of Cedar City made members glad to enjoy their time away from the busy routine for a few days. A total of 325 attended fifty-five classes and workshops from which they could choose. Tracks included management, personal development, professional development, leadership, and computers. Featured workshop presenter, Kacee Hale also had two other sessions, all highly attended and enjoyed. Keynote speakers were Carolyn Washburn and Kris Matthews. Awards were presented to: Wayne Peay, Distinguished Service Award; Carolyn Klatt - Librarian of the Year Award; Jill Boydston and her Morgan County Library Board and Friends of the Library for Special Recognition Award, and Sam Weller, Special Recognition Award. ULA members look forward to next year's conference in Ogden, Utah. Dennis Clark, Director of the Orem Public Library, won the drawing for a free MPLA membership for next year.

Officers' Training

Sue Hill, Director of Brigham City Public Library, is the new President of ULA. Randy Silverman, from the University of Utah, is President Elect. An officer's listserv has been set up so that prior to Board meetings, all appointed and elected officers, as well as members of the Program Board, can submit their reports. This will serve the purpose of disseminating minutes and reports, and to facilitate communication. A mandatory training session is being held for all officers and members of the Program Board prior to the first Board meeting under Sue Hill. Topics to be covered include bylaws, budget deadlines; program issues, list serv/homepage, and how to have effective meetings.

New Round Table Request

On the agenda for the June ULA Board includes a request to form a Genealogy Round Table, signed with 42 signatures. The proposed purpose is to support Utah libraries with guidance and programs for helping patrons researching genealogy. GENRT will assist libraries in selecting resources, providing programs, recruiting volunteers, training staff, promoting wholesome uses of the Internet, and otherwise serving a public interested in family history research.

ULA Board Donation

The State Library Division, in cooperation with other stakeholders like the Utah Library Association, is planning a 21st Century Library Challenge Fund. The fund is for the purpose of building Utah's public library infrastructure due to the rapid demographic growth, rising user expectations, and the physical requirements of establishing new information technology into old buildings. Before this can take place, a needs assessment is necessary to analyze and describe the library building needs in Utah's communities. As a result of a plea by State Library Division Director Amy Owen, the ULA Board of Directors approved a donation of \$10,000 from ULA's reserve fund surplus to go toward the needs assessment survey. In a related move, ULA's board

has also reactivated the Public Relations Committee and asked it to help the Legislative Committee in its effort to push its legislative agenda.