

First General Session Minutes Thursday, September 23, 2004

President, Pamela Drayson called the First General Session of the 98th Annual NDLA Conference to order on Thursday, September 23, 2004, at 8:30 am, at the International Inn, Minot, North Dakota.

Drayson offered special thanks to the friends of the Minot Public Library for the wonderful reception last night and the talent show was exceptional!

Drayson recognized the companies that are here as exhibitors. Drayson offered a special thanks to Ex Libris, Swets, and Emporia for their sponsorship.

Tim Greenheck, President of the Minot Public Library Board, welcomed attendees to the Magic City. He said libraries are the treasures of the community. Eleven hundred children were involved in their summer reading program. Minot Public Library Friends of the Library raised \$32,000 from the Great Tomato Festival. Greenheck thanked conferees for allowing Minot to be the host city for this great conference.

Jeanne Narum, MPLA Representative, encouraged conference attendees to make nominations for the Canoe Kudos award. It is designed to recognize those who promote library service and show support for libraries. The first Canoe Kudos award for this conference goes to Doris Ott, State Librarian. Ott was nominated by La Dean Moen for her lifelong professional dedication to North Dakota librarians and libraries.

Jim Connor, Regional Vice President of ALTA, Region 10, spoke on trustee and library relationships. O'Conner spoke of his concern as to the job we aren't doing, which is not telling our story to the community. As librarians, we need to demonstrate to the trustees the economic, social, educational, and cultural value libraries bring to their communities. We need to challenge our community and their support of our libraries, rather than accepting what they give us. We need to get to the point where we turn down funds because there are too many of them. We need to seek out trustees who like to travel and meet people and spread the word of the value of libraries to the community.

Doris Ott, State Librarian, thanked everyone for the birthday wish and the Canoe Kudos award. Ott said the North Dakota State Library (NDSL) will send out information on the listserv every Thursday during the legislative session. If you aren't on the listserv, call and ask for Loretta, and she will add you to the list. Three bills being introduced will have an affect on libraries. The NDSL hopes to maintain all the services currently provided and has asked for funding accordingly. NDSL has also provided an optional budget package asking for an additional \$1,000,000 in state aid and \$200,000 of additional online services. The third bill is on the consolidation of mill levies which will affect county libraries. Right now they are exempt from the bill but we must watch to see if it stays that way.

Pamela Drayson, President, stated that North Dakota State University has provided free copies of the Kids Count book. They will be handed out at the morning sessions. There are lots to give away so feel free to take whatever you need.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Igoe, Secretary