

DRAFT

NDLA First General Session
September 25, 2008 – 8:30 am
Pier 7 Room – Best Western Seven Seas Inn – Mandan, ND

President Donna James welcomed all to the 102nd Annual Conference of the North Dakota Library Association. She called the session to order at 8:30 am and reminded us of the theme of the conference, “Librarians Under Construction: a Life of Continuous Education”. She spoke of her strong advocacy for education and professional development, adding that she is also a strong advocate for our profession as well as advocacy for our profession. This year it is particularly important to advocate as it is a legislative year. Her message is advocate, advocate, advocate.

Mayor Tim Helbling, Mayor of Mandan, was introduced to the group. He welcomed us and thanked us for choosing Mandan, one of the state's fastest growing communities; having grown 2.3% in population in the last year. Since the year 2000 they have added 42 miles of streets, 32 miles of water mains, and the daily average water consumption has increased by more than 3/4 of a million gallons a day. They are in the process of cleaning up one of the state's largest recorded fuel spills. They are proud to have just opened a brand new middle school; there will be tours this afternoon. Mandan is home to some of the states largest employers. We have Fort Lincoln State Park and the Indian Villages. Mandan is a fun town boasting the state's largest parade and the state's largest car show. Libraries are important to any community and as fuel and heat prices rise and the economy takes a downturn, libraries are going to become more important. Mandan Public Library and the Morton County libraries have just combined, which has improved and expanded services without raising taxes.

There are three general sessions; this is the first and there are two tomorrow. At the general sessions there will be resolutions and reports.

Minutes of the General Sessions of 2007 are attached Shelby Harken moved and Diane Briggs seconded to approve the minutes of the three general sessions of annual conference 2007

Laurie McHenry, Secretary, presented the minutes of the three general sessions of the 2007 Annual Conference. Shelby Harken moved and Diane Briggs seconded approving the minutes all three of the General Sessions of the 2007 Annual Conference as presented. Motion carried.

Mike Safratowich spoke about the treasurer’s report. The treasurer's annual report of finances includes the 2007 report so that you can compare the two years. The association has three CDs and four money market funds and one savings account. Our current balance of \$96,000 is not reflective of today’s balance as we have not yet deducted the conference expenses. The end of 2007 fiscal year is probably more reflective of our funds.

Al Peterson, our MPLA Representative, introduced Robert Banks, President of MPLA, and the director of the Topeka-Shawnee County Libraries in Kansas. He thanked us for the opportunity to speak and briefly described the make-up of MPLA, a regional association made up of twelve states. MPLA just celebrated their 60th year at the joint conference in Utah. He invited us to the 2009 conference, Libraries: Dynamic People, Places and Ideas in Wichita, Kansas from April 1-3. He encouraged us to present a proposal if we would like to present a program at MPLA. He fondly remembered the 2002 joint conference here in Fargo, ND. He quoted the Dali Lama regarding on finding the meaning of life, "We are visitors on this planet. We are here for 90 or 100 years at the very most. During that period we must try to do something good, something useful with our lives. If you contribute to other people's happiness, you will find the true goal, the true meaning of life." He said he thinks that is what we do every day in libraries; we contribute to other people's happiness. Our organizations go a long way to help us with this, help us network with each other. He encouraged us to stop at the MPLA booth and tell him what would be helpful to us and how MPLA can make things better as an association.

Beth Postema, immediate past president, is in charge of the exhibitor and vendor booths. Beth recognized and welcomed the vendors. Vendors are a vital part of our conference; many are here not only to sell but to present. They help us learn about new products and services. They are a vital part of the financial support as well. On the table are half sheets of paper with the names of the 20 paid vendors. Take these with you and get them signed by the vendors and drop them in the box at the registration table for a prize. The vendors are: Follett Library Resources—Scott Spanier, Follett Software—Maureen Regan, Learning Opportunities—Steve Wilson, Gale/Cenage—John Pelegrino, Quality Books—Matthew Kopyar, Roughrider Industries—Francis Greff and Mark Wagner, BWI—Jennifer Rose, Minitex—MaryAnn Greenwald, MN/PALS—Edward Robinson, Steve Elfstrand, Mark Wilhemi, ODIN—Tony Stukel, Ellen Kotrba, Ginny Millette, Linda Allbee, Gumdrop Books—Anne Kramer, Worldbook—Carla Card, EBSCO—Kathy Kiely and Mark Sinclair, Sauder Educational—Jim Goucher, GoLocal Health Information Project—Mary Markland, Tailwind Publications and Crain Grosinger Publishing—Bob Robinson and Paul Grosinger, ND State Library—Doris Ott, Cindy Larson, Al Peterson, Adam Emter, RefWorks—Jeff Lorton, Dakota Mysteries and Oddities—William Jackson, and Perma-Bound—Rachel Peacock. She also talked about the SDLA Conference being opposite our conference so it is especially nice that these vendors were able to attend.

Doris Ott, State Librarian, talked about the highlights of the state library this past year. The report is also on the web for those who wish to read the whole report. This year the budget will be acted on by the legislature. There are two parts to the state library budget - the base budget and the optional budget. In the base budget are the services of the state library as you see them existing today. Those include things like state aid to public libraries, Minitex, Library Vision 2010 grants, training, inter-library loan, reference, etc. In the optional budget we are asking for two items: an additional \$300,000 for state aid to public libraries and an additional \$200,000 for additional online library resources that would be available to all citizens of North Dakota. She hopes that when we meet in our sessions today we will see fit to draw up resolutions to support their both parts of the budget. Remember to talk to people at home and your legislators about how important the services at your library are and those services of the state library. Doris reflected on some

of the highlights of the year that have happened at the state library. They now have an "ask a librarian" button on their web site. They have done 11 booths at conferences and events advocating the libraries of North Dakota as well as the state library. The Cat Express contract has been renewed on behalf of 43 North Dakota libraries. They continue to offer services to people with disabilities and to date serve about 2300 people with disabilities; it consists of talking books and a radio reading service. In 2009 they will begin a grant process for public libraries with the Gates Foundation so public libraries should watch their email for information on this. The state library continues to partner with the Information Technology Department of ND to keep libraries on Stage Net, which connects libraries to the Internet. The State Library continues to publish the State Library Directory. It also continues to partner with the Information Technology Department to provide filtering to public libraries on a state wide basis. They have continued their grant and scholarship program to obtain ALA Accredited MLS degrees; to date 29 North Dakota students have taken advantage of this opportunity. She invited those who are interested to let them know. The State Library is participating in NACO, which is the name authority cooperative program of the Library of Congress to create the official names of authors, corporations, etc. The state library is asking for an additional \$200,000 for online library resources. They are continuing to partner with South Dakota and Minnesota, which helps financially and is a boost for all three states. The library has 6 databases in Ebsco-host which includes full text magazines and reference resources; it also now includes the auto repair resource center. There are 9 databases from the Gale Group which include the K-12 package, resources for educational and library professionals, and the Health & Wellness Reference Center. Additional resources include: E-library, WorldCat, Ancestry Library Edition and Proquest, the newspaper full text database and Opposing Viewpoints. The state library also partners with the North Dakota Center for the Book to do a booth at the Pavilion of States, which is part of the National Book Festival in Washington DC this Saturday. They have a public awareness department consisting of one with the major objective to promote every library in the state as well as nation wide. They had another successful year of spring workshops. Date for future workshops: March 23-24 in Fargo and March 25-26 in Bismarck. Suggestions are welcome. The library continues to catalog for state agency libraries and to administer the state document depository program. Many are online and they are working on linking them online from the catalog. The statewide catalog development department provides services for 58 libraries across the state to get their records into WorldCat ; these are the libraries that have received Library Vision 2010 Grants. Governor Hoeven proclaimed May 30 as "Summer Reading at Your Library Day; it is usually June 1, but that fell on a weekend. Many libraries across the state participated and the hope is that this number will increase in 2009. The state library will be offering training sessions for the public; one will be on Homework Help for Parents (a new one) and one is on Ancestry Library Edition. They also offer one on the state wide online library catalog and all the online state wide library resources. These are available to all librarians and they will bring it to your town if you wish to have it presented to patrons. They are now beginning Webinars as well, which are computer and phone based training sessions. They keep them about 45 minutes to an hour in length. The state library invites phone calls for any assistance desired.

Doris Ott then introduced the members of the State Library Coordinating Council and had them stand. She introduced Bonnie MacIver, President of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council. She briefly explained what it is and how and when it was formed. It was established by the legislature in 1997 and members of the council represent public, academic, special, and school libraries and citizens at large, from East and West. Their objective is to assist in coordinating statewide library resources throughout North Dakota. She provided lists of the names of the council members on the tables and briefly spoke of Library Vision 2010. One of the priorities is to facilitate the implementation of a statewide library catalog and one of the ways they are doing this is by encouraging libraries to put their records on WorldCat, using the money the legislature has provided. They also give grants to libraries that are in need of computers. The State Library sends out information whenever there is a new grant round and the information is on the state library web site. The Library Vision 2010 booklet is also available on the state web site. They will soon begin working on revisions towards Library Vision 2015. There will be "think tanks" throughout the state as they did before. They will be the end of May and the first part of June in Dickinson, Minot and Fargo.

Kirsten Baesler, Chair of the Constitution Bylaws and Policies Committee, spoke on the bylaws changes that were sent with the ballots. With the electronic age and in an effort to "go green" we are looking at moving towards electronic voting and so we needed to change the bylaws from "mail" ballot to "distribute" ballots. This change did pass so we will move into this technological format. Johanna McClay is responsible for this forward thinking venture and will help us get there.

Beth Postema, spoke on resolutions, those things we are resolute or standing firm on. They generally fall into two categories - internal and external categories. Internal generally have to do with thanks to people who are due thanks, people, local arrangements committees, conference arrangements. These are good resolutions, but there does not need to be a multiplicity of them. So confer with others and offer these jointly with other groups. The other category, external, goes to stake holders - the governor, the appropriations chairs, etc. This is one of the main ways we can advocate and articulate our support it through external resolutions. Make them clear and make them strong. Both resolutions have their place; they are due by 10:30 am Friday. The next general session is at 1:30 pm on Friday.

Phyllis Bratton was introduced and highlighted the things that are new this year: one book, one conference and continuing education for school librarians. This was a direct outcome of the evaluation forms last year as is the vendor stamps. The prize is an autographed copy of A Step from Death by Larry Woiwode.

Donna James said at least 38 have signed up for continuing education and she will begin reading their blogs tonight. Door prizes were then awarded before the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 am.