

Public Library Section Report
Charles Pace
September 7, 2005

The Public Library section chair assisted the Nominations and Elections Committee in recruiting qualified candidates to run for section chair and section secretary. Chair Elect Kelly Steckler has planned and put in place a program on behalf of the Public Library section for the NDLA conference in Grand Forks. The program planned will focus on technology in public libraries. I had the opportunity to speak at the graduation of the Emporia North Dakota cohort on May 21. The graduation ceremony was held at the Rose Creek Country Club in Fargo. Sixteen new librarians have joined the profession in the North Dakota/Minnesota region thanks to our partnership with Emporia. It is expected that Emporia will offer another MLS program somewhere in the North Dakota region in the next couple of years. A number of the graduates have found gainful employment as librarians in the region.

Beth Postema and I passed out literature about NDLA at the State Library spring workshops in Fargo. Planning and/or construction of expanded public library facilities are now under way in Dickinson and Fargo.