

**ND SLAYS Annual Report**  
**Kathy Berg, Horizon Middle School Librarian**

- **The SLAYS Annual Conference Meeting:** scheduled SLAYS Annual Conference Meeting for Friday, September 26, from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. in the Santa Maria room.
- **The Good Stuff - Blogging:** submitted article to March's The Good Stuff about Horizon Middle School's "Horizon is Blogerrific" Blog.
- **Award Nominations:** Sent out email reminders to the ND library list serves, asking for nominations for the following awards: School Library Administrator of the Year; and Youth Excellence Program of the Year.
- **SLAYS Nominations:** Nominated the following SLAYS members for NDLA Executive Board:
  - **SLAYS Chair Elect** - Beth Graff
  - **SLAYS Secretary** - Lesley Gunderson
- **Completed and sent in the AASL Application and required policies, bylaws, etc., for AASL re-affiliation** to Jennifer Habley, Program Coordinator, and Affiliate Assembly Liaison American Association of School Librarians.
- **Submitted AASL Region IX Report, highlighting the following:**
  - Activities - The ND Governor's Commission on Education Improvement reached an agreement on funding equity for school during its 2007 legislative session. The commission is now studying the issue of adequate funding for K-12 education. The 'Picus' Report released in March recommends that LMSs be included in the basic instructional expenditures for adequate schools;
  - Issues - we are facing are similar issues in libraries across the nation. Some of those are limited budgets, censorship issues, staffing cuts, technology trends and keeping up with them, i.e., iPods, blogs, wikis; and
  - Accomplishments – The new Master of Education program at Valley City State University that has been designed for teachers at either primary or secondary level, now offers a concentration in Library and Information Technologies, which meet both the AASL/NCATE (American Association of School Librarians/ National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) School Library Media Specialist Preparation Standards and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction standards for the preparation of library media specialists at the highest credential level- LM01;
  - Accomplishments - the ND Department of Public Education now requires that Library Media Specialists take two semester hours of library-approved credits from Valley City State University as part of the renewal process for the ND professional educator's license.

- **Kirsten Baesler, Konnie Wightman, Bonnie Kettleon, and Kathy Berg submitted the following two ND considerations for commendation to the AASL Director-Elect:**
  - The new Master of Education program at Valley City State University that has been designed for teachers at either primary or secondary level, now offers a concentration in Library and Information Technologies. This new program will meet both the AASL/NCATE (American Association of School Librarians/ National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) School Library Media Specialist Preparation Standards and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction standards for the preparation of library media specialists at the highest credential level-LM01.
  - The ND Department of Public Education and the Educational Standards and Practices Board of ND, require that all teachers obtain four credit hours in education every five years for recertification. As of 2007-08 school year, The ND Department of Public Education now requires that Library Media Specialists take two semester hours (of the four) of library-approved credits from Valley City State University as part of the renewal process for the ND professional educator's license.  
(These commendations were discussed via email with the AASL Director-Elect before the ALA conference in Anaheim this summer. Then, designated representatives from each state affiliate met at the ALA annual conference in Anaheim to discuss each state's concerns and considerations for commendation.)
- Planned the following conference sessions:
  - Conference Book Club - "A Whole New Mind: Why Right-Brainers Will Rule the Future" by Daniel Pink. (Kirsten Baesler, Kathy Berg, Konnie Wightman?)
  - Blogging for School Librarians (Kathy Berg)
- Flicker Tale Children's Book Award Winners for 2008 – This year Margaret Read MacDonald will be presenting and accepting her award.
  - *Bad Dog Marley* - John Grogan
  - *Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic* - Emily Jenkins
  - *Marley: A Dog Like No Other* - John Grogan
  - *Go To Sleep Gecko!* - Margaret Read MacDonald
- Members of SLAYS have drafted the following three resolutions to present to the NDLA membership:
  1. Requesting our Governor's support for and our State becoming part of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills
  2. NDLA supporting the SKILLS Act in Congress

**And since this is a legislative session...**

  3. Support the Picus Report to our Governor's Education Commission on Adequacy that recommends a certified school library media specialist be in every school.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Berg, SLAYS Chairperson