

## NDLA President—Annual Report

In late September and early October, I wrapped up the details from my responsibility of being Conference Chair for the Centennial conference. I sent some conference evaluation forms to the individual presenters of the sessions; the conference evaluations along with many other materials I forwarded on to Donna James, this year's conference chair.

I participated in the online discussions and voting of the Finance committee. My thanks go out to Bonnie and Mike for their continuing dedication to NDLA in this area.

Kelly Steckler, Doris Ott, Mike Safratowich, and I communicated about the details of once again retaining Ilene Larson as NDLA's lobbyist for the coming legislative session. Kelly did most of the work in this area.

Due to the immense pressures of my interim day job (anyone else plan a library move in January in ND?), I was unable to attend the meeting of the Library Coordinating Council, and asked Jeanne Narum to attend in my place.

At a previous NDLA Board meeting I reported from the ReadND project and their ongoing efforts to promote the literature of our state. This year, I cannot commit the time to additional meetings of related organizations. Celeste Ertelt had offered to be NDLA's liaison with ReadND, and I put her in contact with Bev Pearson of Prairie Public and Brenna Daugherty of the ND Humanities Council.

On November 29, the City of Fargo hosted a breakfast open house for area legislators. I spoke with several legislators about the three requests regarding State Aid to Public Libraries.

On January 12, I testified in favor of HB 1103 before the Political Subdivisions Committee, along with other NDLA officers and members. Kelly Steckler and Doris Ott will provide further information regarding the legislative status.

I have written to Dr. Neil Price informing him of how the Exec Board had directed his gift to the association, and once again thanking him for his generosity.

I distributed electronically the evaluation form for the executive secretary and awaited responses.

I submitted my quarterly column for "The Good Stuff."

Cheryl Tollefson and I have discussed the scheduling and reserving for the 2009 Conference in Dickinson. The dates of September 23-25 have been reserved with the Grand Dakota Lodge. At this point, there are no additional details in the contract regarding room rates, number of meeting rooms, hospitality rooms, etc. When the weather clears, I will set up a time to meet with Cheryl and the Grand Dakota Lodge staff to firm up these additional details and have them in writing.

By the start of the March meeting, I will have met with Cathy Langemo and conducted the executive secretary's performance evaluation.

The major item of NDLA business in the past quarter that I completed was a visit to the Grand Dakota Inn in Dickinson on June 6. Cheryl Tollefson and I met with the sales manager of the property. At this point, the hotel can not set aside blocks of rooms (they can only do that 50 weeks in advance). We should be receiving a draft contract from them that will outline the number of rooms available, the number of complimentary rooms, and the meals to be served, but as of September 10, I have not yet received this document. I do have an additional file of information regarding the hotel that will be of use to the conference chair for the 2009 conference.

I also attended the ALA Annual conference, though not as NDLA's official representative. I signed up for a preconference on advocacy which could be helpful in the coming years for me both as a member of NDLA and for my own library.

The Executive Board did not meet during the summer, but instead attempted to conduct business electronically. There were some difficulties with determining if a quorum was present at times. We took care of what business we could in that manner, but additional items of business are pending the pre-conference board meeting in September. If future Executive Boards will continue to try to meet in this way, it would be recommended to receive what dates individuals will be in their offices in order to reply to emails on votes in a timely manner. Given that we were not planning for a Centennial or dealing with a coming legislative session, this option worked well enough this year and indeed did save the association money, but if there is a heavier load of business for the association it may not be recommended.

In August, I participated in the meetings of the North Dakota Library Coordinating Council as the Council distributed grant funds.

Most of September I have been preparing for chairing the annual conference of NDLA as well as preparing for the presentations "Some Have Leadership Thrust upon Them . . ."

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the association as President in the past year. I look forward to continuing on the Executive Board as immediate past president for the next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth E. Postema