

Report #7-01
MPLA Representative
Al Peterson

-The following people won a free membership to MPLA in the drawing at the NDLA Conference in Dickinson: Steve Axtman, Stephanie Kom, Joy Fisher, Julie Reiten, Pat Hastings, Susie Sharp, Renee Paasch, Iris Swedlund, Dee Disardina, and Elizabeth Jacobs

-I have been promoting the 2010 MPLA Leadership Institute on NDLA's Lisserve. So far, I've heard a couple of people who said they are applying. The Deadline is December 1st. After I hear whether we have any candidates, I'll pick two other people (NDLA President and a past recipient) to help with the selection.

-I wrote a North Dakota library update for the December MPLA Newsletter.

-At the July meeting, I accepted a position on the MPLA Administration committee. One duty was paid staff evaluations. Those were submitted To Past President Rob Banks, the chair of the committee.

-The next MPLA joint conference is April 19-21 in Oklahoma City with the Oklahoma Library Association. *Explore the Possibilities* is the theme. ALA President and MPLA member Camila Alire will be a featured presenter at the conference. On Monday, she will present a pre-conference workshop on Frontline Staff Advocacy. On Tuesday, she will be the speaker for the Legislative Luncheon, will present an afternoon program on "Serving Your Latina Communities: Whose Responsibility Is It and Why?", and then will speak at the ALA Forum. Dr. J. Rufus Fears will be the keynote speaker for the OLA/MPLA Conference April 19-21, 2010 in Oklahoma City. Dr. Fears' keynote topic is: "The Price of Change: Are We at Risk of Losing Our Heritage?"

-The MPLA Awards Committee is seeking nominees for the following five awards. Nominees must be a current member of MPLA. Nominations must be postmarked by the deadline, January 15, 2010 and may be sent by mail or by email, efockler@washoe.k12.nv.us :

- **MPLA Beginning Professional Award:** To recognize an MPLA member who, within the first five years after receiving a library/media masters degree, has made a positive impact as a library media specialist on the quality of library service in his/her library or community. Innovative programming and planning, use of resources, and the implementation of special projects will be considered.

- **MPLA Distinguished Service Award:** To be given to an MPLA member who has made notable contributions to the library profession or has furthered significant development of state, academic, public, or school libraries in the Mountain Plains region, or who has performed exemplary service for an extended period of time. If a retired individual is nominated, the nominee may be a past member of MPLA.

- **MPLA Unsung Hero Award:** To be given to any library individual(s) or group(s) in the MPLA region who have worked on a special project that has significance to a community but which has not been eligible for a library award, or which, for other reasons specified by the nominator, has not been recognized by any library organization to the degree that it merits.

- **Carl Gaumer Library Champion Award:** To be given to the individual, organization, or company whose positive support of the Mountain Plains Library Association is demonstrated through repeated conscientious endeavors in support of libraries, library staff, and trustees, or through professional activities.

- **MPLA Literary Contribution Award:** To be given to an author whose published writings have successfully furthered an understanding and appreciation of the Mountain Plains region. The author need not reside in the region, and the nomination may be based on either a single work or a body of works. Published works will be evaluated on the basis of literary worth, readability, and evidence of responsible research.

The next MPLA Board meeting is a teleconference on January 27, 2010.