Happy New Year!

I am looking forward to a “transforming” 2017 by carrying on the momentum created by the 2016 NM Library Assessment conference. By continuing to enhance the vibrant and dynamic New Mexico Libraries our focus will be on the challenges we face regarding funding; meeting and expanding technology needs; and finding and making new partnerships to meet the various challenges we face today.

During the 2017 mini conference in Las Vegas, NM, I look forward to many workshops and presentations to focus on the three main areas we are challenged with. The mini-conference theme will be “Libraries Transform New Mexico!” and a call for proposals went out in December and review of proposals will be near to or completed and confirmations sent to presenters.

The Library Legislative Day will be on Friday, January 27, 2017 with recognitions in both the House and Senate. Librarians on the dais’ will include Marian Royal Vigil, Jolene Manus, Richard Clement, Teresa Naranjo, Christopher Schippert, Cynthia Aguilar and myself. Senator Soules will make introductions in the Senate and Representative Armstrong will do the honors in the House. I know that we will have many librarians and library supporters in the Galleries during this important day for Librarians!

The NMLA board will be meeting on the afternoon of January 27, 2017 where we will finalize and approve the mini-conference plans. The board does have a few vacancies to be filled and ask that you consider being a part of NMLA in one of these two vacant positions: Mountain Plains Library Association representative and Conference Site committee chair. You can reach out to any of the board members or me at lschurdevinrrnm.gov if you are interested.

Happy transforming!

Lynette Schurdevin
NMLA President

Loma Colorado 10 Year Anniversary

Submitted by Jenna Wells, Teen Librarian, Loma Colorado Main Library, jwells@rrnm.gov

On December 8, 2016 the Loma Colorado Main Library in Rio Rancho celebrated its 10 year anniversary. The celebration kicked off at 10:00 a.m. that morning. We had memory boards, cookies, and other small activities all throughout the library for patrons to take part in. We then held an evening party for past and present staff, board members, city officials, and Friends. All three of Rio Rancho’s library directors (Lynette Schurdevin, Bill Cicola, and Toni Beatty) took the stage and shared their memories of the last 10 years. The library officially opened its doors on Dec 4, 2006, and it has been busy ever since.
Mary Ellen Pellington, Gallup Library Director Receives 2016 Governor’s New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award

By Markos Chavez, Library Assistant, Octavia Fellin Public Library, mdchavez@gallupnm.gov

Mary Ellen Pellington was recognized as an outstanding Library Director and community leader. Under her leadership, the Octavia Fellin Library was awarded the 2014 National Museum and Library Medal for Excellence. This award was presented at the White House by First Lady Michelle Obama. In 2012 Mary Ellen received the National I Love my Librarian Award, from the Carnegie Institute and New York Times, for excelling in the field of Librarianship. In 2015 she was recognized by the New Mexico State Senate for her outstanding accomplishments in the field of library science and for her advocacy of library services that benefit Gallup, NM. She has been able to turn the library into a community center for exchange of ideas and developed services and programs vital to the growth of Gallup’s citizens.

She has built library services and programs responding to community needs. She established a Navajo Language room and a strong Native American film and music collection; and a multitude of programs reflective of our state’s rich history and culture including a growing celebration for Native American Heritage, Hispanic Heritage and African American History. Through her efforts, the library now offers free computer training on a wide variety of software and social media for community members. She established the yearly Gallup Authors Festival and incorporated the library into the fabric of community life.

Ms. Pellington was responsible for bringing Story Corps from NPR to Gallup where people were able to visit the library and record their personal family stories and have them archived.

In addition to her incredible work bringing the library to life for the community, she is involved in enhancing her community in many other ways. She is an active member of the Gallup Rotary and Lions Clubs, the Elks lodge, and Gallup McKinley County Early Childhood Community Council. She is a member of the local arts organization, GallupArts, and is involved in the development of Gallup

Brook E. Sheldon Professional Development Grant

Submitted by David Hurley, David.Hurley@nmlibraries.org

If you stopped by the New Mexico Library Foundation booth at NMLA Annual you may have seen that the Foundation has made the Brooke E. Sheldon grant for professional development more flexible: the grants now provide up to $250 towards any professional development opportunity, be it a conference, a class, a webinar, or something else altogether.

Any employee of any library in New Mexico is eligible, so long as they have not previously been awarded one of the grants. Applications are accepted year round, but must be submitted at least 8 weeks before the funds are needed.

Full details are on the Foundation website, www-nm-lf.org.
Octavia Fellin Public Library
Annual Mitten Tree Project

For eight years in a row, the Octavia Fellin Public Library has put up its mitten tree for community members to donate mittens, hats and scarves for area children in need. All items, new or handmade, are placed on the tree as a donation. At the end of the project, the items are sent to the local Battered Families Inc. where they are available for children that need these items to keep warm during the winter months. As in past years, this year’s project was very successful.

The mitten tree has been a long running tradition at Octavia Fellin Public Library. Library Director, Mary Ellen Pellington began the project her first year at the library. She wanted to do something special that got the community involved and was for a good cause. The tradition will continue next year with the hope of even better results.

Octavia Fellin Public Library to host Talking Service Reading Discussion

Beginning on January 17th, Octavia Fellin Public Library will host six reading discussion sessions for Veterans. In partnership with the NM Humanities Council, Veterans can take part in a reading discussion of *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*. Excerpts will be read each week and discussed in a moderated group.
ASL SIG Annual Workshop

Submitted by Lorie Mitchell, ASL-SIG Chair, lorie.mitchell@carlsbad.k12.nm.us

On Saturday, January 7th, the Advocacy for School Libraries Special Interest Group of NMLA met at the new Las Cruces High School Library for their annual workshop day. The theme for the day was "Unlocking ESSA and Our Potential" with Kathryn Roots Lewis, an American Association of School Libraries Region 6 Board member presenting. Mackin provided breakfast for the participants and Follett provided lunch.

Through the advocacy of the American Association of School Librarians and the American Library Association, school libraries now have a place at the table to make educational plans to help students. At the hands-on workshop, the participants learned how the newly created Every Student Succeeds (ESSA) federal education law, which replaced No Child Left Behind (NCLB), includes school libraries and allows for school libraries to apply for federal grant money. Kathryn walked the participants through who to contact on the local level, even preparing a two minute elevator speech to start the discussion with not only local educational resources, but also legislators and community and state leaders.
**NMLA 2017 Scholarship Opportunities**

The New Mexico Library Association will once again offer the Marion Dorroh and College Scholarship programs for 2017. Program descriptions and application procedures are described below. Application forms are available on the NMLA Website. If you have questions, please contact Kevin Comerford, Education Committee chair at kevco@unm.edu.

**Marion Dorroh Memorial Scholarship**
The Marion Dorroh Memorial Scholarship supports new library professionals in New Mexico. The program provides scholarship awards to students enrolled in advanced degree programs in library and information science at ALA-accredited colleges and universities. This scholarship is available to both full-time and part-time students.

**To Apply:**
- Submit your completed application by **May 1, 2017**.
- Download and complete the Marion Dorroh Scholarship Application Form at http://nmla.org/scholarships-grants.
- Include the following documents with your application:
  - Your current Résumé
  - A one-page statement of your professional goals
  - Transcripts from all your post-high school work (unofficial copies are acceptable)
  - Three letters of reference, at least one of which is from a librarian
  - A copy of your acceptance letter or the name and phone number of an official at the library school you will be attending who can provide confirmation of your acceptance
- Email or send the completed application to the NMLA Education Committee Chair at the address below.

**College Scholarship Fund**
The NMLA College Scholarship Fund supports New Mexico library workers who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in library technology or school library certification. It can also be used for graduate study toward a teacher-librarian endorsement.

**To Apply:**
- Submit your completed application by the **May 1, 2017** deadline.
- Download and complete the NMLA College Scholarship Application Form at http://nmla.org/scholarships-grants.
- Include a one-page statement of your professional needs, goals and intent to serve New Mexico’s libraries with your application.
- Email or send the completed application to the NMLA Education Committee Chair at the address below.

For more information about any of the NMLA Grant or Scholarship Programs, contact:

Kevin Comerford  
NMLA Education Chair  
University Libraries, MSC05 3020  
1 University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001  
Email: kevco@unm.edu  
Phone: (505) 277-6341
Personnel News

Alyssa Russo has joined University Libraries as an assistant professor and learning services librarian. Alyssa was previously the collections and instruction librarian at Santa Fe Community College. She graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign with her MLIS in 2014 and is also a UNM alum, having graduated with her BA in Fine Arts in 2010.

David Hurley, formerly a learning services librarian for University Libraries, has been appointed as the discovery and web librarian. In this role he will oversee University Libraries web pages and the Worldshare Management System discovery layer.

UL Employees Start the Year with Disaster Recovery Training

As we all know disaster planning is a crucial aspect of managing libraries. This year the UL’s Disaster Recovery Assistance Team organized a series of trainings and exercises for all employees to review procedures and roles for when disaster strikes. Breakout sessions gave employee groups a chance to discuss how to respond to various scenarios. Feedback from the training will be used to improve the UL disaster recovery manual and inform further training this year. If you are interested in more information contact Senior Associate Dean Fran Wilkinson (fwilkins@unm.edu).

UNM University Libraries Embark on Digital Preservation Program

The UNM University Libraries has recently licensed the LIBSAFE Digital Preservation System to help protect and manage the libraries’ important collections of digital objects. Produced by the Libnova company, LIBSAFE will automatically monitor the condition and security of over 1.6 million digital files.

In addition, the library is a charter member of the Digital Preservation Network, which is a consortium of university libraries who are sharing data storage resources so that its members can create preservation copies of all of their digital collections.

For more information on our digital preservation efforts contact Kevin Comerford, director, Digital Initiatives and
Carlsbad Public Library Teen Volunteers

Submitted by Beth Nieman, Youth Services Librarian, Carlsbad Public Library, banieman@cityofcarlsbadnm.com

Teens in grades 6 to 12 recently formed a new volunteer group at Carlsbad Public Library. The youth services librarian, Beth Nieman, was inspired to start the group by a presentation on teen volunteering at the 2016 NMLA Annual Conference. Potential volunteers were invited to join based on being regular library users, or having expressed interest in volunteering previously.

The first meeting was held November 30, with over a dozen teens attending. A group project for that day was to decorate the teen area of the library for the holidays and enjoy some holiday snacks afterwards. This proved to be a great ice-breaker activity for the first meeting, as teens collaborated on how to use various decorations such as lights, ornaments, garlands, and ribbons for the best effect.

During the meeting, teens also received permission slips to fill out and have parents sign. These were gathered and teens who wished to volunteer signed up for one-on-one orientation meetings with the library staff. The first lesson everyone had was on basic shelf-reading. During December, the teen volunteers donated over 25 hours of their time shelf-reading all over the library, and in helping to prepare craft activities for the preschool children. That is a lot of hours of staff time saved!
2017 Legislative Session

By Joe Sabatini, NMLA Legislation Committee Co-Chair, jsabatini423@gmail.com

The 2017 Legislative session will begin at noon on January 19, 2017, for a 60 day session. Given the serious state government budget shortfall, the library community will focus on preserving existing programs. Continued funding for the grants-in-aid programs for public and tribal libraries is essential to the effectiveness and even the existence of library outlets in our smaller communities. Patrons of academic, school and public libraries benefit greatly from access to databases purchased cooperatively by the State Library. The Department of Cultural Affairs, which includes the State Library, took a 12% cut to its budget last year, and further cuts are possible. School librarians continue to advocate the necessity of having information professionals as part of successful public school programs. Recommendations coming out of the Libraries Transform New Mexico conference will guide future legislative changes to statewide library programs.

NMLA LEGISLATIVE DAY IS FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

Everyone should plan to attend Library Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Santa Fe to advocate for these items and for local capital outlay requests. Librarians representing types of libraries and geographical areas will be introduced during opening ceremonies in the Senate by Senator Bill Soules of Las Cruces and in the
NMLA Membership

Honorary Life Members
Paul Agriesti
Alison Almquist
Thaddeus P. Bejnar
Dr. David R. Giltrow
Charlene Greenwood
Martha Liebert
Betty Long
Elinor McCloskey
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Mother Whiteside Library

New Members
Brian Leaf
Nancy Herod
Mary Wise
Veronica Ontiveros
Gardiner William James
Liana Morales
Gwendolyn Barnhart

2017 Legislative Session (continued from page 8)

House by Representative Deborah Armstrong of Albuquerque. Library supporters should gather in the galleries for these ceremonies, which occur soon after the session opens, typically between 10:00 am and 11:00 am. These times are posted on information kiosks around the Capitol.

The NMLA Legislation Committee will have a table near the Governor David Cargo sculpture in the west end of the Rotunda to provide attendees with “Support Libraries” buttons and general information on library legislative issues. Bring with you any information about your library and its needs, which you can leave off at individual legislative offices. Senate and House member offices are shown at


Participants who arrive early have a better chance of actually visiting with their legislators in their offices or as they attend their 8:00 am committee meetings. The State’s multi-level Parking Garage west of the Capitol fills up rapidly, and other parking is a few blocks away in downtown. There will be regular updates on the progress of library legislation in the NMLA Legislative Bulletin, which is sent electronically to various librarian e-lists.
# NMLA Officers and Committee Chairs

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newsletter@nmla.org

Calendar

Library Legislative Day: January 27, 2017

New Mexico’s Natural Treasures: Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service Exhibit at NMSU runs until March 2017

NMLA Scholarship Applications due May 1, 2017

NMLA Mini Conference: April 6 - 7, 2017, Las Vegas, NM

SCC/MLA Annual Meeting at the UNM Health Sciences Library
October 14-19, 2017