

NLLN Continuing Education Scholarship Reports for 2007/2008

Korella Selzler North Dakota Library Association Conference September 27-28, 2007

I attended the North Dakota Library Association Conference (NDLA) held in Jamestown, North Dakota Thursday and Friday, September 27-28, 2007. This was the first NDLA conference I have attended.

The first session I attended was entitled, "Children's and Teen Books with Laughter Guarantee." The presenter, Patricia Bezzant Castelli, MLS, discussed what she considers the 100 best children's books with laughter. This I found helpful and I will recommend these books to our patrons.

I attended two sessions presented by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel. To me this was the highlight of the conference as I have corresponded with them in connection to the Read Aloud Awards sponsored by Minnesota State University Moorhead. Besides their sessions, I had a chance to chat with both women on a personal basis. I learned some of the facts regarding the background of writing/illustrating the award books.

I attended one session on genealogy. At this session I became aware of more online websites that are helpful for researching ancestors. I plan on adding links to these sites from our Archives webpage.

Another session I attended was a panel discussion made up of local authors. It was enlightening to meet authors with so much passion. I became aware of additional books set in North and South Dakota.

I also had a chance to visit with vendors representing publishers and library suppliers of equipment and furniture. Our library is hoping to have major remodeling in a few years so the furniture and equipment vendors were very helpful. Also, the personal contacts with publisher reps help promote our Read Aloud Awards.

The two keynote speakers were excellent. The "Attitude Doctor" gave us a prescription for attitude, one I would highly recommend. The Unshelved Guys, a two-member team that do a daily comic strip which has a library setting, were also very good. They write about many different situations that happen in a library, and put them in perspective.

Overall, this was a good conference for me and I hope to implement some of the things I learned. Thank you, NLLN, for your support!

Korella Selzler
Library Technician
MN State Univ. Moorhead

12/5/2007