



New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries

NMCAL Legislative Committee Progress Report

Presented to the NMCAL Membership

August 01, 2008

Meetings Attended by the Committee or a Committee Member.

April 10, 2008 – NMLA Conference, Directors Lunch/Business Meeting – Las Cruces, N.M., Zuhl Library. A progress report was given to the NMCAL Membership.

May 2, 2008 - “Bonds for Libraries” Political Action Committee – Ben Wakashige a member of the Committee attended the meeting. Main items discussed were:

- Ben has accepted the directorship at Ft. Lewis College, Durango Colorado.
- Discussion on fund raising for 2008 GO Library Bond campaign.
- Working with Cooney, Watson & Associates (CWA) for formal marketing. Marketing thoughts are for radio spots, press releases, bumper stickers, yard signs, brochures, etc.
- On-going updating of web-site.
- Election calendar – Tuesday, October 7th, Voter registration for General Election closes, and absentee voting for general election begins; Saturday, October 18th, Early in-person voting for General Election begins; Saturday, November 1st, Early in-person voting ends; Tuesday, November 4th, Last day for accepting absentee ballots and General Election Day.

May 22, 2008 – NMLA Legislative Committee Meeting – Ben Wakashige and Elizabeth Titus from the library academia were in attendance. Major items discussed:

- GO Bond PAC has contracted with Cooney, Watson & Associates firm to publicize the bond issue.
- So far, approximately \$12,000 has been raised. The PAC feels that \$60,000 is needed to run an effective campaign.
- Discussion of election demographics and past bond issue results. Concern was voiced about the declining support in Bernalillo County.
- General reports were provided by librarians in attendance from the academic, public and school library sectors.
- Organize a Library Legislative Day during the 2009 legislative session.

June 6, 2008 - "Bonds for Libraries" Political Action Committee – Ben Wakashige was in attendance. Since the contact with Cooney, Watson & Associates was finalized; the meeting was based on providing them with library information. Data and background information was discussed and would be provided to CWA by the end of June.

***June 16, 2008 – NMCAL Legislative Committee Meeting – Albuquerque, N.M.,
University of New Mexico's Zimmerman Library.***

The purpose of the meeting was to report, update and discuss the above mentioned meetings. Major outcomes pertained to the progress of the 2008 GO Library Bond initiative, and the assignments of the Cost of Libraries Sub-Committee.

Key Legislative Items - FYI.

- SB 333, 2008 General Obligation Bond Act, \$3 million for academic libraries. Will be on the November 4th ballot as GO Bond B.
- HB 2, General Appropriations Act, Higher Education Department inflationary increase for libraries of 4.21%.
- Stay up-to-date by visiting the web-site of the Higher Education Department, <http://hed.state.nm.us> .
- Stay up-to-date by visiting the web-site of the Political Action Committee, <http://www.bondsforlibraries.org/about.html> .