



## **NMCAL Legislative Committee Progress Report Presented to the NMCAL Membership February 04, 2015**

The 2014 Library GO Bond passed during the November 4, 2014 election. New Mexico voters approved (63%), a \$10.8 million Library General Obligation Bond Issue. The academic libraries portion will be \$3.5 million.

On January 15, 2015, the NMLA Legislative Committee met at the Special Collections Library in Albuquerque. Key items discussed were:

- Committee members met with Representative-elect Deborah Armstrong from Albuquerque on September 16, 2014. The NMLA Committee was asked to get information to sponsor a bill during the 2015 Legislative Session, for a Governor's Conference on Libraries. The Conference's purpose would be to develop a strategic, uniform direction for library services in New Mexico. The last conference of this type was held February 17-19, 1991.
- A Memorial will be introduced for a State-wide Library Conference. Preliminary thought is to have the State-wide Library Conference in 2016.
- Library Legislative Day activities.
- Status of the search and screen process for the State Librarian position.
- A discussion on Academic, Public, School and Public issues, mainly on the problems effecting the timely spending of GO Bond funds.

Ruben F. Aragon has been asked to serve on a Committee to help choreograph a Statewide Library Needs Assessment and Conference. The Committee will help determine questions and provide insight when developing the needs assessment. Ruben will spread the word to NMCAL members as develops surface.

The NMCAL Legislative Committee met in Albuquerque on January 16, 2015. Major discussion was to address and prepare for the 2015 Library Legislative Day activities.

The 2015 Library Legislative Day is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2015. Librarians will be recognized during opening ceremonies in each chamber. Delegations representing types of libraries and geographical areas will be introduced in the Senate by Senator Bill Soules and in the House by Representative Deborah Armstrong. James Pawlak, ENMH-Ruidoso, NMCAL President, will be in the Senate and Peggy Johnson, SFCC, 2014-15 Academic Librarian of the Year, will represent us in the House.

Submitted by: Ruben F. Aragon (NMHU), Holly Buchanan (UNM-HSLIC), Poppy Johnson-Renvall (CNM), Barbara Lovato (UNM-Valencia), Elizabeth Titus (NMSU) and Melveta Walker (ENMU).