It may seem redundant to say these things, but that is precisely why I suggested this as the 2007 theme. It’s time to put some focus on the who and what of WLA. I know some former and active members are reluctant to give hard-earned dollars for a membership from which they do not personally benefit or when they feel those dollars are better spent with another association.

At this year’s WLA conference, we will have more business time to focus on the who and what of the association, getting to know WLA leadership and opportunities available to you. We are the future of WLA.

And wait till you see what they’ve done with the Little America Hotel. It’s quite the place for meetings, meals, and merriment. It is expanding to become Wyoming’s largest meeting and convention hotel, adding 26,000 square feet of space. Guest rooms have received amazing facelifts, and the hotel has a popular nine-hole golf course, large gift shop, a wonderful restaurant and lounge, a coffee house, and the popular Little America 50 cent ice cream cones.

The Authors’ Reception will take place on Friday evening at the new Laramie County Library (as well as building tours), so this year we will take advantage of Wednesday evening as a time for committees and sections to meet. The Executive Board will meet at 6 PM. Perhaps you would like to attend?

Key speakers will be the irrepressible Nancy Pearl, a Reader’s Advisory guru; Lorcan Dempsey, OCLC’s chief strategist; and Will Hobbs, a writer of exciting outdoor adventure stories, picture books, and award-winning young adult novels. They certainly provide a foundation for a stimulating and worthwhile conference.

Special thanks and acknowledgement go to Laura Grott, Trish Palluck & the Local Arrangements Committee, the Program Council, and Troy Rumpf for their patience and support during these very busy times.

So come to the 2007 WLA Annual Conference in our capital city!

-Brian Greene, WLA Vice-President and the 2007 Program Council

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NEWS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

EXTRA, EXTRA, read all about it! Wyoming Library Association Library Endowment fails in 2007 Legislative Session!

Why can I make light of this bad news? Because even though the Library Endowment Bill did not pass the Legislature, it is still alive and well. After the bill failed to pass the House, the WLA leadership and the Legislative Committee members immediately regrouped, rethought and rededicated themselves to the passage of this worthy endeavor that will ensure growth, stability, and sustainability for Wyoming’s public library foundations and their particular libraries.

The Committee will meet this summer with WLA Lobbyist Marian Schulz to formulate a plan for the 2008 Legislative Session. This will be the third attempt...each try brings us closer to the accomplishment of our goal.

The WLA is also totally supportive of the pursuit of state funding for collections of the University of Wyoming libraries and other college libraries. Financial support for these types of libraries and the Library Endowment will be put forward as a suite of funding opportunities to 2008 legislators.

Our strength lies in our complete support of all legislative initiatives that will benefit some or all Wyoming libraries.

-Cynthia Twing, Committee Chair
Be sure to make plans to stay in Cheyenne after WLA for the Wyoming Book Festival. The festivities open to the public are held on Saturday, September 15, 10AM-3:30PM.

It will be a day of Wyoming celebrating readers and writers, with authors giving presentations in tents on the capitol grounds, panel discussions at the Plains Hotel, children’s authors and programs at the new Laramie County Library, and free movies at the Lincoln Theater.

We have more than 60 confirmed authors, from Will Hobbs to Ron Franscell. To see the complete list, go to wyomingbookfestival.org. All WLA conference attendees are also invited to the Laramie County Library after hours on Friday, September 14, for a ‘behind the scenes’ tour and schmoozing with the authors.

We hope to see you there, and if you would like to volunteer, we have several different opportunities available. We are looking for storytellers in the children’s activities tent, tent monitors, author escorts and more! The volunteer form is available at wyomingbookfestival.org/VolunteerApplication.pdf

-Tina Lackey, Wyoming Book Festival

THE WINNERS ARE...

Suzi Worthen, of the Lyman Branch of the Uinta County Library System, won an ALA Best of Show award in the Adult/Family Reading Materials category (libraries with budgets under $500,000). She won for a brochure created for the Lyman book discussion group. Her brochure was one of 400 entries submitted from libraries throughout the nation.

Fort Washakie School/Community Library has won the 2007 “Giant Step Award” given by School Library Journal and Thompson Gale Publishing. “Giant Step recognizes a school and public library that has significantly improved its programs or services and greatly impacted student learning and achievement.”

At the American Library Association Annual Conference, the Wyoming State Library was one of seven libraries receiving the John Cotton Dana Public Relations Award citation and a $3,000 check. Tina Lackey and Lesley Boughton received the award and check on behalf of the State Library.

The Laramie County Library System received a Department of Family Services grant for $14,311 for its daycare outreach program. Additionally, LCLS was recently notified that it is one of only 20 libraries nationwide that will host the new ALA exhibit, Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World.

Congratulations to all the winners!

HOSPITALITY SUITE BOOK SWAP

Planning on attending this year’s WLA conference in Cheyenne? Have books, magazines or catalogs you would like to share? Bring ‘em along! The Local Arrangements Committee will host a hospitality suite at Little America ... when you have a break at conference, make your way toward rest and refreshment. Get together with friends, put your legs up, play a game, solve some Soduku, take home a different book—enjoy yourself! For details or suggestions, contact Katie Jones (kjones@courts.state.wy.us, 307-777-6487).

DON’T MISS THE NEW LARAMIE COUNTY LIBRARY!

WLA conference attendees will be among the first in the area to see the new Laramie County Library which will open on September 8.

Located at 2200 Pioneer Avenue, the three-story facility offers more than 100,000 square feet, with amenities such as a coffee shop, more meeting rooms, quiet study rooms, expanded book and audio-visual collections, an improved genealogy area, more public computers, extended wireless capabilities, a quiet reading room, an amazing interactive literacy area, and so much more.

Tours are possible during the conference. For details, e-mail Troy Rumpf at trumpf@lclsonline.org.
For your consideration

The WLA Nominations and Elections Committee presents the following five excellent candidates. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank these candidates who have volunteered to serve the Wyoming Library Association.

**Vice-President/President-Elect**
Cynthia Twing – Johnson County Public Library

**Recording Secretary**
Meg Martin – Wyoming State Law Library
Donna Rusk – Converse County Public Library

**MPLA Representative**
Marcia Cheney – Campbell County Public Library
Cindy Moore – Sweetwater County Public Library

We know the Wyoming library community has great leaders; there have been six inspiring years of Wyoming Library Leadership graduates and many more WLA members who could do a fantastic job. Consider donating time to this fun and supportive organization. To learn more, visit [wyla.org/Bylaws2005.pdf](http://wyla.org/Bylaws2005.pdf) or e-mail kjones@courts.state.wy.us.

-Katie Jones, Committee Chair