

2011 Annual Conference Report
October 5-7, 2011
submitted by Michael Straatmann, Executive Director

Theme/Location

This years theme is "Nebraska Libraries - Cultivating Community Connections" and is being held at the Marriot Cornhusker in Lincoln, NE.

Registration

We had 594 pre-registrations, of which 350 were done online. Online registrations provided confirmation of registration as well as drastically decreasing data entry time and clerical errors. 122 registrants utilized PayPal for online credit card payments (a 31% increase).

Of those attending, 316 were NLA and 99 were NEMA (+13% and -12% respectively). Approx. 150 people opted to attend for a single day (-6%).

Evaluations

This year, all evaluations (participant and exhibitor) are being conducted electronically. URL is available in the program guide.

Pre-Conferences

The Conference hosted 4 preconferences:

- Libraries, Laws and Lee Lawrie
- Shortcuts to Greatness, or 10 Things that Great Libraries Know and Maybe You Don't
- Libraries at the Front Lines of Workforce Recovery
- Keeping the Bricks & Mortar in Shape to Keep the Books on the Shelf

Approx. 116 individuals attended these pre-conferences (a 25% increase). For the second year, registration for these events was done through the conference. This process continues to be streamlined.

Vendor/Exhibitors

Vendor space sold out in mid-August. We have 55 total vendors, 45 commercial and 10 non-profit with 15 NLA/NEMA spaces.

Conflicts with several other state conferences impacted this number.

Programs

We have 89 different sessions offered, each sponsored by NEMA or a group within NLA.

Upcoming Conferences

Next year's conference is Tri-Conference with MPLA. It will be held on Oct. 17-29, 2012 at the LaVista Conference Center. The theme is *Back to the Basics: Building the Future*

The 2013 Conference will be held October 8-11, 2013 in Kearney at the Younes Conference Center.

The 2014 Conference will be held Oct. 7-10 in Sioux City at the Marina Inn and Conference Center.