

MLA/MEMO Legislative Platform for 2006

Libraries Strengthen Minnesota!

(November 2005)

Libraries strengthen Minnesota through a wide array of programs and services. They provide the 21st century resources and expert staff needed to ensure informed and engaged students and citizens. Libraries are the bridges to literacy for the youth of the state. Minnesota's libraries provide the means for all residents to explore ideas and learn new skills.

MLA and MEMO advance the following initiatives to:

- Support Library Construction
\$10 million for public library accessibility and improvement.
Many of the state's public library buildings need to expand in order to meet the needs of new users and to accommodate new technology. This investment will provide an incentive for public libraries to commit to construction and renovations to accommodate technology, provide access to those with physical disabilities and provide state-of-the-art library services.
Academic library construction requests:
 - \$18,770,000 for Century College New Science/New Library Building in White Bear Lake
 - \$12,390,000 for Fond du Lac TCC Library Addition and Cultural Center in Cloquet
 - \$ 600,000 for Northland CTC Nursing and Library in East Grand Forks
- Support the inclusion of state-adopted **information and technology literacy standards** in the K-12 Core Academic Standards for all Minnesota students that include a research process, technology skills, reading and media literacy, and ethical use of technology and information.
- Support increased **student and staff access to current technology**, telecommunications and distance education for student assessment/testing, and expanded learning opportunities in order to increase student achievement and facilitate lifelong learning for all learners.
- Allow libraries to **link to websites of political candidates and political parties** for non-partisan informational and educational purposes by amending the law which prohibits political subdivisions from linking to websites of political candidates and political parties.

This draft is based on the work of the 2006 Platform Committee--

Sally Lederer, Chair

Robin Ewing, ARLD

Bob Boese, CRPSLA

Lars Stelzner, MEMO

Barb Misselt, Multitype Directors

Carrie Farrow, PLD

Ex officio members: Maureen Bell, Bill DeJohn, Marlene Moulton Janssen, Suzanne Miller

--and on the ideas, reactions and suggestions from members of the Legislative Committee.

For discussion at the Legislative Committee meeting. Not ready for a vote on 2007 yet!

Ideas for 2007 (Not in priority order)

As per discussion at the Legislative Forum, we want to show libraries as key resources/partners to those arenas that are high priority for the legislators:

1. Health initiative
2. Workforce centers
3. Literacy generally. Early literacy and information literacy particularly. Work with Literacy Collaborative.
4. Tie the role of libraries (all types) to the online learning initiative, distance learning, college readiness, P-16.

Miscellaneous Comments

1. Focus on outcomes, not inputs (dollars). Talk about results.
2. Set an overall goal for Minnesota libraries; tie platform items and initiatives to the goal.
3. Form partnerships to advance initiatives. Look to some new arenas – like Economic Development. (Traditionally, our items go to Education committees...)
4. The governor just appointed Minnesota's first Chief Information Officer. Can libraries work with this office in some way?
5. Develop key messages that all of our advocates can convey to legislators and that we can communicate to public as well. (Marketing approach: Libraries Strengthen Minnesota as theme/slogan.)
6. Remember education! Since library funding comes through the K-12 and Higher Education committees, make the relationship of libraries to education very clear.

Review strategies for developing strong relationships with legislators year-round. Expand participation in Legislative Day to more students, Friends, Trustees. Add some events in the fall?