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Conference Connections: A Great Way to Get Involved!

The purpose of the New Members Round Table is to help new librarians and other library workers make contact with people in the library profession. So, we are very excited about our new project called **Conference Connections**. The first annual Conference Connections festivities will kick off this year at the NLA/NEMA annual convention in Kearney, October 17-19. We have activities scheduled for people who are new to NLA. Even those who have been to the conference many times are welcome to participate!

The NMRT booth will be ground zero for NMRT at the conference. If you have any questions or suggestions, or just want to pop by for a visit, we will be happy to talk with you! At the booth, we will have posted all the various workshops which NMRT members will be attending. NMRT will be meeting outside of a given workshop about 5 minutes before it begins. This way, there will be someone to sit with and to talk to at the various workshops and seminars. You will be able to tell who are the NMRT members by a NMRT sticker placed on the nametags. Stop by the NMRT booth and get a sticker for yourself. If you like, sign up to be the contact person for your favorite workshop.

An important part of the Conference Connections project is a program we are calling **Conference Companions**. The purpose of this program is to allow those new to NLA the opportunity to meet, network and talk with another librarian one on one during the conference. This program is open to those people attending the NLA/NEMA Conference for the first or second time. Conference Companions is somewhat like the mentoring programs that take place at national and international meetings, only much less formal! Since Conference Companions is designed to include a more experienced NLA/NEMA Conference goer, NMRT needs those members who have attended the conference for a few years (or more) to participate. This is a great opportunity to help NLA grow stronger and more vibrant by involving new members. If you would like to participate in Conference Companions (either as someone new to NLA or as a companion) just fill out the form on the next page and send it in by October 1. The form can also be found on the NMRT web page at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/NMRT/form.html>.

The highlight of the Conference Connections is the **Conference Connections Mixer**. The mixer will take place right before the Vendors Reception on Thursday afternoon at 4:00. During the mixer, the *Mentor of the Year Award* and the *NMRT-Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award* will be presented. The *Mentor of the Year Award* goes to an individual who has aided significantly in the professional development of librarians, media specialists or library staff, and, by example, has influenced their careers. The *NMRT-Houchen Bindery Beginning Professional Award* is awarded to a beginning librarian or media specialist who has made significant contributions to library and/or media services in the early stages of his/her career. NMRT is proud of these awards and we urge everyone to come and greet the recipients. If you have anyone you would like to nominate for either award, just fill out an award form at <http://www.nol.org/home/NLA/NMRT/awards.html> or contact Sally Gibson at sallyg@creighton.edu

However, the Mixer is mainly an opportunity to meet fellow NLA members. We urge everyone to come and enjoy this opportunity to meet the new members of NLA and welcome them to Nebraska. You can come, meet people, network, see the award winners and generally just have a good time.

New Members Round Table would really like to see the Conference Connections become a mainstay of the NLA Conference experience. This project would give new members a place to meet each other and other NLA members in a relaxed environment. NLA is a great time for many of our members. They come to visit and exchange ideas and concerns with their colleagues from across the state. However, it is so easy to forget the newer members of NLA, those who haven't yet made the acquaintance of their colleagues in different parts of the state. The **Conference Connections** project is designed to help these members become active in NLA. One of the best ways it become involved in NLA is to become a member of NMRT. We would love to have you.

New Members Roundtable Conference Connections Application

New Conference Attendee

Conference Connection Colleague

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Institution: _____

Job Title: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Fax: _____

I'm involved in:

NLA Sections:

College and University Section (C & U) Paraprofessional Section

Public Library Section

School, Children's and Young People's Section

Special and Institutional Section

Trustees, Users, Friends Section