

State Association Activities [state3]

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Working under the premise that in union there is strength, state associations and organizations engaged in cooperative ventures with state departments of education, co-sponsored conferences and activities with other state library associations, and merged to become stronger advocacy forces. Conferences and workshops emphasized leadership, literacy, and techniques for thriving in a technological climate. Many directed their energies toward legislative matters. Below is a representative summary of these and the many other efforts and activities of state associations and organizations.

Alaska's Association of School Librarians illustrated the proactive involvement of many state associations. Activities included co-sponsoring an "Intellectual Freedom" workshop in six communities across the state and sponsoring a summer institute for school librarians funded by an AASL/ABC CLIO leadership grant. The association shared the Alaska Civil Liberties Union First Amendment Award with the Alaska Library Association. Other initiatives included Battle of the Books, a statewide reading competition conducted by audio conference, and funding for three members to attend the AASL conference in Indianapolis and one member to attend the ALA Intellectual Freedom Leadership Institute. The first edition of an organizational handbook was published.

Conferences were the major source of communication for many associations and organizations.

Arkansas Association of Instructional Media (AAIM), Arkansas Association of School Library Media Educators (AASLME), and Arkansas Library Association (ALA) all held annual conferences. Connecticut's Educational Media Association held its annual conference in November. In addition, workshops were conducted on Michael Eisenberg's (Director, ERIC Clearinghouse on Information and Technology) model for integrating library, media, and technology skills throughout the curriculum. Workshops on CD-ROM and the Internet, taught by Pam Berger, a library media specialist at Byram Hill (New York) High School, were also sponsored.

Collaboration with state agencies in sponsoring workshops and training seminars for **District of Columbia** school library media specialists was a key initiative by the District of Columbia Association of School Librarians.

The **Hawaii** Association of School Librarians also advocated cooperation by participating in a multi-agency statewide literacy conference and coordination of the annual Nene Award with the Department of Education and the Hawaii Library Association. The Association also presented a group breakout session at the 1994 AASL conference.

The many activities of the Association for **Indiana** Media Educators included a joint conference with the Indiana Library Federation in April and the sponsorship of an intellectual freedom workshop, conducted by Ann Penway from the ALA Intellectual Freedom Office. A survey of all Indiana schools was conducted to determine the per-pupil expenditure of funds for media materials and to collect baseline data on school library media collections and services. Results were published in the *Indiana Media Journal*. Regional and statewide student media fairs were held. A scholarship and two grants for special projects were awarded. Publications included 12 issues of the *AIME News*, a membership directory and organizational handbook, and three issues of the *Indiana Media Journal*. Tours and other activities were hosted for the AASL national conference in Indianapolis.

Over the past year, **Louisiana's** associations have conducted energetic programs. The Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators (LaCUE) held its 10th annual conference, "Linking Kids & Knowledge with Technology: Connecting at the Crossroads," in October 1994. It also conducted annual spring meetings in each of its eight regions, published a quarterly newsletter, and sponsored a workshop on writing successful state and federal grants. Louisiana's Association of School Librarians continued with its projects of establishing a network of contact people in each of the state's school districts and creating a school library technology network to allow librarians to receive assistance from peers in similar technological environments. It also sponsored workshops and activities at the annual Louisiana Library Association Conference. In January, a mini-conference dedicated to "The Changing Role of the School Librarian" was attended by more than 150 of the state's school librarians.

Legislation played a key role in the activities of the **Maryland** Educational Media Organization activities. It participated in the Maryland Library Association's Legislative Day in January and followed up by taking part in ALA's Legislative Day in April. The organization held a two-day spring conference and co-sponsored a fall conference with the Maryland Library Association. It was a sponsor of Maryland's Black-Eyed Susan Award, a children's favorite book award, and the state's School Media Festival in May. A demonstration of SAILOR, Maryland's online information network, was held for the state's board of education to illustrate how its resources will improve access to information for students and teachers.

The **Maine** Educational Media Association's activities revolved around legislative issues and the sponsoring of spring and fall conferences. It also published *Maine Entry*, a professional journal. Oklahoma's Association of School Library Media Specialists and Association for Educational Communications and Technology participated in Encyclo-Media XIV, a statewide conference of 2,500 teachers and librarians.

Conferences were also a major part of the Educational Media Association of **New Jersey's** efforts: an annual conference in December and one in the spring, co-sponsored with the New Jersey Library Association.

The **Minnesota** Educational Media Association (MEMA) began the year with a Leaders' Training Conference in August. The Regions Chairs, Special Interest Division Chairs and Committee Chairs established goals and focused on governance and legislative issues. Legislative activity included introducing two bills: Internet funding for school and public libraries, and funding for media materials. A major project to plan exhibits for educational conferences was initiated. Work on a policy and procedures manual continued and an "Intellectual Freedom" packet for media specialists and administrators is in the process of revision.

A regional organization representing six New England States, the **New England** Educational Media Association (NEEMA), held several conferences: a seventh annual leadership conference in Newport, Rhode Island with presenter Russell Pieken, an internationally-known school library media consultant; a joint conference with the **Rhode Island** Educational Media Association; and an annual meeting in Durham, New Hampshire, featuring an innovative murder mystery program with participants working in teams to arrive at a solution.

New Mexico initiated plans for funding school library media programs and establishment of a mentoring network among the state's school library media specialists and staff. Both North Carolina's Educational Media Association and Association of School Librarians held annual conferences during the year, and both were very active in lobbying for school technology legislation.

The following state associations held a variety of statewide and regional conferences: **Ohio** Educational Library/Media Association (OELMA) held a fall conference and a leadership conference in March. The activities of the **Washington** Library Media Association, the **West Virginia** Educational Media Association, and the School Section of the West Virginia Library Association all included annual statewide conferences. The **Nevada** School and Children's Library Section of the Nevada Library Association sponsored a Young Readers' Awards Author Luncheon at the Nevada Library Association's annual conference.

The **Wyoming** Educational Media Association and School Library Media Section of the Wyoming Library Association merged to become more effective at advocacy and other efforts. It is now known as the Wyoming School Library Media Association. Its annual statewide conference held during the fall shares information, previews resources, and builds advocacy efforts. Association members sit on statewide task forces to network emerging technology. A statewide newsletter was published in 1994.