

**NESLA & AASL Reports to VSLA
Membership Meeting during Fall Conference at U32
October 25, 2008**

NESLA Report

State conferences

Maine's conference is being held October 23-24 at the Grand Summit Resort Hotel Sunday River in Bethel, ME.

Massachusetts' conference in Sturbridge will be November 2-3 with a survivor theme including pith helmets and vests! focusing on survivalship. *Survive & Thrive with New Strategies and Tools for 21st Century Learning*. Keynote is Terry Young..

Connecticut's conference is November 9-10. *New Beginnings...the Best is Yet to Come*. The preconference, November 9, features Kathy Schrock. The main conference will have two keynote speakers and two sets of sessions with sessions repeating to give attendees a chance to attend a session they might have missed earlier. Nate Greenberg will be the featured speaker at the Administrator's Breakfast November 10. Also, November 10, the morning keynote will be Toni Buzzeo and the afternoon keynote will be Carmen Agra Deedy.

AASL National School Library Media Program of the Year Award

2008 winner – Simsbury High School, Simsbury CT – Janet Roche, Librarian

Organization name changes

New Hampshire is in the process of changing its name to NHSLA (New Hampshire School Library Association) following the changes made by ME, MA, CT, VT and NEEMA.

NESLA raffling memberships

The NESLA board voted to offer each New England state one free NESLA membership to be awarded to a state association member at a state conference. If the winner is already a NESLA member, their membership will be extended an additional year.

New domain name for NESLA webpage

<http://www.neschoolibraries.org> is the new NESLA web address. The logo has been updated and webpage is under construction.

NESLA's 2009 Leadership conference

Plans are underway. As soon as the location and keynote are in place I will post the info on the VSLA listserv.

AASL Report

Below are two of AASL's exciting projects.

L4L

The AASL Board of Directors has approved the development of Learning 4 Life (L4L). L4L is a 3-5-year plan to nationally implement the "Standards for the 21st-Century Learner" and other guidelines being developed for school library media programs. Sue Ballard is chair of the task force responsible for creating L4L.

Parent Outreach Committee

Parents are our most powerful advocates. The Spokane Moms, who fought for funding for school

libraries in Washington State, are a primary example.

See <http://www.ala.org/ala/alonline/currentnews/newsarchive/2008/march2008/momswin.cfm>

AASL is working to provide the tools needed to empower parents and school library media specialists and protect school library programs. The newly formed Parent Outreach Task Force will “create online toolkits to encourage parent and community groups to advocate for school library media programs on both the local and national level. The following issues will be included: to encourage endorsement of school library legislative initiatives, to provide strategies for support of school library media programs, and to point to existing resources and organizations.”

In addition AASL has formed a partnership with the national PTA to collaborate on projects that will promote school libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

Merlyn Miller