

Greetings from the MLA President



By Heidi Hoks
MLA President

Greetings, everyone!

The 2007 Minnesota Library Association annual Conference is soon upon us. This year's Conference is brimming with exciting and enriching workshop sessions, inspirational plenary sessions and time to visit with vendors and colleagues. The Conference

boasts all this and wonderful tours of the beautiful Mankato area where you will find hospitality at its finest!

The Conference theme - *All the World's a Stage: Becoming the Lead Player You Were Meant to Be* - is an apropos one for this year. It has been a year of challenges for our Association with both highs and lows. We have been spotlighted at center stage. It was, indeed, a year of learning. It has certainly reminded me of comments made by two stellar librarians in the state.

Robert H. Rohlf has always been a role model for me. Many years ago, we both happened to be on a bus from the airport to a PLA hotel site, when I

overheard him say, "I am always learning no matter where I go. I am always striving to be more." That comment struck me. Here was a leader among leaders in the library community, who felt he could always gain more information, could always grow. I think that's what still keeps Robert Rohlf at the top of his game, what keeps him an icon in the library community.

One of his female colleagues was a woman that staff respected so much they referred to her as Miss Landers, or - for the brave few - Lora Landers. She was never Lora. It was not that she demanded that respect; her very essence simply commanded it. One of the phrases her Hennepin

county staff remember her often saying is "Always remember who you are and who you represent." We all represent our library organizations. We also represent ourselves. Should we not strive to grow in knowledge and understanding so that we can become all that is possible for us as individuals, to perform at the top of our game?! May you find that this year's conference enables all of us to grow in knowledge, to grow collegially, to grow into a role model for others, into the lead players we were all meant to be.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2007 Minnesota Library Association annual Conference in Mankato!

Always the best,
Heidi Hoks