



## WLA Executive Board Minutes, December 1998

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### PRESENT

Jerry Krois, Karen Mydland, Trish Palluck, Brian Greene, Laura Grott, Robert Kalabus, Michelle Havenga, Jan Segerstrom, Vickie Hoff, Keith Cottam, and Jerry Jones.

Keith Cottam called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. A quorum was declared. The agenda was approved with the addition of a report from the Electronic Communications Committee under Old Business.

### MINUTES

With the correction of the spelling of Alice Meister's name on page 2, a motion was made to accept the minutes of the last meeting by Brian Greene. Vickie Hoff seconded the motion, and it was approved.

### POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Lesley Boughton requested a point of privilege with the board. She brought to the Board's attention an article from the December issue of *American Libraries* recognizing Keith Cottam and the efforts he has made since 1975 to free Vo Thi Van, a Vietnamese refugee and librarian. Lesley congratulated Keith on his perseverance and assistance on Van's behalf.

Lesley also reported she had just received a press release from the governor's office regarding the reorganization of the state government, saying the Department of Administration and Information will stay as is.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Keith's theme for the year will be advocacy, stressing the importance of libraries and literacy in the community. He will be promoting this in the state through speaking engagements and articles. It was also suggested that he make radio appearances.

Keith plans to appoint an advisory group to develop and explore:

1. The effectiveness of the Executive Board. There is a need to make it a more continuous, permanent, policy-making board.
2. Strengthening the role of the Executive Secretary.
3. Changes in committees--the Legislative and Intellectual Freedom Committees need to be strong, more permanent and more continuous; eliminating the Membership Committee and focusing on the WLA membership as a whole to take its place; and the appointment of an ad hoc Fundraising Development/Endowment Committee to work with him.

Other topics discussed included the appointment of current committee members and a new parliamentarian, the search for someone to maintain the WLA web page, and planning an electronic distribution list of the Executive Board.

Increasing membership will be a high priority, possibly creating an incentive for all members to participate in these efforts. Jerry Krois reported that there are currently 675 employed in public and academic libraries and 110 in public library board members in the state. With the inclusion of the school and special libraries (# unaccounted for) there is a close to a total 1000 possible WLA members. At present, the membership of WLA is 450. Discussion included the need to appeal to the need for professional development and also for leadership development to help the Executive Board members know what their roles are.

### MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

*ALA Councilor--Jerry Krois*

Jerry explained the role of the councilor and connection between WLA and ALA. The ALA document "Libraries, an American Value," which was endorsed at the WLA conference with Ann Symons present, will be voted on by the Council at the midwinter meeting. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Office of Intellectual Freedom and the related Freedom to Read Foundation will also be celebrated at the midwinter meeting. Charles Levendosky of the Casper Star-Tribune and Deb Proctor of the Campbell County High School have been nominated for the Honor Roll of Intellectual Freedom. Keith received a letter from Mr. Levendosky thanking WLA for this recognition.

A discussion of ALA's effectiveness and relationship to WLA followed.

*MPLA--Brian Greene*

Brian explained the role of the MPLA representative. He reminded the Board that the next MPLA conference will be in Big Sky, Montana, June 13-16, 1999. There is an effort being made to bring Oprah Winfrey to the conference in place of Ted Turner, who has declined to be keynote speaker. The next MPLA Board meeting will be January 9, 1999 in Denver. Work continues with MPLA's Electronic Communication Committee in exploring ways to raise revenue for the Association through its web site. The Colorado Library Association will meet October 7-9, 1999.

Brian will continue discussion with Wendy Bredehoft, expressing a strong interest on behalf of WLA to explore the possibility of joint conferences with the K-12 Technology in Education group. The Board discussed the importance of pursuing partnerships and coordinating conferences with this group, as well as with other interdisciplinary groups.

*State Library--Jerry Krois*

Lesley Boughton has been named the new Wyoming State Librarian, effective January 1999. The reorganization discussion proposal discussed at conference has returned to status quo, with the State Library remaining under the Department of Administration and Information. Jerry also reported the possibility of another spring retreat for directors. Vickie Hoff thanked Jerry for stepping in once again as acting state librarian. Keith, too, extended formal recognition and great appreciation for the work of Jerry's done.

## **SECTION REPORTS**

Keith reminded the Board that written Section reports are sufficient, as long as no Board action is necessary.

*SSLMP--Jan Segerstrom*

**The SSLMP Section proposes that WLA co-sponsors the Buckaroo Book Award with the Wyoming State Reading Council. Funding arrangements will be decided after the 1999 joint spring meeting, for the SSLMP and Children's/YA Section. Motion passed.**

Jan has received requests from the AASL in regard to the need for a Wyoming representative to attend training workshops for the implementation of the new national standards and guidelines found in the newly revised *Information Power: Building Partnerships for Student Learning*. One conference was held in August, with another planned in Las Vegas next summer. The AASL wants to know what activities are taking place in Wyoming regarding the implementation of these standards and guidelines in the schools and wants to report this in January at the national level. Concerns include:

- Wyoming's game plan--is there one?
- Is anyone in charge of this in the state?
- Should the Department of Education (Judy Catchpole) have contacted us about this or appointed someone to represent the State of Wyoming?
- Why haven't school administrators been made aware of this national implementation?

Jan asked if WLA would be willing to write a statement of support for this to Judy, asking her to recognize the importance of this issue, appoint a chairman or co-chairs and financially support the sending of these people to the workshop in Las Vegas in the summer? The Board recommended

1. Jan respond to AASL, stating that this was a topic of discussion at our meeting and that we are formulating action,
2. Keith, Vickie, Lesley Boughton and possibly Alice Hild Farris and Dorothy Middleton make an appointment with Judy Catchpole and the person in the Department of Education responsible for the standards and guidelines, expressing these concerns. Brian will find out who is in charge of the standards and guidelines.

Future conference speakers have been discussed within the Section. Read Across America, will be celebrated March 2, 1999. Vickie Hoff volunteered to work on publicizing this event and connecting WEA and WLA through the WLA newsletter, children's librarians and other state library web site. Brian will find out who the literacy person in the Department of Education is. This topic will also be added to the agenda for the meeting with Judy Catchpole.

*Children's/YA--No Report*

*Academic & Special--No Report*

*Paraprofessional/Support Staff--Trish Palluck*

The section has been working on by-laws. Since many members of this section are at the low end of pay schedules, there is some concern over the WLA dues structure and the inability of many in this group to afford membership in WLA. To help this section get started, it was suggested that funds could be moved from the disbanded Health Science Section account that diverts back to the general fund. **Motion was made by Trish Palluck to place \$250 in to a new account to be used by the new Paraprofessional/Support Staff Section. Second by Michelle Havenga. Motion passed.**

*Government Information--Written Report submitted.*

*Public/Trustee--Written Report submitted.*

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Legislative Committee*

A written report and proposed budget was received from Kim Capron. Major points of discussion regarding the budget included a proposed compensation increase of \$500/year for Tom Jones and travel expenses to send a representative to National Legislative Day for \$1250. The general consensus of the board concerning these two items is to recognize the value of Tom Jones as a consultant and lobbyist, approving that increase. However, it was felt by the board that WLA should do more grassroots lobbying on a local basis rather than spending that much money to send one person to Washington, D.C., therefore adjusting that line item. **Vickie Hoff made a motion to amend the proposed budget for WLA Legislative Committee, 1999, by changing line 4 to read: In-state Travel for WLA Legislative Committee \$400. Second by Bob Kalabus.** Discussion followed. **Motion was amended to include "conditional upon further budget work later in the meeting." Vickie made motion to approve as amended. Second by Brian Greene. Motion passed.**

The Legislative report continued with a committee motion to put a WYLD CARD sticker on each legislator's library card at the Legislative Reception February 11, 1999. Costs should be minimal to WLA if the WYLD office will fund this project. **The Board support this idea, suggesting these enhancements to the proposal:**

1. **To remind legislator's on the invitations to bring their library card to reception.**
2. **Put stickers (or pins) on an index card explaining the WYLD CAT system.**

3. **WLA wishes to support this idea--seeing it as a partnership, with the state library bearing the costs and WLA in charge of the distribution. Motion passed.**

*Constitution & By-laws--Trish Palluck*

**The Committee recommends the Executive Board approve the By-laws of the newly-created Paraprofessional & Support Staff Section. Motion passed.**

**The Committee recommends that the Executive Board approve the revisions made to the By-laws of the Public Library & Trustee Section. Motion passed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Jackson Conference**--Keith reported that the conference committee failed to distribute an evaluation form for the conference. A form is being prepared and will be distributed with the next newsletter. Laura reported that there is still approximately \$3600 in grand money outstanding from the State Library. With this money, the conference will see a profit of \$14866. Keith stated that there still needs to be something done about how conference is planned, as they ran into several problems doing it through the Continuing Education/Conference Planning Committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Cheyenne Conference, October 13-16, 1999**--Vickie Hoff distributed program proposal forms and asked for and received board support for the theme "**America's Libraries: Embracing the Future, Preserving the Past.**" Dorothy Middleton is the Exhibits Chair. The high-tech industries in the Colorado area should be notified of the conference as possible exhibitors and program sponsors. Lucie Osborn will be the Local Arrangements Chair. Keith emphasized the importance of promptness, timeliness, and input of ideas to make planning easier. **Motion made by Keith Cottam to maintain the same registration and exhibitor's fee schedule as the 1998 Jackson conference. Second by Michelle Havenga. Motion passed.**

## **FINANCIAL**

Laura Grott's annual compensation and value to WLA was discussed. **Motion was made by Vickie Hoff to increase the Executive Secretary's salary by \$600.00 per year, effective with the 1999 budget, to a total of \$8700.00 per year. Second by Michelle Havenga. Motion passed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Electronic Communications Committee** - Brian Greene reported there are three areas that need to be acted on by this committee.

1. The most critical being the need to bring the WLA web site up-to-date, obtaining a webmaster and a location for a server. Laura will advertise in the newsletter, hoping to find a professional volunteer within the association willing to create and maintain the web site.
2. The facilitation of a rapid and efficient means of electronic communication between WLA membership in general, the Executive Board and other groups in Wyoming Library Community.
3. The use of conferencing software and email group meetings over the internet.

Recommendations for committee members include Laura Grott, Newsletter editor; Trish Palluck, WYLD office representative; Larry Jensen, UW representative; Mary Jane Jordan, WYLD Publications Committee representative; and Brian Greene, liaison to MPLA Electronic Communications Committee.

## **FINANCIAL**

Laura Grott reviewed the 1998 financial statement and balance sheet. There is approximately \$1400.00 unused WSL

grant money remaining from the conference. Sections should send requests for these funds to Jerry Krois at the State Library.

**1999 Budget** - The proposed budget was discussed. To generate income and offset printing costs, Laura Grott will look into selling ads to businesses to be placed in the directory. **Vickie Hoff made a motion to approve the 1999 budget. Second by Michelle Havenga. Motion passed.**

Discussion relating to further budgets included foreseeing the need to evaluate the ALA Councilor's budget and the possibility that the Board stipulate how much of the councilor's expenses WLA will be responsible for. This should be done before the Nominating Committee starts looking for candidates to fill this office. Jerry Krois's term will expire in 1999. This issue will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

## **CLOSING ITEMS**

**Michelle Havenga made a motion that the Wyoming Library Association officially acknowledges and thank Jerry Krois for his years and service to the association and to the librarians of Wyoming. We also thank Jerry for his willingness to serve as acting State Librarian when needed. His attention to detail, sensitivity to issues and proactive abilities have served the Wyoming library community well. Second by Vickie Hoff. Motion passed.**

**Brian Greene made the following motion. Since 1975, Keith Cottam worked to free Vo Thi Van, a Vietnamese refugee and librarian. Be it moved that today, December 4, 1998, the WLA Executive Board commends and congratulates Keith for his perseverance in Vo Thi Van realize true human freedom. Motion moved by acclamation.**

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held Friday, April 30, 1999 at the Natrona County Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Jones  
Recording Secretary

