

**WYOMING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Executive Board Meeting
September 29, 2010, 8-10 p.m.
Parkway Plaza
Casper, WY**

President Jamie Markus called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

- Quorum was declared
- Agenda was approved
- Minutes from Feb. 25, 2010 were approved as written

Present: Jamie Markus, WLA President; Debbie McCarthy, MPLA representative; Carey Hartmann, Legislative Committee chair; Trish Palluck, Paraprofessional Section chair; Lesley Boughton, State Librarian; Patty Myers, ALA representative/Intellectual Freedom advisor; Laura Grott, WLA executive secretary; Betsy Moore, Public Libraries/Trustee Section Chair; Janet Tharp, Children/Young Adult Section Chair; Susan Mark, Recording Secretary; and Tracy Kinnaman, CYA Section Chair-Elect.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jamie Markus

Membership numbers dropped, but revenue is meeting expenditures, even after legislative reserve

Three things WLA was able to do this year to help school librarians:

1. Working with the Wyoming Dept. of Education (WDE) to have a school librarian representative on the language arts standards committee. Lori Clark-Erickson will be the representative.
2. WDE is looking at how to evaluate certified school librarians. WLA sent a letter requesting a librarian presence. Five school librarians from across the state, including the Natrona County district coordinator, will be in on this effort.
3. A new federal literacy grant through ARRA, Striving Readers, is worth upward of \$250 million. A statewide committee has been formed to create a plan to apply for funds from this pool. Darcy Acord, a certified school librarian working in a public library will be on that committee. The goal of Striving Readers is to help preschoolers, which public librarians work with most often.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Laura Grott

The balance sheet shows all section funds so that sections can see how much money they have to distribute under the new proposed bylaws.

WLA has not had to dip into its CACQ reserves at WSL for some time.

2010 conference is projected to make \$20,000 to \$21,000. Membership is down, and the conference is down maybe 2 vendors. The members approved higher dues, but there was some discussion as to whether the higher dues will affect whether members actually renew. The higher dues do not affect anyone making less than \$15,000. The organization has gone paperless, except for ballots. Grott recommended that WLA return to mailing for dues reminders for better renewal rates. If WLA is only

mailing ballots, it may be more cost-effective to get rid of the mail permit.

REPORTS

MPLA - Debbie McCarthy

Three people from Wyoming attended the MPLA leadership institute. The Institute will be held again in two years.

Paraprofessional Section – Trish Palluck

Posted to WLA website.

Public/Trustees Section - Betsy Moore

Trustees appreciated the advocacy training held in conjunction with the Legislative Reception.

Children's/Young Adult Section - Janet Tharp

Two people attended the Collaborative Summer Reading Program meeting. One was paid for by CSRP. A \$300 grant was awarded to Elizabeth Gaines, Hulett Branch Library, to attend the 2010 WLA conference.

OLD BUSINESS

2010 conference – Laura Grott

Conference attendance is down, likely due to the economy; some libraries were unable to support their employees' attendance. Using the Parkway saved money on meeting rooms and provided more room for vendors. Next year, agendas will just have a list of everything in alphabetical order and not be printed in advance because of last-minute changes.

2011 conference -

2011 conference will be held in Cheyenne at Little America on Sept. 29-30. The contract has been signed, and technology is included in it. Conference chair Katie Lynn has resigned after leaving her library position and entering graduate school. Kristin Herr has volunteered to be chair. Katie Bray was on this year's committee and works for Kristin, so the two will work together.

2010 programming had its ups and downs this year, but is expected to be better next year. Some proposals are already in hand for 2011.

If the bylaws pass, program planning will be handled by the 7 interest groups with the most members rather than by sections, which will be dissolved. The State Library will have a library development/continuing education person on the program planning committee, per the new bylaws.

Bylaws changes

The proposed bylaws will be voted on at the membership business meeting on Sept. 30, and President-Elect Sue Knesel is committed to carrying the changes through. If the new bylaws don't pass,

the board will keep looking for ways to make WLA work more effectively. If the bylaws pass, sections can decide how to distribute their funds at their meetings Friday morning. Sections can give their money to a specific interest group, to a reserve account (restricted or unrestricted) or to another fund such as the Wyoming Library Leadership Institute. If sections do not decide Friday, the board is willing to wait until the end of the year. If funds are put into reserve accounts, the President, Vice-President and Past President can disburse them as needed without calling a full board meeting.

WLA has proposals from four interest groups, and there will be an interest groups meeting Friday. Feedback is that members are excited about trying this new structure.

WLA will officially no longer have the committees that were effectively dissolved and replaced with advisors. Will officially no longer have those committees that were pseudo-dissolved, replaced with advisors. Some standing committees remain -- eg . legislative.

The new bylaws changes will allow the board to make editorial corrections to the bylaws without a membership vote.

2010 conference - Richard Landreth

New conference committee structure worked well; conference came together well. Feedback on author speed dating and having a full meal Friday evening was good.

Library Leadership – 23 baskets were donated for the raffle. Likely that money will be donated from sections when they choose how to distribute funds. Daphne Platts asked that any retirement gift collected from other directors go to WLLI. Seven directorships are open, and it would be good to see WLLI grads move into them. The goal is to have a viable session for new attendees in 2011, although participants and/or their libraries may have to pay for some travel.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 conference

Location needed for 2012 conference. WLA was cycling between Casper and Cheyenne as two most workable locations. Laramie viable as an alternative. There are many factors in site selection. Jamie asked Laura to pencil WLA in for 2012 at the Parkway in Casper. Can also look at Gillette. Sheridan is difficult because there is no secure vendor space, and in Jackson vendors have to be in the pavilion in a separate building from the conference hotel. Wyoming needs to invite MPLA to hold its joint conference in 2015 or 2016; Cheyenne may be a good location because of proximity to Denver airport. Laura will look at costs for Gillette and Casper – possibly have Parkway and Cam-Plex bid – and make final recommendation at next board meeting. Only adequate conference space in Cheyenne is at Little America, so just have to plan for higher expenses there.

Legislative Committee strategic plan - Carey Hartmann-

In the last few years the committee has been focused on advocating for database, one-time collection and endowment funding. Now that those are completed, the committee is looking forward and has developed a strategic plan. The committee plans to focus on educating candidates, teaching advocacy, promoting post-election parties in libraries in every community for newly elected officials; identifying affinity groups for collaboration; research library districting to see if it's worth pursuing; protecting current library funding; continuing to look at the endowment; leadership development and working on behalf of school libraries. Sue Knesel made a motion to approve the committee's strategic plan. Betsy Moore seconded. Motion carried.

Membership dues

Dues year runs January to December, which means those who join at conference pay the full year and only get three months membership. People might like a dues year that coincides with conference instead. This would require a bylaws change.

WLA is now sending new members a welcome email when they join.

Suggestion to mail dues statements to those who do not respond to emails. Jamie Markus and Sue Knesel will work on this with Laura Grott.

Discussion of dues increase to be taken off the business meeting agenda. Consensus was that the dues increase should be retained.

WDE librarian evaluation committee

Five school librarians will attend the Dept. of Education's October meeting in Casper on evaluation of school librarians. Carey Hartmann made a motion to pay one night's lodging for the four out-of-town participants if their district does not provide it. Janet Tharp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive session – Executive Secretary evaluation

Board entered executive session to discuss the evaluation of the Executive Secretary. Patty Myers made the motion to enter executive session; Carey Hartmann seconded.

The meeting was adjourned.