

To: WLA Executive Board
From: Laura Miller, SLIG Chair
RE: Yearly Report

Being Leader of the School Library Interest Group (SLIG) this last year has been rewarding in terms of learning new practices and meeting new people. SLIG started the year off with a team of three leaders and I am what is left standing. Our SLIG Co-Leader and Secretary both moved out of state to pursue new job opportunities in the spring. Sally Hoover graciously stepped up to the plate to help Co-Lead until the new SLIG Leadership Team is decided at WLA/MPLA 2015.

SLIG may be low in numbers, but we are a strong group of certified school librarians and dedicated paraprofessionals. We were busy this last year with the following activities:

1. Jen Lucas and Lori Clark-Erickson spent time traveling and attending AASL meetings where they learned a wealth of information about advocacy as well as networking with others at a national level in hopes of advocating for strong school libraries around Wyoming. Lori and Jen both attended ALA Midwinter and Jen attended ALA Annual Conference. Currently, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, that supports effective school library programs is being discussed at the national level. ALA, in an effort to flag support by everyone, has an automated form to send an email, tweet, and/or call our US Congressmen and women to reauthorize ESEA with school library provisions that were unanimously adopted by the Senate Education Committee under S. 1177, the *Every Child Achieves Act*. I want to thank Lori Phillips, Cary Hartman, Rebecca Lehman and WLA for supporting Wyoming School Librarians. Wyoming School Libraries are funded through the block grant program, which is half the battle. However, these funded monies need to be kept and used in our Wyoming School Libraries for library programs and certified school librarians. It is a positive step forward to see Jen Lucas serving as the Wyoming Learning 4 Life Coordinator and member of the AASL Standards and Guidelines Implementation Committee at the national level.

2. The first week of August, SLIG hosted Information Power 2015 themed *Your Library: The Heart of the School* in Casper, Wyoming. There were 12 attendees including public librarians, school librarians and paraprofessionals. Programs featured puppets across all grade level curriculums with Rocky Mountain Puppets from Colorado. Our one and only Wyoming professional storyteller Michelle King presented on brain studies associated with storytelling. Featured speaker, David Loertscher helped participants refocus their libraries into a Learning Commons being at the center of all teaching with the addition of Maker Spaces. Information Power ended with a tech sharing session, book talks from Great Northern Books and a business meeting. Although SLIG took a loss financially with low numbers, those attending took away a wealth of information. Mark your calendars for Information

Power 2016 on August 1st-3rd in Casper at the UW Outreach Building. UW Credit or PTSB Credit will be offered.

3. The Wyoming Professional School Library Grant is active on MemberClicks awaiting a Wyoming School Librarian to fill out an application. The deadline for applications is May 2016. The grant offers SLIG Librarians a financial opportunity to attend conferences.

4. Patty Kearnes from Campbell County School District attend the *Wyoming Library Leadership Institute*. SLIG published three newsletters. A welcome letter was sent to the new Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow. SLIG members submitted programs for WLA/ MPLA 2015. The book award committees are in full swing with Richard Landreth as the new leader. Our Legislative Committee members Megan Dingman and Maggie Unterseher are ready and geared up for politics and our AASL Affiliates Lori Clark-Erickson, Jen Lucas and Sally Hoover are excited to travel, play, learn and share.

5. SLIG ends its financial year with \$6,779.29 in operating funds and \$7,307.04 in the Professional Grant Fund. Dues are set at \$10.

6. Wyoming School Librarians can also receive UW Credit for attending WLA/MPLA or PTSB Credit. See Kathy Bjornestad for paperwork and payment.

Respectfully submitted by,

Laura Miller, Leader
School Library Interest Group
Wyoming Library Association