



WYOMING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION



Youth Services Interest Group Spring Meeting Johnson County Library • Buffalo, WY May 5 & May 6, 2022

Agenda

8:00 **Registration; light breakfast items**

8:30 **Welcome to Johnson County Library by
Library Director Steve Rzasa and WLA President Conrado**

Saldivar

8:45 **Round Table Discussion: Intellectual Freedom and Book Challenges**
with **Conrado Saldivar, Jennisen Lucas (*Librarian*), and Darcy Acord**
(CCPL Librarian)

The Following questions were asked:

Question 1: Briefly tell us about the intellectual freedom concerns you've witnessed in your library system, or in libraries with which you are familiar. Summarize what has happened and where the situation stands currently

Question 2: Challenges to books is not new; what about this recent round of challenges, or the books being questioned, stands out to you?

Question 3: What should library staff do to prepare to handle challenges, should they occur?

Question 4: What is WLA doing to support libraries? What can members do?

Responses:

Conrado: He shared about Laramie H.S. "Opt-out" program which allows parents to access their student's account and created lists of what they will allow and disallow their student to read. Handouts have gone out to parents to teach them how to access their school library platform. Library directors

throughout the state have discussed the importance of having updated Collection Development policies in place.

Jennisen: In general, people are not understanding the process of challenging a book. Most challenges are not coming from parents, but rather through organized groups. School librarians are under attack, even with good collection development policies in place. Educating parents is important. She mentioned the “Great Dismantling” of education since the pandemic as parents heard and saw what their children were learning online and have since moved to segregate their children from that which they deem undesirable. It was also mentioned that the term “children” is being used in a very specific way by these groups. They are asking that books be moved to the adult section of the library to limit discoverability and access.

Darcy: Having a good collection development policy in place helps eliminate issues for people who may not understand how the library works. The tactics being used by certain groups have been aimed at hurting and drawing out an emotional response. Educating and talking to library supporters are steps we can take. Know and be informed about Intellectual Freedom issues, 1st Amendment Rights, and reader’s rights.

10:00 Short break

10:15 Interest Business Meeting

Financial status= \$1437.31 as of May 6. In the past, YSIG has paid for summer reading manuals a \$20 manual or \$10 USB. It was decided to discuss fees, and who (YSIG or individual libraries) will pay for what at our upcoming fall meeting.

Scholarship= \$150-each. 1 scholarship for WLA conference and 1 scholarship for spring meeting.

Award Books = Contact Melissa Schnider in Teton County School District to learn about being a member on one of the award committees. Buckaroo Book Award (Grades K-3), Indian Paintbrush Book Award (grades 4-6), and Soaring Eagle Book Award (Grades 7-12). Suggest possible Bylaw changes brought to WLA, for committees, depending on Wyoming Literacy Council membership requirements?

Communication = Determine at fall meeting if we will create a WLA Youth Services email list. Definite interest was expressed in favor of this. Continue using Facebook as platform for communication and Becky showed us how to access the interest group on WLA page. Michelle Humber created a Google Doc to share summer Reading performers and ideas.

CSLP meeting report= Slogan for 2023: All Together Now; Todos Juntos Ahora – Kindness/ Friendship/ Unity. Illustrator: Frank Morrison

CSLP conference is August 29-September 1 in Detroit, Michigan. Becky will be paid for through CSLP funds.

Upcoming fall conference – September= Brainstorm authors that can be brought to this coming fall conference. Email committee members and/or Conrado Saldivar or Darcy Acord with suggestions.

Leadership: Beth Cook is the incoming YSIG leader in September at fall conference. Is there interest for others to step into this role after Beth as president-elect in 2023-2024?

- 11:30** **Lunch on your own**
- 12:45** **Tour Johnson County Library and downtown Buffalo
group walking/collaborating tour-*weather permitting***
- 1:45** **Chris Van Burgh (*Database Instruction Librarian*)- **Database Overview****
- 2:30** **Janet Tharp (*retired librarian/Storyteller*) - **Storytelling Session****
- 4:00** **Closing**