

# WYOMING

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

February 2010 • [www.wyla.org](http://www.wyla.org)

## New location for Legislative Reception

- Block of rooms still set aside at Plains Hotel

The 2010 Legislative Reception will take place 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., Feb. 25, at the Wyoming State Library, 2800 Central Ave., in Cheyenne.

The Wyoming Library Association Lobbyist Marian Schulz will hold a briefing prior to the reception at 5 p.m. also at the

State Library.

Co-chairs Paul Heimer and Dail Barbour are looking for volunteers to bring homemade finger food, hors d'oeuvres and desserts. If people are unable to bring these items, they can make a monetary contribution. Each volunteer is encouraged to bring an extension cord and/or power strip labeled with his or her name if the dish must be kept warm. The drop off will start at 4 p.m., Feb. 25 at the State Library.

Please contact Heimer at [pheimer@will.state.wy.us](mailto:pheimer@will.state.wy.us) for more information or if you wish to volunteer.

Even though the reception is being held at the State Library, there are still a block of rooms reserved at the Plains Hotel. The WLA rate is \$70 for a single, \$80 for a double. The code for the reduced rate is 144344. Members will need this code when they make their reservation. Contact the Plains Hotel at 866-275-2467 or 307-638-3311.



WSL Digital Initiatives Librarian Erin Kinney and Carbon County Library Director Kristin Herr pose for a photo during the 2009 Legislative Reception. This year's reception changes from the Plains Hotel to the Wyoming State Library.

## Trustee training workshop planned for Feb. 25

A workshop will be available for Trustees from 2 to

4:45 p.m., Feb. 25, in the Cottonwood Room of the Laramie County Library.

The workshop will feature Sue Hall, coordinator for Library Strategies. Library Strategies is a consulting group for the Saint Paul Public Library. They are nationally recognized for their advocacy and fundraising efforts in support of the library. Hall is a national speaker on raising public/private funds, conduct-



ing capital campaigns, special events and building fundraising boards.

### Trustees Workshop

*Library Trustees Make a Difference – Good Trustees Make a Huge Difference!*

A well-prepared library trustee is one of the best advocates in the world. In this session, trustees will learn practical skills for representing their libraries to the community and local decision-makers.

Where does the role of the library Trustee begin and end?

How does a library Trustee represent the library to the community... and the community to the Library?

How does a library Trustee build strong relationships with elected and appointed officials?

What is the difference between advocating and lobbying?

How do public funding and private fundraising work together in support of the library – and where do Trustees fit into both arenas?

What are key messages to take to your decision-makers about the Library?

How does your library advocacy program stack up against best practices?

This session will provide training, hands-on exercises and time to address specific questions.

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## WLA Executive Board Members

- ▼ Jamie Markus, President
- ▼ Sue Knesel, Vice President
- ▼ Cynthia Twing, Past President
- ▼ Patty Myers, ALA Representative
- ▼ Deborah "Debbie" McCarthy, MPLA Representative
- ▼ Susan Mark, Recording Secretary
- ▼ Mary Ann Harlow, Academic and Special Library Section Chair
- ▼ Janet Tharp, Children/Young Adult Section Chair
- ▼ Trish Palluck, Paraprofessional Section Chair
- ▼ Betsy Moore, Public Libraries/Trustee Section Chair
- ▼ Barb Osborne, School Library Media Personnel Section Chair
- ▼ Laura Grott, Executive Secretary, Ex-Officio
- ▼ Lesley Rowbal, Communications Committee Chair, Ex-Officio
- ▼ Richard Landreth, Conference Committee, Ex-Officio
- ▼ Carey Hartmann, Chair, Legislative Committee Chair, Ex-Officio
- ▼ Lesley Boughton, State Librarian, Ex-Officio

# WLA moves full steam ahead



Wyoming Library Association President  
Jamie Markus

The past few months have been a blur of activity. When I was asked to run for President Elect two years ago, I had no idea the amount of work and juggling that would be involved in running the Association or the amount of pleasure I would receive through the work.

WLA is on the right track. Last year our original budget called for about \$30,000 in deficit spending. After a hugely successful conference and some major cuts, we only posted a loss of \$6,000. This year, after a little more reorganizing, we look to have a surplus of \$1,500 (that is, if you all come to Casper this fall!). The Executive Board is looking forward to a future in which we can meet all of our obligations and fully fund

the Wyoming Library Leadership Institute.

The Crossroads Taskforce continues to meet twice a month and plans to hold a meeting at the Legislative Reception. We have almost finished evaluating the current structure and goals of the Association and are now starting to put the pieces back together in a way that makes sense. Last December I dissolved eight WLA committees and handed most of their tasks over to a handful of Advisors. These Advisors are monitoring their assigned areas and will call for volunteers from the membership as tasks demand. Not only will this allow members to serve on ad hoc committees when they have the time and the desire, but it also keeps 30 members from feeling ineffectual because they volunteered to sit on committees that rarely meet.

The Taskforce has just started creating the Interest Group framework that we hope will be passed by the membership this fall. Our hope is that by allowing any five members to start a group that speaks to

their interests, we will create more meaningful connections between colleagues and will provide a way for true continuing education and networking to take place. Gone will be the days of joining a Section just because you work at a certain type of library. Why not join (or start) an Interest Group that makes sense to you? Perhaps a reference, technical services, or older adult outreach Interest Group that contains members from all types of libraries will be created. The possibilities are endless.

Gone also will be the days of Robert's Rules of Order and long Section business meetings where the process sometimes impedes progress. We will move to short business meetings with a simple majority rule that can be conducted online, via email, or in person before/during/or after a conference. This means less time will be spent on administration and more time will be spent sharing, learning, and networking.

We fully expect the Children and Young Adults and School

Sections to continue as Interest Groups as we move forward. I know that there is some worry about what will happen to section funds when/if we move to Interest Groups. Rest assured that the Executive Board does not want to take your money. Sections will be asked to designate where they want their funds to be directed. Some Sections might, for example, give their money to a new Interest Group with the same name (School, CYA), to a brand new Interested Group (i.e. reference, technical services), or to a general fund that all Interest Groups can draw from for programming. This decision will be left up to each Section.

More information on the Interest Groups and other Crossroads Taskforce suggestions will be available later this spring. All members will have the opportunity to see what we are suggesting and to comment. Nothing will be enacted until the membership votes in Casper.

As always, feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns.

Submit your program proposals for the 2010 WLA Conference  
at <http://wyla.org/confcommittee/form/form.php>

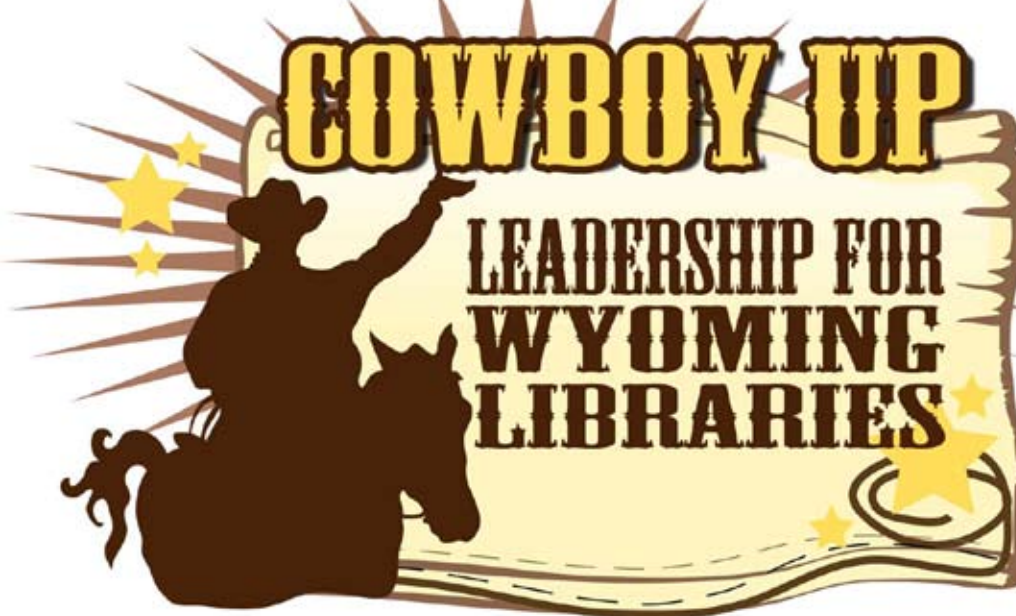
WLA AWARDS**Not too early to nominate colleagues**

It is never too early to start thinking of colleagues to nominate for a WLA award. Librarian of the Year, Distinguished Service, Trustee Citation, Milstead Award... Who do you think deserves to be recognized this year?: <http://wyla.org/awards/index.php>

Are you looking for money to take a class to enhance your library skills? Don't forget to apply for a Nora Van Burgh Development Grant: <http://www.wyla.org/awards/nvbgrant.php>

Your WLA Awards Committee members are working to streamline the awards and grants process while not dismissing the significance of recognition. If you have any ideas on how to make the awards and award ceremony more meaningful, please contact us:

- Tina Lackey  
[tlacke@state.wy.us](mailto:tlacke@state.wy.us)
- Sally Mack  
[smack@plt2.k12.wy.us](mailto:smack@plt2.k12.wy.us)
- Laura Jackson  
[luglean@uwyo.edu](mailto:luglean@uwyo.edu)
- Anita Weisheit  
[aweisheit@will.state.wy.us](mailto:aweisheit@will.state.wy.us)
- Lucie Osborn, Chair  
[losborn@lclsonline.org](mailto:losborn@lclsonline.org)

**2010 WLA Conference**

Buckle on the spurs, slap on the hat and saddle up the horse in preparation of the 2010 WLA Conference in Casper themed "Cowboy Up: Leadership for Wyoming Libraries."

The Parkway Plaza will corral the events from Sept. 29-Oct. 2. Yee Ha!

Sue Knesel and her 'gang' are now accepting applications. Be a leader in the library community and go to

<http://wyla.org/confcommittee/form/form.php> and submit your program ideas. Program proposals are due March 1.

**LSSC program accepting candidates**

On January 25, 2010, ALA-APA started accepting applications from potential candidates interested in achieving the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC). The LSSC Program is the first national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. This new certification program will help library support staff achieve recognition for current and new skills and abilities, and increase access to continuing education opportunities.

ALA-APA will award the LSSC to candidates who demonstrate achievement in six sets of competencies by completing approved courses or submitting portfolios that demonstrate

their achievement. Candidates have four years from acceptance to complete the program.

The LSSC Program is open to any library support staff person with a high-school diploma or its equivalent and the equivalent of at least one year of full-time experience in a library with the last five years. Applicants do not have to be a member of ALA. The application fee is \$325 for ALA members and \$350 for non-ALA members.

Later this spring, the Paraprofessional/Support Staff



Section and the Wyoming State Library will broadcast a webinar explaining the process for earning certification. Wyoming library staff members who completed the Get on the Bus: Join the Online Social Library Community or complete the Get on the Bus: Rev up your Reference Skills workshops should be able to use those experiences as part of their portfolio. The GOTB: Rev up your Reference Skills workshops begin March 1.

More information about the LSSCP is available online at <http://www.ala-apa.org/lssc>. Direct questions to [lssc@ala.org](mailto:lssc@ala.org) or call 312-280-2424.

Pay membership dues online at [https://wyla.org/secure/membership\\_form\\_2010.html](https://wyla.org/secure/membership_form_2010.html)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Family Literacy Focus

The American Library Association (ALA) and ALA President Dr. Camila Alire are launching the Family Literacy Focus, an initiative to encourage families in ethnically diverse communities to read and learn together. The five sections devoted to cultural differences have been awarded \$3,000 each to explore innovative literacy activities that emphasize oral and written traditions as well as new literacies. Family Literacy Focus activities include family reading nights, intergenerational storytelling and take-home literacy activities.

## Wyoming Book Awards

It's almost time to vote for the Wyoming Book Awards. The voting results from libraries and classrooms must be sent to the committees by March 15. Information about the three awards—Buckaroo, Indian Paintbrush, and Soar-

ing Eagle—can be found at the WLA web site at <http://www.wyla.org/>.

All of the book award information, as well as the voting and nomination process, is now online. There is also contact information for each award committee, if the online process does not work for some reason or if questions arise.

## Seeking WLA nominations

The WLA Nominations & Elections Advisor invites you to send the names of nominees (or feel free to volunteer yourself) for the following positions:

- \* Recording Secretary
- \* Vice-President/President-Elect

The Recording Secretary serves on the Executive Board for one year.

The Vice President/President-Elect serves on the Executive Board, as Vice President, President, and then Past-President.

The Vice President also serves on the Conference Program Committee, but does not chair it, per the recent bylaws change. The

2011 conference will be in Cheyenne.

To learn more about the requirements for each position, see the WLA By-Laws <http://wyla.org/about/docs/By-laws2009.pdf> or feel free to contact the Nominations & Elections Advisor, Erin Kinney at 307-777-6332.

Please consider running for office. WLA is a volunteer organization, and we cannot do it without you.

## Patriot Act update

WLA is one of 47 library associations which passed resolutions on the 2009 Reauthorization of the USA Patriot Act. State chapters reinforced the ALA Resolution requesting limit of authority for “fishing expeditions” in library records, limits on the gag orders, increases oversight on the use of the Patriot Act, and requests Wyoming library advocates to continue to protect civil liberties.

**Next Executive Board Meeting will be at 9 a.m., Feb. 25 at the Wyoming State Library**

# Legislative committee prepares for session

**By Carey Hartmann**

*Legislative Committee*

Happy New Year!

Your Legislative Committee for 2009-2010 has some old faces and new appointments: Carey Hartmann, Chair; Dail Barbour, Dale Collum, Maggie Farrell, Paul Heimer, Bill Nelson, Karen Lange, Jan Segerstrom, Scott Kinney, Scott Barber, Lisa Printz, Jamie Markus, WLA President, Ex-Officio, Marian Schulz, Lobbyist, Ex-Officio, Lesley Boughton, State Librarian, Ex-Officio. Please feel free to contact any of us with questions or concerns.

Marian Schulz did an outstanding job for us last year. You can view her final report online at <http://wyla.org/legislative/updates.php> dated March 6, 2009. Schulz has renewed her contract with the Wyoming Library Association and is on top of issues and concerns. She is keeping us

posted on committee work and information she has gathered from lobbyists for other entities.

## Current Issues

The actions of the Campbell County Commissioners, although not currently a legislative issue, are being monitored. The Campbell County Commissioners have asked for an opinion from the Wyoming State Attorney General. At the suggestion of the Joint Appropriation Committee, State Librarian Lesley Boughton has been asked to contact the Wyoming State Attorney General regarding this opinion. We will keep members posted as information is obtained.

The Governor has included \$3 million for additional endowment funds in his proposed budget. WLA has several library advocates on the Joint Appropriations Committee. We know they will weigh our interests with the demands they are seeing in this difficult budget

year. Directors or Foundation Directors are encouraged to contact their legislators prior to the session. A sample letter was e-mailed Jan. 13.

Now that the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act 17-7-301 (Session laws 2009, chapter 185) is law, the committee is investigating how it impacts expenditure of the interest on endowment funds.

If you would like to read the bill you can access it at

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/billif.htm> or go to

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2009/Engross/HB0118.pdf> to see the session law in PDF format.

The committee will be consulting with a few people who are experts in management of public funds to ensure we understand the intention of wording relating to 17-7-304 d.

As the session nears watch for e-mail and make sure to visit to review minutes and updates from our lobbyist.