

WYOMING

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Wyoming Library Association President Sukey Hohl

“It is often said that the State of Wyoming is just one big town where the neighborhoods are really far apart. Nothing can illustrate this maxim better than WLA’s Legislative Reception. This great tradition where we come to Cheyenne and meet with our home legislators in the capital and provide them yummy homemade food strengthens connections and brings the importance of libraries to the forefront. The great support we receive from the Wyoming State Legislature only proves that this strategy works. Please join us on Thursday, February 23rd to continue the tradition.”



Reception set for upcoming session

By Tina Lyles

Wyoming State Library Publications & Marketing Manager

The Annual Wyoming Library Association’s legislative reception is scheduled this year for Feb. 23, 2012 at the Wyoming State Library in Cheyenne (2800 Central Avenue). The reception is from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and is preceded at 5 p.m. by an update from the WLA lobbyist, Marian Schulz on pending legislation and other relevant information on this session.

Started in 1986, the WLA reception has become a fixture on the calendars of most legislators. It is chance for them to get a decent, home-cooked meal while they are in Cheyenne, and to say hello to old friends and their hometown constituents. Additionally, in the past, Wyoming’s governors and other elected officials have also attended the reception.

In addition to your attendance, we would like for you to bring your most prized potluck dish. We need all types of dishes, including appetizers, veggie dishes, meat dishes, desserts, and whatever else you think can woo the heart and satisfy the stomach of a legislator. And, if you don’t want to cook, we also need cash donations to help pay for the other costs associated with putting on this event.

Checks can be sent ahead of time to the Wyoming Library Association at P.O. Box 1387, Cheyenne, WY 82003. Please email Tina Lyles at tina.lyles@wyo.gov to let her know what dish you are bringing, and if you need an outlet or if you can help on the day of the reception with set-up, food carry-in, clean up, or staffing the registration desk.

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Legislative Committee Update 2012

By **Carey Hartmann**
Legislative Committee Chair

The Legislative Committee looks forward to seeing all of you in Cheyenne for the Legislative Reception on Thursday, February 23, 2012. During the reception, please continue to thank our legislators and any elected officials that are in attendance for their on-going support of all types of libraries. Since this is a short session with some very critical issues for legislators, in particular the biennium budget and re-districting, our legislators will have very little free time. It's important that you contact your local delegation BEFORE they head to Cheyenne to personally invite them to this reception. Knowing you or others from your community will be in attendance will help them prioritize their valuable time.

If you are interested, the WLA website has agendas and minutes of our most recent meetings as well as the Legislative Committee's strategic plan. Go to <http://wyla.org/legislative/index.php>. Also, Marian Schulz, WLA Lobbyist, will be providing weekly reports during the session. Although these are not posted on the website to ensure her inside information is not made general knowledge, I will be emailing them to all@wyla.org. Look for them to keep you apprised of issues that arise during the session.

Budget requests made by the University of Wyoming, Community Colleges, and State Library all seem right on track at this point. School libraries will be most directly affected by what happens within the State Department of Education relating to the adoption of the "common core."

Governor Mead has included another \$3 million toward the public library endowment! Some libraries have been able to raise funds each time dollars have been added to this important project, but some are struggling. The legislation has an end date of June 30, 2014. It will most likely be the intent of the WLA Executive Board to seek an extension of that date during the 2013 legislative session.

The recommendation of the Legislative Committee is that in 2012 WLA makes a concerted effort to assist, in some manner, those libraries that have experienced hurdles in achieving their goals. If nothing else, we all may need some cheerleading and support to renew our efforts in raising these funds locally. Prior to asking for an extension, we would like some visible activity to show that our efforts have not lagged. So, expect more information on this as the year progresses. The Legislative Committee is in the process of making a study of successful library districting laws in other states,



Former Albany County Foundation Director, Paul Heimer visits with Gov. Matt Mead and the governor's son, Pete Mead at the 2011 WLA Legislative Reception.

in particular those western states that are seeing success. We also want to look at current taxing districts within Wyoming, the laws that created or enabled their creation and which was the last district to successfully be created. We will continue to monitor the legislature's reaction to the establishment of tax districts. Although we are very aware that the majority of legislators are not in favor of any new taxes, we want to be ready if there is ever a shift in that climate.

The last issue that the Legislative Committee is following is developments relating to possible bills that may ban guns in either all city and county buildings or specific legislation that may try to ban guns in libraries specifically. At some point, the public library directors may need to weigh in on these issues by letting the WLA Executive Committee know if they would support a resolution from the WLA Executive Committee for or against any of these specific bills. We will ask you for this when it is needed. We look forward to seeing you in Cheyenne!

Submit your program proposals for the 2012 WLA Conference at
<https://survey.uwo.edu/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=m6KL86m2I>

WLA Executive Board Members

- Sukey Hohl, President
- Debbie McCarthy, Vice President
- Sue Knesel, Past President
- Patty Myers, ALA Representative
- Steve Boss, MPLA Representative
- Sara Francis, WLA Interest Groups Representative
- Mary Rhodes and Ara Anderson Leadership Coordinators
- Laura Grott, Executive Secretary, Ex-Officio
- Brittany Wells, Communications Advisor, Ex-Officio
- Erin Kinney, Conference Committee Chair, Ex-Officio
- Carey Hartmann, Legislative Committee Chair, Ex-Officio
- Lesley Boughton, State Librarian, Ex-Officio



Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge Update

As of January 10, Wyoming library foundations are more than halfway to their fundraising goal for the Wyoming Library Endowment Challenge. The State of Wyoming has set aside \$15.1 million to match local endowment fundraising. So far, the 23 libraries have collectively raised \$3.84 million and received \$7.25 million in matching and incentive funds. Details on the endowment – including a running tally of funds raised and matched – are found on the WLA website at www.wyla.org/endowment/.



Manager of Information Technology for the Sweetwater County Library System, David Halter pauses for a picture with Wyoming Representative Joe Barbuto at the 2011 Legislative Reception.

Photo by Janice Grover-Roosa

Interest Group Wikis a Great Way to Share Ideas, Resources

Several of the Wyoming Library Association's interest groups have wikis open to their members. A wiki is a great way to share ideas and resources – by joining a wiki, you are able to update pages on the site yourself with no coding knowledge required. You could brainstorm with other members, share great new online resources you've found or upload files others might find of interest. For example, you might upload training materials you've developed or share your favorite blogs.

Interest groups with wikis include Library Instruction, New Technology in Libraries, Reference, Technical Services and Youth Services. Joining the interest group does not necessarily sign you up to participate in the wiki – be sure and contact your interest group leader for details. A list of all WLA interest groups may be found at www.wyla.org/groups/.

Pay membership dues online. Deadline July 1st
https://wyla.org/secure/membership_form.html

WLA Seeking Nominations for Vice President/President-Elect

The WLA Nominations & Elections Advisor invites you to nominate yourself or someone else for the position of Vice President/President-Elect. Please consider running for office -- WLA is a volunteer organization, and we cannot do it without you.

The Vice President/President-Elect serves on the executive board, as Vice President, President, and then Past-President over three consecutive years. During the Vice Presidential year, this officer will be a member (but not chair) of the Conference Committee, and will chair the Conference Program Planning Subcommittee. The 2012 conference will be held in Casper Sept. 26-29.

To learn more about the requirements for each position, see the WLA By-Laws (http://www.wyla.org/about/docs/2011_Bylaws.pdf) or feel free to contact the Nominations & Elections Advisor, Susan Mark at susan.mark@state.wy.us or 307-777-5915.

Celebrate Our Past, Create Our Future

Wyoming Library Association 2012 Conference

- *Pre-conference September 26*
- *Conference September 27-28*
- *Post-conference September 29*

*Parkway Plaza Hotel & Convention Centre
Casper, Wyoming*

Marcia Wright



Marcia Wright director of Campbell County Public Library 1991-2011, died at her home in Wright, WY on Dec. 22. Wright was the recipient of the WLA Intellectual Freedom award, active in the advent computers in libraries, member of a library hosted Reader's Theatre, and mentor to numerous librarians.

WLA Interest Group Leaders

Leadership Interest Group
Cynthia Twing

Library Instruction Interest Group
Cass Kvenild

New Technology in Libraries Interest Group
Laura Uglean Jackson

Outreach Interest Group
Sara Francis

Quickbooks/Human Resource Interest Group
Karen Hopkins

Reference Interest Group
Susan Mark

Teacher-Librarians Interest Group
Mary Wegher and Ron Chesmore

Technical Services Interest Group
Vacant

Wyoming Book Award Interest Group
Sally Mack

Young Adult Interest Group
Shari Haskins

Youth Services Interest Group
Rita Heath

For more information or questions about the conference contact:
Deborah McCarthy at <mailto:mccarthy@uwyo.edu>