

WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting
April 18, 2007

Annual Conference, Tri-Cities

Reported by Nancy Slote, Secretary

Attending:

Punkey Adams, Walla Walla Rural Library, PNLA Representative
Jonathan Betz-Zall, Highline Community College, ALA Chapter Councilor
Anne Bingham, University Prep Academy, IG Coordinator
Katie Cargill, Eastern Washington University, WALE Chair
Mike Cook, Hanford Technical Library, 2007 Conf. Chair
Kristy Coomes, Conference 2010 Site Selection Chair, Task Force on Organization Chair
Karin Ford, Ft. Vancouver Regional Library, 2008 Conf. Chair
Priscilla Ice, Spokane County Library District, Treasurer
Tim Mallory, Timberland Regional Library, Coordinator for Strategic Planning
Carolynne Myall, Eastern Washington University, President
Martha Parsons, Washington State Univ. Energy Library, VP/President Elect
Mary Ross, Continuing Education Coordinator
Robin Rousu, Washington Talking Book and Braille Library, RIG Chair
Carol Schuyler, Kitsap County Regional Library, WLFFTA Representative
Nancy Slote, Seattle Public Library, Secretary and IFIG Co-Chair
Margaret Thomas, Washington State University, Energy Library, *Alki* Editor
Jan Walsh, Washington State Library, Award Comm. Chair, Federal Relations Co-Coord.
Gail Willis, Association Coordinator
Mary Wise, Central Washington University, *Alki* Committee Chair
Mike Wirt, Spokane County Library District, Legislative Planning Committee Co-chair

President Carolynne Myall called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Introductions

The President introduced new officers at the table: Katie Cargill, in-coming PNLA Representative.

Agenda

The agenda was accepted.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2007 board meeting.
Moved: Nancy Slote
Approved.

Treasurer's Report - Priscilla Ice

Priscilla's full report will be found in the Annual Report, which reviews the financial health of the organization, bookkeeping, taxes and audits, and banking. As of March 27, 2007, total assets are \$46,000 ahead of the same period last year, primarily due to the healthy profit from the 2006 conference (over\$18,000) and returns on investment. The Treasurer provided the following documents for the board's review: Budget, year-to-date, Interest Group Restricted Funds, Cash Disbursements Journal, Job Ledger Report, and Asset Statement. Priscilla will seek advice from the accountant on two questions: whether the Association needs to maintain two

physically separate accounts for advocacy and the general fund, and whether the Association needs to create separate treasurer accounts for the conferences.

OLD BUSINESS

Conference 2007 - Mike Cook

Mike reported that the conference would most likely not make a profit because of increased equipment costs and fewer revenues from exhibitors. He attributed the latter to the scheduling of the Oregon Library Association Conference at the identical time as WLA's conference. As of April 17, 2007, conference registrations were 466. More hotel rooms were booked than expected, and more than 100 people signed up for the Friday night event. The Quilt Raffle will help defray the costs of the special events.

Mike presented two gifts: a step stool, donated by Brodart, to Martha Parsons, incoming President, and a food gift basket to Carolynne Myall, out-going President.

Conference 2008 - Karin Ford

Karin reported that the full Conference Committee met in March. The Committee is finalizing the guidelines for programs and the program proposal form. The tentative keynote speaker is Thomas Frank, author of *What's the Problem with Kansas*.

2010 Site Selection - Kristy Coomes

Kristy indicated that she would shortly have a recommendation for the 2010 site. The Muckleshoot facilities are not adequate for the needs of WLA's conferences. The "50 mile" rule of some institutions concerning reimbursement for hotel costs is another critical factor in determining a location. While Seattle Public has no restrictions, the Washington State Library, Highline Community College and Washington State University do have the "50 mile" restriction. Kristy will contact other institutions to determine their policy.

Kristy is working on a charge for a task force to establish a three year conference plan, reviewing vendors, sponsorships, exhibitors and location. As she reported at the March 9, 2007 board meeting, vendor revenue is decreasing, not only for WLA but for other state library conferences. Jonathan Betz-Zall and Mary Wise offered to help gather information from other states. It was suggested that Elizabeth Laukea, the new IG Coordinator, should also be involved in the task force.

WALE Conference 2007 Update - Katie Cargill

Katie reported that Cindy Wigen, Spokane Public Library, is the Program Chair. Speakers will include: Pamela Aiden, author (aka Liberty Lake Municipal Library Director Pamela Mogen), Joseph Albert, Department of Organizational Leadership, Gonzaga University, Jess Walter, author, and Karen Strege, Project Director, Western Council of State Libraries Continuum Project (ALA Library Support Staff Certification Study). The conference is October 4-6, 2007 at the Mirabeau Hotel and Conference Center, Spokane.

Statewide Marketing Initiative Report - Carol Schuyler

LSTA funds may no longer be used for training, as announced at ALA Mid-Winter, and WSL will be completing all of its training commitments.

CE Assessment Update - Mary Ross

The pre-conferences have had relatively low registration, from 7 to 19 but Mary is pleased with their high quality.

The new intern, Kara Fox, will be working with Matt Saxton on the CE assessment. Kara is at the conference and will be attending the IG meetings on Thursday. She and Mary will also be developing an on-line survey, holding focus groups for the IGs, and identifying and interviewing key informants. The result of the assessment will be a set of recommendations to the WLA board for planning, 2008-10.

Washington Coalition against Censorship - WLA Representative Feasibility - Nancy Slote

Nancy gathered some information about the activities of WCAC from Cher Ravagni, WCAC co-chair. The organization does not lobby but does provide information to those testifying in Olympia. Its primary activities have been to provide support and information to school librarians faced with challenges, to update its "challenge" toolkit and to educate school administrators. In order to evaluate the activities of the WCAC board, Nancy requested copies of the organization's minutes and will report to the WLA board at the June meeting.

Group Licensing for Online Meeting Access - Martha Parsons

Martha suggested that online meeting software might be useful, particularly for the IGs. Board members have had experience with several pieces of software, including WMBA (Horizon), Opal and Skype, Mary Ross will be using WMBA for the CE Needs Assessment, and the WSL has purchased a WMBA subscription through Web Junction. Martha asked Elizabeth Laukea, Mary Ross and Chris Peters to present technical information at the June board meeting., and the IGs will have an opportunity to discuss the issue at the June retreat. The budget would need to include a placeholder for the software.

Task Force on Organizational Structure - Kristy Coomes

The Task Force continues to work on: fiscal policy, job descriptions, particularly the Coordinator of Communications, and conference finances.

Task Force on Dues Structure - Carolynne Myall

The charge for the Task Force is as follows:

The Dues Task Force will review WLA's dues structure and policy, including reciprocal membership. The TF will review current minimum and maximum dues for individual members, and will propose ways to maintain the minimum membership dues rate at a level that is sustainable for the Association.

The TF will consider and respond to these questions:

- 1) Is WLA's dues structure for individual members fair and reasonable in approach? Does the structure promote membership among a range of library employees and supporters, in an equitable manner? What changes, if any, should be made to this structure?
- 2) Does the current individual membership dues rate cover the cost of a membership to the Association? Should the minimum individual dues rate be raised? If the minimum individual dues assessment is raised, should the maximum individual dues be raised as well?
- 3) Is there a mechanism that could be written into WLA bylaws to raise the individual minimum membership dues rate automatically, under specific circumstances? (For example: Every four years, there will be a review of whether the minimum individual membership covers the cost of

a membership to the Association. If the minimum dues is found to fall below 90% of this cost, it is automatically raised to...)

4) Does WLA continue to accept the concept of reciprocal membership? Under what circumstances is a reciprocal membership arrangement acceptable? Under what circumstances would it not be acceptable? (Currently, apart from a program of limited-time joint membership for ALA/WLA for library students, WLA has one reciprocal membership program with the Washington Library Media Association.)

Carolynne appointed the following as members of the Task Force:

Incoming Member Services Chair (tentative)

Lisa Adams, Richland Public Library

Kristy Coomes, Washington State Library, retired.

Diane Cowles, Seattle Public Library.

Priscilla Ice, Spokane County Library District

Kay Vyhnanek, Washington State University, Pullman.

Washington Coalition for Open Government - Patience Rogge

Patience reported that WCOG will be providing leadership training in 2008 for government officials at all levels. She also presented a request from WCOG to financially support the 2007 National Freedom of Information Coalition conference to be held in Seattle, May 11-12, 2007.

Motion: To make a donation of \$200 to the 2007 National Freedom of Information Coalition conference in Seattle.

Moved: Anne Bingham

Seconded: Tim Mallory

Approved.

Motion: To provide the usual expenses for Patience Rogge to attend the 2007 National Freedom of Information Coalition conference.

Moved: Carol Schuyler

Seconded: Jonathan Betz-Zall

Approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Recording of Electronic Vote

Motion: That the Board allocate up to \$2000 to hire Lynn Melby to facilitate our strategic planning process, and to provide a short board training segment, at this year's Board Retreat in June.

Web List Problems

Association Coordinator Gail Willis provided background on the recent difficulties with replicating messages with the main WLA list. Webmaster Lisa Hill has determined the source of the immediate problems, but a longer term issue is the quality of the ISP. It was also acknowledged that the recent difficulties have frustrated members, some of whom have requested removal from the list. Currently, the general list has been disabled, but the IG lists are still functioning.

Motion: That a committee be convened, including the Webmaster, Coordinator of Communications, President, Treasurer and Association Coordinator, to evaluate cost and service options for a new ISP. The committee would be prepared to propose a new

ISP for approval at the next scheduled WLA Board meeting. The committee would also evaluate whether to re-enable the general current listserv (based on the fact that the replicating problem was targeted and is being addressed) or to direct the Coordinator of Communication to prepare a plan for reintroducing it when the new ISP is selected.

Moved: Jennifer Wiseman
Approved

Motion: To communicate information about the WLA listserv to the membership as determined by the President and Coordinator of Communications.

Moved: Carol Schuyler
Seconded: Punkey Adams
Approved

Legislative Planning Committee - Mike Wirt

Mike reported that the big news for the session was the passage of ESB 5498, the multi-year levy lift, by both Houses, with a relatively bi-partisan vote. The bill is on its way for the Governor's signature, and the WLA President and Directors of Library Boards will be writing to the Governor supporting her signature of the bill. WLA lobbied intensely and built support through creation of a coalition with the fire fighters. Mike explained the painstaking work to track bills introduced during the session which might have an impact on libraries through the Library Tracker and the rating system. The session is over on Sunday, May 22nd, and as of April 18th, SB 5882, the Heritage Center, had not yet come through.

President's Report - Carolynne Myall

Motion: The WLA recognizes Mike Wirt for his outstanding leadership of the Association's legislative advocacy program for all Washington libraries, and especially his planning for its future development.

Moved: Carolynne Myall
Approved

Statistical Report - Gail Willis

While the membership figures are lower than 2006, (789 for 2007 and 901 for 2006), Gail reminded the board that the membership renewal were sent later than usual, and that follow-up phone calls to non-renewing members had not yet been made.

Further Officer, Committee and IG Reports

Martha Parsons - VP and President Elect

Martha is still making committee appointments and would welcome input.

Jonathan Betz-Zall - ALA Councillor

Jonathan reported that the Annual Report contains a detailed narrative.

Anne Bingham - IG Coordinator

Anne publicized the Meet and Greet.

Nancy Slote - IFIG

The Open Government Pre-Conference was cancelled due to low enrollment.

Tim Mallory - Coordinator of Strategic Planning

Tim circulated a summary of the 2005-07 Strategic Plan. The primary goals were:

- Goal 1: Advocate for library support and create more effective library advocates.
- Goal 2: Increase opportunities for members to learn and to share knowledge and experiences.
- Goal 3: Build a stronger, more valuable, and broad-based organization.

Tim is looking forward to working with Lynn Melby at the retreat to help design the strategic plan process, where the yearly "to do" list is separated from the long-term goals.

Jan Walsh - Awards Committee

Jan invited everyone to the Awards lunch on Friday.

Carol Schuyler - WLFFTA Representative

WLFFTA has two programs and a pre-conference.

Patience Rogge - WCOG Representative

Patience added a coda to Mike Wirt's LPC report: "Buddy up to a fire fighter."

Punkey Adams - PNLA Representative

Punkey mentioned the PNLA Display and the drawing for a free PNLA membership.

Robin Rousu - RIG

RIG has 5 conference programs.

Mike Wirt - LRC

Steve Duncan, WLA's lobbyist, has a program on Thursday, the 19th.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Future Dates

Board Retreat, June 7-9, 2007, Dumas Bay Center, Federal Way

The meeting was adjourned at 4 PM.

Approved (date): _____

Nancy Slote, Secretary

Carolynne Myall, President