

MINUTES

IOWA COMMISSION OF LIBRARIES

Date: February 17, 2004
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: State Library of Iowa
East 12th and Grand
Des Moines, Iowa

Present: David Boyd, Pam Bradley, Monica Gohlinghorst, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Paul Roberts, Dale Ross, Berta Van Ekeren.

Staff: Mary Wegner, Mary Cameron, Barbara Corson, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Gerry Rowland, Carol Simmons, Annette Wetteland

Visitors: Katherine Von Wald, Coordinator, Iowa Center for the Book, and Karen Burns, Administrator, Southwest Iowa Library Service Area

Meeting was called to order by Dale Ross at 10:05 a.m.

1.0 Set Agenda

Agenda accepted as presented.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Bradley moved to approve minutes as presented; Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that the State Library was on track for federal spending. He said that the State Library will begin using federal fiscal year 04 funds in April. The new (FY04) federal appropriation provides an increase of \$138,327 over last year's allocation. State funding also remains on track. CBS News donated \$7,000 to the Law Library for their use of space in the library during the January 2004 Iowa caucuses. Cox reported that, at this time, 40% of Enrich Iowa funds have been distributed to libraries. Wegner and Cox will meet with Ted Stilwill, Roger Stirlor and others from internal operations at the Department of Education to discuss library funding and overhead and administrative costs.

4.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

1. Ted Stilwill: Libraries and Community Collaboration

Stilwill talked to the Commission about challenges with regard to schools and libraries and quality of life in Iowa. He gave several examples of staff at the Department of Education are involving communities in discussions and decision-making, and suggested that libraries are an appropriate place for bringing communities together to talk about challenging issues. Wegner asked what he thought about joint school-public libraries and he responded that this is a time for more cooperative programs, not just with schools and libraries but with all types of groups. He gave an example of school lunch programs that provide meals for the elderly who then stay to read to children.

2. Katherine Von Wald: Iowa Center for the Book

Von Wald reported on the national Letters about Literature contest in Iowa. This is the first year the Iowa Center for the Book has participated. Children are asked to write a letter to an author whose book has changed them personally or changed their view of the world. Iowa had 671 entries. The winners (one in each of three age groups) will go to the national competition in Washington DC, and the winners of the national competition will read their letters at the National Book Festival in Washington DC in October. Iowa will honor its winners on April 2 at the Iowa Reading Association/Iowa Association of School Librarians Conference in Des Moines. Iowa judges were Sally Van Dorin, Indianola Public Library; Elizabeth Nygaard, Ames; Katherine Perkins, WOI Radio; Pat Schnack, Iowa City; Diane Findlay, Dallas Center; Donna Niday, Iowa State University; Pegi Bevins, Madrid; and Mary Kay Shanley, Des Moines.

B. Commission Reports

Gohlinghorst reported that a new director has been hired for the Council Bluffs Public Library. Barbara Peterson is from Centralia, Illinois.

Van Ekeren updated the Commission on the Public Library Standards Task Force committee and its progress. She and Gohlinghorst are representing the Commission on this committee.

Roberts said that staff at Clarke College is participating in this year's All Iowa Reads program.

Bradley reported that budget cuts have severely affected Southeastern Community College, including the library.

Pfitzenmaier reported that the name of the virtual high school program is now the Iowa Learning Alliance. Courses should be available this fall. Some schools have voiced an interest in summer courses as well.

Boyd said his office has had some ICN sessions for students showing oral arguments, after which they participate in a question and answer session. Several schools have also shown interest in touring the new judicial building when they come to tour the Capitol.

Ross reported he had been to the ALA Midwinter Conference and would be attending the Public Library Association Conference in Seattle next week.

C. State Librarian's Report

Wegner reported on Access Plus and Open Access funding. The governor's proposed budget calls for level operating budgets for the State Library and Library Service Areas, and an additional \$400,000 for Enrich Iowa to be paid through the state's infrastructure fund. The Supreme Court ruling regarding tax rates for gambling establishments may affect the State Library's ability to pay the remaining 60% of this year's Library Infrastructure funds.

ILA Governmental Affairs Chair, Pat Coffie, director of the Waverly Public Library, and Wegner met with several key legislators last week to discuss library funding. They talked with Senator Doug Shull, new co-chair of the Education Appropriations subcommittee; Representative Jodi Tymeson, chair of the House Education Committee; and Senator Steve Warnstadt, ranking member of the Infrastructure Appropriations Committee.

57,000 music CDs will be distributed to Iowa public and academic libraries through the Attorney General's office as a result of a settlement of a national antitrust case involving some music distributors and large retailers. The State Library has worked closely with the Attorney General's office to develop the sign-up procedures and the distribution formula for the CDs.

For the third consecutive Iowa caucuses, CBS News set up a studio in the law library. Broadcasts included Sunday morning's "Face the Nation" with Bob Shieffer (who said he was broadcasting from "the most beautiful room in America"), Sunday evening news with John Roberts, and Monday's "Early Show" with Harry Smith. The law library's spiral staircase was visible in every broadcast. Linda Robertson, law librarian, has established an excellent working relationship with the CBS crew, who have already requested use of the law library in 2008.

Wegner will meet with John Gillispie, director of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), to talk about the possible sale of the ICN.

She reported that Mary Cameron is currently conducting Summer Reading Workshops at numerous sites around Iowa, and that Sandy Dixon has been asked by the League of Cities to accompany them on a nine city statewide tour this spring and summer to discuss public library funding.

Wegner is working with Bob Anderson, former lieutenant governor of Iowa and current president of IRIS, Inc., a non-profit organization which promotes international education, development and peace through rural initiatives. IRIS has received a grant to develop partnerships between libraries in Bulgaria, Colorado and Iowa and to share information about using libraries as community information centers. The State Library will work with five to seven Iowa partner libraries.

The State Library has stopped microfilming legislative bills and daily journals due to budget constraints. The State Library has also begun charging for filling out-of-state requests for photocopies of articles.

Wegner asked Dixon to report on a Gates Foundation grant. Dixon said the State Library has been awarded a \$139,950 grant from the Gates Foundation that will be used for technology training for Iowa librarians, 13 new laptops for a portable computer lab, training manuals and \$3,000 sub-grants to each Library Service Area for additional technology training in their regions.

D. Library Service Areas Report: Karen Burns, Administrator, Southwest Iowa Library Service Area (LSA)

Burns reported that the State Library and Library Service Areas surveyed public libraries in 2003 to determine the impact of the Reinvention Bill passed by the 2003 Iowa General Assembly, which cut \$60 million from city and county budgets. Seventy-six percent of the libraries (413 of 543) responded. The results showed significant funding problems for libraries. City appropriation cuts to libraries were \$1,659,633 and county cuts totaled \$381,513. Many libraries were forced to reduce hours, closing 15,808 hours this year compared to last year. Because of staff layoffs, 91,520 hours of direct public service to library customers have been eliminated. In addition, \$473,156 in funding for library materials was cut.

Burns also reported on how the LSAs and the State Library are helping libraries meet the challenge of continuing to provide high quality library services to Iowa customers.

5.0 Public Comment

None

6.0 Action Items

A. Name subcommittee to review Commission bylaws

Ross requested that Bradley, Boyd and Roberts serve on a subcommittee to review the Commission's bylaws. Roberts will chair the group. They will report back in April.

B. Name subcommittee to evaluate state librarian

Pfitzenmaier, Van Ekeren, Gohlinghorst, and Ross will serve on the subcommittee to evaluate the state librarian. Ross will collect materials and send a draft to the other members of the subcommittee. They will report back in April and Wegner's evaluation will be processed and submitted to the state in May.

C. Confirm Commission appointment to Iowa Library Association Foundation Board

Ross noted that the Commission needs to appoint a member to the Iowa Library Association Foundation Board. Van Ekeren moved to reappoint Ross as their representative, Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

D. Appointment of at-large trustee to Southwest Iowa Library Service Area board

Melvin J. Hauser, county supervisor from Carson, Iowa, was nominated to fill the vacant at-large position left by Guy Brace. Roberts moved to accept the nomination, Pfitzenmaier seconded. Motion carried.

7.0 Discussion Items

A. Foundation for Iowa Center for the Book

Wegner reported that she and Van Wald had met with a lawyer to discuss the establishment of a foundation for the Iowa Center for the Book. She asked the Commission how they would like the foundation to function and how many members it should have. Discussion followed. The Commission will have further discussion in April.

B. Open Access program rules

Wegner discussed possible changes to Open Access program rules. An example was distributed and a discussion of problems and solutions followed. Commission consensus was that Open Access program rules should be changed to allow local public library boards the authority to decide not to loan items to residents of a jurisdiction which has contracted elsewhere if the contract amount is not equitable.

8.0 Adjournment

Gohlinghorst moved to adjourn, Pfitzenmaier seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2004, State Library of Iowa.

