

Stories 2000 project provides entertaining literary event for children in WIC program

What used to be a long and boring experience for children waiting with their parents at the Cherokee WIC clinic, has become an anxiously anticipated literary event.

In 2000, the library was chosen to participate in Stories 2000, a project of First Lady Christie Vilsack. Cherokee Public Library Director Mary Jo Ruppert and elementary school media specialist Betty Resch met with community citizens to determine what the project should entail. The consensus was to develop an outreach program for preschoolers who were not involved in a formal education program.

Each month during the Womens, Infants and Children (WIC) clinic at the Cherokee Community Center, the Cherokee Public Library provides volunteer readers throughout the day. Retired teachers, library customers and others take turns reading for about an hour between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. In the summer, the teacher's sorority Alpha Delta Kappa takes over reading duties.

"Many of the parents who attend this program are very young. We feel that setting an example on how to read aloud to children is as important as the entertainment we provide to the kids," said Ruppert.

"One time I was filling in for a volunteer and I read a book to a little girl who then went over to her mom and 'read' it to her in Spanish," said Ruppert. "I approached the mother with one of our Spanish language books. She had a terrific smile on her face when she realized she could read to her child in her own language."

The library provides handouts for parents that include the library's newsletter and an information sheet on the benefits of reading to children. In addition, each child gets to choose a book to take home and keep. The books, paid for through the county's Community Betterment Fund, are chosen for preschool through middle elementary-aged students. Spanish titles are also available.

Ruppert said one unforeseen benefit is that older children often enjoy reading to the volunteers, which gives them a chance to practice their skills. Many families at the clinic have started attending library activities.

"I have to say that at the beginning of the Stories 2000 program I was not sure the result would be worth all the time and effort involved," said Ruppert. "For a while it was difficult to find people willing to volunteer since the WIC clinic has a reputation for being a wild and crazy event with so many kids running around."

"The longer I have worked with the project, the more I believe in it. I can see good things happening," said Ruppert.

In 2002, Ruppert was presented the "Celebrate Literacy Award" by the Iowa Reading Association. The award is given to a person who does not work for a school, but who has made a special effort to promote literacy in the community. In 2003, the Cherokee Public Library received the annual "Outstanding Volunteer Support Award" from MidSioux, a child care resource and referral program in northwest Iowa.

Said Ruppert, "We feel these were great rewards, but the best thing is seeing and interacting with the kids and the parents."



Mae Hingtgen, head of the Cherokee County Public Health Department, used her lunch hour to read to a youngster at the WIC Clinic in Cherokee

Photo courtesy of the Cherokee Chronicle-Times

FOOTNOTES

Martens appointed to Iowa Commission of Libraries

Rita Martens has been appointed as the Iowa Department of Education's representative to the Iowa Commission of Libraries.

Martens has been a consultant for the department for the past five years and currently is the secondary reading/language arts consultant. Her work includes co-chairing the State Wide Reading Team, which provides ongoing technical assistance and professional development to accelerate the reading achievement of students in grades kindergarten through 12.

Her previous work at the department was as a school improvement consultant, assigned to serve as the department's liaison to AEAs 4, 12 and 267. She had the opportunity to oversee the accreditation process of nearly a third of Iowa's school districts.

Said Martens, "I plan to look for opportunities to extend the collaboration between the department's reading efforts and the work of the State Library. Both organizations benefit from the work of the other and I hope to enhance that relationship."



Lerdal receives Partners in Education Award



Pleasant Hill Library Director John Lerdal's weekly visits to Four Mile and Pleasant Hill elementary schools won him a Partners in Education Award recently from the local school board.

Each week, Lerdal and children's librarian Gale Rivas visit third grade classrooms armed with new library books. They take time to read to the kids with the hope that they will develop a love of books and reading.

Not only do the kids look forward to the visits, said Lerdal, they often show up with their parents at the library to check out the new books.

Lerdal praised his staff for their help during the school visits and said he understands the importance of partnering with the schools whenever possible.

Certification update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

Eugenie Rebres, Altoona

Patricia Struttman, Hiawatha

Celeste Thomas, Swaledale

Emily Weaver, Southeastern Library Service Area, Davenport.

Important Dates - 2005

April

Applications for Public Library Management 2 due this month

April 10-16 National Library Week

April 11 - Commission Meeting, Des Moines

April 28-29 - Kids First, Des Moines

May

May 3-4 - National Library Legislative Day, Washington, DC

May 20 - ILA/ACRL Spring Conference, Ames

May 26-27 - Iowa OCLC Users' Group meeting, Iowa City

May 30 - Memorial Day holiday (State Library closed)

FOOTNOTES

Don't miss "Chillin' at the Library"

This year's Kids First Conference, "Chillin' at the Library," will feature Gene Del Vecchio, a nationally recognized expert on youth marketing and the founder of CoolWords, a marketing consulting company that helps clients create and research really cool stuff that kids will love and parents will appreciate.

His presentation on April 28, "Making the Library Cool for Kids," promises to be a fun and exciting speech that will help librarians better understand both the timeless emotional needs in children and the more timely trends in their world. The knowledge will help librarians develop better products, services and marketing.

Keynote speakers for April 29 will be Jean Gullikson, children's services manager, and Debi Stephenson, children's programmer, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, Dubuque. They will present "Extreme Makeover @ Your Library: Wild and Eyecatching Promotionals."

For more information on these and other breakout sessions at this year's conference, visit <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/youth-services/kids-first-conf.html> or call the State Library at 1-800-248-4483.



Gene Del Vecchio

Coralville residents vote "YES" for library expansion

Coralville voters overwhelmingly approved a bond issue for expansion and renovation of the city's public library.

"The community has always been incredibly supportive of the library, but we had no idea we would get a 92 percent mandate," said library director Alison Galstad.

It was a record turnout for a special election in Coralville.

The bond will pay for about \$3 million of an \$8 million project that will include expansion and renovation of the library and a new parking lot. Galstad said groundbreaking should take place in the spring of 2006.

"We were just really pleased with both the voter turnout and the overwhelming support," said Galstad.

Hull voters also approve bond issue

Eighty percent of Hull voters approved a \$700,000 bond to match a \$400,000 Vision Iowa grant for a new library. The current library will be 8,000 square feet, more than twice as big as the current building. Construction is scheduled to begin in July.

"Libraries Together" initiative launched in Scott County

In an effort to provide more efficient services to customers, all four Scott County libraries have contracted with a Kansas City, MO research company to plan for the future of library service in the area.

Scott County Library System, the LeClaire Community Library and Bettendorf and Davenport public libraries are participating in the study called "Libraries Together."

The research firm "Consensus" will mail surveys to 7,000 households over the next 10 months and conduct forums to gauge ways to improve internal operations in the libraries and to find better ways to collaborate with each other. There are no plans to consolidate the libraries.

The study is being funded by \$110,865 in grants from the Scott County Regional Authority, Riverboard Development Authority and each of the libraries. The State Library is also provide \$5,000 in federal LSTA funds.

For more information, visit the "Libraries Together" website at www.librariestogether.org.

FOOTNOTES

Librarians voice concerns at 2005 ILA Legislative Day

Despite subcommittee meetings, floor debates and caucuses, 95 legislators took time to visit with librarians on March 2 during the Iowa Library Association's (ILA) Legislative Day. The event began with a briefing at the State Library, followed by the reception with legislators at the law library in the State Capitol.



Left, the North Central delegation included from left, Larry Koeninger, Jan Grandgeorge, Virginia Ruzicka, Barb Shultz, Deanne Henry, Ellen Petty, and Nola Waddingham.

Right, ILA Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Patricia Coffie briefed participants at the State Library before heading to the Capitol.



First Lady Christie Vilsack talks with Senator Mike Connolly of Dubuque.



State Librarian Mary Wegner and Iowa Commission of Libraries Chair Dale Ross, right, visited with Senator Doug Shull of Indianola.



From left, ILA Executive Director Laurie Hews, ILA President Kate Martin, and ILA lobbyists Craig Patterson and Amy Campbell kept the reception line moving.

Senator Brad Zahn of Urbandale visited with Hank Zalatel, Dept. of Transportation librarian.



FOOTNOTES

Seasonal Legal and Legislative Issues Spring Up at the State Law Library

By Mandy Easter, Librarian II, State Law Library of Iowa
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Librarians in all types of libraries experience the phenomenon of cyclical requests for particular information. The typical terrain of reference requests is often mundane and repetitive, yet each day holds the potential for a bud of a question to blossom into a bouquet of interesting and little-known facts. Once found, digested and stored for quick retrieval at the next dinner party, these flowery decorations on our cranium walls make us feel like the smartest people in town. Here are a few popular questions we're getting at the State Law Library; we assume they make their way to your doors, too.

How do I file a "living will"? The very public legal, political and ethical battle over Teri Schiavo's life and death in Florida has prompted calls for "living will" forms. The Iowa State Bar Association has responded to public demand by putting the form on the home page of its website. Go to www.iowabar.org and click on "Living Wills." There is also an audio report on the website regarding living wills and durable powers of attorney.

How do I find out if a sex offender lives in my neighborhood? The recent abductions, sexual abuse and murders of Jessica Lunsford in Florida and Jetseta Gage in Iowa have prompted public interest in Iowa's Sex Offender Registry, which was established in 1995. Your customers can log on to the Iowa Department of Public Safety's official database at www.iowasexoffenders.com and search by the offender's name or the geographical area in question.

When did Iowa make daylight savings time a law? Chapter 1D of the Iowa Code is entitled "Iowa Standard Time" and establishes daylight savings time across the state from the first Sunday of April until the last Sunday of October each year. The original law was signed by Governor Hughes on April 14, 1965 and took effect immediately. Daylight savings time has an interesting history. The federal government declared year-round daylight savings time across the nation during both World War I and World War II to conserve energy. After World War II, state government left the question of whether or not to continue daylight savings time up to each individual town! Different policies—often within a few miles of each other—created confusion and havoc for many years. The lack of state-wide conformity created a great deal of conflict between cities and rural areas and interfered with important governmental functions such as opening and closing election polls. Finally, twenty years later, the state legislature mandated consistency throughout Iowa.

Now that it's spring, my neighbor wants me to pay for half of a new fence between our properties; do I have to? Chapter 359A of the Iowa Code is entitled "Fences" and contains our state's laws regarding fence construction, maintenance, and fencing disputes. It also details the interesting role that counties play in resolving controversies over fences. We get a lot of questions about tree-trimming in the spring, too. The law regarding trees as nuisances is in section 657.2 of the Iowa Code. County government's power over residential trees is outlined in section 331.384; the city's power, as well as the homeowner's responsibility, can be found in code sections 364.12-364.13B. Willful injury to trees is covered in section 658.4. Please caution your customers to always check the city code (if their property is within the city limits) or the county code (if they live outside the city limits) for any local ordinances concerning fences and trees that are more restrictive than state laws.

When will the legislature be done this year? Since this is the first session of a two-year General Assembly, it is 110 days long (second sessions are 100 days long), which would make April 29, 2005 the day on which legislators' *per diem* expenses end. The last few years, one-day "special sessions" or "extra sessions" have been held during the summer or fall to finish the state budget. Be sure to log on to the legislature's website (www.legis.state.ia.us) this summer to see the 2005 Bill Summary, the 2005 Session Summary, the 2005 Fiscal Report and other publications from this legislative session. And remember that the 2005 Code of Iowa will have a 2005 Supplement which includes the work of this session—additions, changes and deletions to the current code. New laws always take effect on July 1 of the year they are enacted unless a different date is given in the last section of the bill. Using the 2005 Code and the 2005 Supplement together is the only way to ensure that your customers are reading the most current law.

FOOTNOTES

ABLE project continues as Iowans host two librarians from Bulgaria

Though their time in Iowa was limited, Iskra Mihaylova, Executive Director of the Tolerance Association and a policy advisor of the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works, and Vania Grashkina, president of the Union of Library and Information Science Officers in Bulgaria, took advantage of many opportunities to learn more about Iowa libraries and state and local government. The American-Bulgarian Library Exchange (ABLE) is a project initiative of the Iowa Resource for International Service of Ames. It is funded by the U.S. State Department. Several Bulgarian librarians have visited Iowa in recent years and State Library staffer Barb Corson spent a few weeks in Bulgaria last year. Plans are for five Iowa librarians to visit Bulgaria later this spring.



Left, Iskra (right) and Vania gave State Library staff an interesting presentation on their country from both a historical and present day perspective. At right, the two met with Kathleen Richardson, a Drake University journalism professor and chair on the Iowa Freedom of Information Council.



Left, Barb Corson, Iskra and Vania meet Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie who described local government in Iowa. Right, First Lady Christie Vilsack, an honorary member of ABLE, visited with the librarians at Terrace Hill.



From left, Iskra, Iowa Library Association lobbyist Amy Campbell, State Librarian Mary Wegner and Vania. Iskra and Vania spent time with Campbell learning about lobbying state government.



FOOTNOTES

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

Staff: Barbara Corson, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Beth Henning, Carol Simmons, Mary Wegner, Annette Wetteland

Visitors: Roy Kenagy and Katherine Von Wald

1.0 Set Agenda

Agenda set as presented.

2.0 Approve Minutes

Roberts requested the correct spelling of Platteville, Wisconsin. Minutes approved with the change.

Wegner introduced new commissioner Rita Martens, who is taking Pam Pfitzenmaier's place. After introductions, Martens gave an overview of her job in the Department of Education and said she was honored to be part of the Commission of Libraries.

3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that state and federal spending is on target for the year. He said the State Library sold four books for \$51,731 which had been determined to be out of scope for the State Library collection. Ross inquired about the status of the Curtis collection and Wegner said she will pursue negotiations with the University of Iowa. Cox reported that the governor's recommended State Library and Library Service Area budgets for FY06 were the same as FY05.

4.0 Action Items

A. EBSCOhost pricing

Wegner explained that the State Library uses federal funds to subsidize the cost of the EBSCOhost databases for libraries, but must recoup a portion of the costs from participating libraries. She indicated a need to increase the amount charged to both public and academic libraries for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005. For public libraries, she proposed maintaining the base price of \$25 per public library, and increasing the per capita price from 2 cents to 2.5 cents. For academic libraries, she proposed maintaining the base price of \$500 per library, and increasing the charge per FTE enrollment from 25 cents to 30 cents. Gohlinghorst moved to approve the increase, Van Ekeren seconded, motion carried.

B. Commission bylaws review

Boyd and Gohlinghorst, the bylaws subcommittee members, distributed a handout with suggested bylaws changes: 1) add the year (2005) behind the Code of Iowa when it appears in the text, 2) add *Code of Iowa (2005)* to Chapter 69.15 in section II. B. 3) change Section III. C. to the following wording. *The Commission shall meet at least four times a year at a time and place determined by the chairperson, and may meet at such other times as necessary to efficiently conduct Commission Business.* 4) minor change to section III. E. change the word *be* to *is* and 5) minor change to section III. F. delete *or more*. Discussion of the changes followed. Roberts moved to accept the changes, Martens seconded, motion carried.

C. Name subcommittee to evaluate State Librarian

Ross asked Roberts and Gohlinghorst to be on the committee with Dixon and Ross to evaluate the State Librarian. Both accepted.

D. Change June meeting date

Ross requested the June meeting date be changed to June 6. Simmons will reserve a meeting room and will notify Huston of the change.

5.0 Discussion Items

A. Review Chapter 1, State Library Administrative Rules

The Commission plans to review and update the State Library's Administrative Rules, beginning with Chapter 1, Organization and Operation. Wegner distributed a handout with suggested changes in red, and discussed the rationale for the suggested changes. The following changes were suggested:

1) 286-1.2(256) Mission strike *Rescinded IAB 12/16/98, effective 1/20/99. Add, The State Library advocates for Iowa libraries and promotes excellence and innovation in library services in order to provide statewide access to information for all Iowans.*

2) 286-1.3(256) Organization and operation. 1.3(1) *Location.* add *in the Ola Babcock Miller Building at 1112 East Grand Avenue,* strike East 12th Street and Grand Avenue.

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3) Change 1.3(2) Units to read: The State Library consists of five units: library development (includes the LSTA Grant Program; public library accreditation; library staff certification and continuing education; Enrich Iowa including Direct State Aid, Open Access and Access Plus; youth services and consulting); library services (includes reference services; interlibrary loan services; the public policy, medical, library science, federal documents, state documents, and patents depository collections; the state documents depository program and technical services); the state law library; the state data center, and administration.

4) Change 286-1.4(256) Information delivery to read: 1.4(2) Photocopies of library material for nonresidents of Iowa. To encourage interstate resource sharing, the state library may enter into reciprocal fee interlibrary loan photocopy agreements with out-of-state libraries. For out-of-state libraries not covered by reciprocal agreements and other out-of-state businesses and residents, the state library will charge the following fees: 1-20 pages, \$15.00; 21-30 pages, \$20.00; 31-50 pages, \$25.00; over 50 pages \$25.00 plus 20 cents per page over 50.

5) Add 1.4(3) *Interlibrary loan of materials for non-Iowa libraries. Books and other materials may be loaned to non-Iowa libraries for a period of three weeks with renewals at the discretion of the staff. For out-of-state libraries not covered by reciprocal agreements, the state library will charge the following fees: Domestic, \$15.00; International \$15.00 plus shipping.*

6) Add 1.4(4) *Use of state library equipment. State library staff may allow library customers to make photocopies of non-library materials, send and receive faxes, and make computer prints of non-library materials. Photocopy charges are 20 cents per page; fax charges are \$2 for the first page and \$1 for each additional page including the cover sheet; computer print charges are 20 cents per page.*

7) 286-1.5(256) Access to library's collections, 1.5(1) strike *Historical Building* and add *Ola Babcock Miller Building*, strike *East 12th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines.*

8) 1.5(2) add after the word tiers, *of the law library and the mezzanine level of the main library.*

9) 286-1.6(256) Collection policy of the library. Strike *provide staff with the means to ensure consistency, responsiveness, and wise use of funds in collection building; assist in development of performance measures;* after SEE: Collection Policy. State Library of Iowa, strike *May 28, 1993*, add *February 28, 1996.*

10) 286-1.7(256) Disposal of library materials. 1.7(3) b. strike *under any circumstances.*

11) 1.7(5) a. strike *and justify in writing.* Boyd moved to accept the changes, Bradley seconded, motion carried.

B. Discussion topics for August retreat

Ross asked the Commission to suggest education and discussion topics for the August retreat. The following were suggested: 1) service sharing between libraries, 2) Commission orientation, 3) advocacy – when is it appropriate? 4) library funding inequities, and 5) the LSA system. Ross said that additional topics could be suggested at the April meeting.

C. OCLC Task Force update

Wegner reported on the work to date of the OCLC Task Force, and said that the biggest challenge continues to be funding. A new bid has been requested from OCLC.

6.0 Public Comment

None

7.0 Communications

A. Special Reports

1. Katherine Von Wald - Iowa Center for the Book

Von Wald reported on All Iowa Reads (AIR). This year's selection is Master Butchers Singing Club by Louise Erdrich. Central Library Service Area has three sets of discussion books available to check out. Erdrich has agreed to be the luncheon speaker at ILA this fall. Von Wald and AIR committee members will also be working with first time discussion groups to show them how to run a program. Titles for 2006 are being considered. Von Wald also reported on Letters about Literature, a program where students read a book and then write a letter to the author about how it changed their view of the world or their lives. Participation increased this year to 1066 entries. All state entries are sent to a national committee that chooses the semi-finalists. The letters are then sent back to the state. In Iowa, three teams of judges will choose the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd

FOOTNOTES

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(Cont.)

place winners. First place winner names and entries are then sent back to the national committee for final judging. Last year, all three of Iowa's first place winners placed in the national top six.

B. Commission Reports

Ross reported that the American Library Association (ALA) has asked all 50 states to submit a title for adult and children's books that reflect their state's values. Ross and Susan Craig were chosen to submit titles for Iowa. They selected *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson. Ross also participated in the ICN session about All Iowa Reads 2005 session, discussing Master Butchers Singing Club with Christie Vilsack. Roberts reported his participation in the OCLC Task Force. The Dubuque area library consortium now has three members from Wisconsin. They are going to have a spring program on disaster recovery. Gohlinghorst reported that Council Bluffs Public Library is dealing with budget reductions and will lose two part-time positions. She also complimented Ross on doing an excellent job with the All Iowa Reads ICN session. Van Ekeren reported that the Monroe Public Library is still soliciting funds for the new library, and that they received a \$40,000 check from the Fred Maytag Family Foundation. Bradley reported that Southeastern Community College has purchased the old Carnegie library building in Mount Pleasant.

C. Library Service Area Report: Roy Kenagy, Central Iowa Library Service Area

Kenagy encouraged the Commission to visit the refurbished Carnegie Library museum in Perry. It features rotating exhibits and the first 1000 volumes that were part of the original collection of the library. He also reported on funding issues involving the Jasper County Board of Supervisors and the Newton Public Library. Central LSA is hosting a set of roundtable discussions this year; the first was a support staff roundtable. Kenagy said he is working with librarians on Planning for Results, and is also drafting a pamphlet that will inform library trustees and others about the functions of the LSAs.

D. State Librarian's Report

Wegner asked Corson and Dixon to report to the Commission. Corson reported on the success of the State Library's Iowa Publications Online (IPO) project, which is an electronic depository of documents produced by Iowa state agencies for the public. Karon King, who coordinates the patents and copyrights unit of the State Library, is on a yearlong fellowship in Arlington, Virginia at the federal Patents and Copyrights Office. Corson reported that in March, two Bulgarian librarians will visit Washington D.C., Iowa, and Colorado. They will meet with the five Iowa librarians who will be going to Bulgaria in May, and will learn more about lobbying techniques. They will also meet with First Lady Christie Vilsack, who is an honorary board member of ABLE, the Bulgarian Exchange program. Dixon informed the Commission that the State Library is currently taking applications for a continuing education consultant. The second half of Gates training will begin this spring. Classes will be Librarian's Internet Toolkit for Kids; Internet Access Policy Issues; Using the Internet for Reference and Tech Support on the Fly. Mary Cameron is traveling the state presenting the Summer Reading Workshops. Dixon said that 300 of the 400 public library accreditation reports have been submitted. Henning reported that a Data Center Showcase will be held in the State Library computer lab March 1-4. One hundred fifty people have already registered for the presentations, which will include speakers from other state agencies who will talk about data available through their departments. Wegner informed the Commission of a bill the Department of Education has drafted that would require each school district to have a librarian on staff. Wegner reported that approximately 100 Iowa school districts currently do not employ a teacher librarian. Wegner reported that she presented information to the legislative Education Appropriations Sub-Committee. Ross, Karen Burns, Wetteland, and Katherine Von Wald also attended the subcommittee session. Ross felt the Committee was attentive and interested in what Wegner had to say. He also said the committee seemed to have more library supporters than in past years. Wegner distributed a copy of the State Library's organizational chart. She also reported that Lori Barkema is the new director of the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Gohlinghorst asked if the Commission could tour the Carnegie Library in Perry during their August retreat. Simmons will check on the possibility and report to the Commission in April.

8.0 Adjournment

Bradley moved to adjourn, Boyd seconded. Commission adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 11, 2005, State Library