

Republican Valley Library System Board Meeting
November 6, 2009 10:00 AM
Hoesch Memorial Library City Park W. 2nd
Alma, Nebraska

PRESENT: Vicki Casper, Judy Grandstaff, Patty Hall, Terri Johnson, Mo Khamouna, Mary Nelson, Nancy Sherwood, Dana Wade

ABSENT: Tony Anderson, Beth Falla (listened to part of meeting via Skype connection), Jane Hilton, Sylvia Person, and Suzann Christensen

ALSO PRESENT: Sherry Houston (System Director), Keri Anderson, (Hoesch Memorial Library), and Steve Batty (NLC Commissioner)

Agenda

Pre-Meeting Topics of Discussion: Library fundraisers, including book-themed baskets, bargain bazaars, and underwater pitch tournaments using water tanks; contrast of weather from last meeting's fog to the beautiful day today; and new books at RVLS by authors we've actually met (Michael Sauer's *Searching 2.0*, and Sally Gardner Reed's *Even More Great Ideas for Libraries and Friends*)

The board thanks the staff at Hoesch Memorial Library for hosting our meeting and Sherry for stopping at Eileen's Cookies.

Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call: President Judy Grandstaff called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Judy introduced Steve Batty, the new library commissioner from McCook. Since Steve spends his summers in Colorado, he has so far attended commissioner's meeting via telephone. Board members present introduced themselves which took care of roll call. Keri Anderson, former board member and Alma librarian attended while husband Tony attended another meeting instead of ours. Beth Falla, after sorting out microphone problems, greeted us briefly on Skype via Sherry's laptop and listened in on part of the meeting. We received a phone call that Jane, unfortunately, went to the wrong library.

Approval of September 11, 2009 Board Meeting Minutes: The minutes stand approved as written and were filed.

Financial Report: Sherry handed out an updated *Percent of Budget Used* report. The library commission paid her way to ALA so these costs were removed from Administrator Expenses, greatly decreasing this line in the report. She reported that she created new folders shown in the Promotion line. We have used 30% of our budget to date. The audit was finished and is fine but the hard copy of the report hasn't arrived yet. The state is proposing cuts of 2.5% immediately but it isn't known how this would affect RVLS since some of our funding comes from LSTA which is federal funds. A brief discussion of funding and ways we could cut took place.

Correspondence: Thank you notes were received for scholarships, book calendars, and from Pat Bonge, who is feeling better, and author Ellen Klages, who thought Sherry was a great "handler." Sherry shared copies of letters sent by Suzanne's students thanking NLC and the Nebraska Humanities Council for funding Klages' visit to their school.

Administrator's Report: (A detailed copy of the administrator's report is in each board member's packet.) With all Sherry's road time, she was asked if she had hit any deer-yes, but not with the current system vehicle. Sherry said her library visits are appreciated and there are a few new directors. Several RVLS libraries qualified for the upcoming Gates computers program. Many are going to the Gates training next week. Board members received updated RVLS directories.

OLD BUSINESS

Library Survey: Survey answers were included in each packet. There were 68 who responded. Sherry will put the survey online and share link. Patty and Mary thought results could help with city council and patron discussions.

Calendars: Sherry has 1/3 of her personal deliveries of calendars done. Non-librarian board members also received a calendar. Short discussion of other uses of the calendar pages ensued.

National Book Festival: Sherry reported the festival was amazing! 130,000 attended on the Washington D.C. Mall with lots of authors present and booths from all the states and U.S. territories. The Nebraska Book Festival is next week and includes a writer's workshop.

Strategic Plan: Progress has been made but it isn't quite done. We will vote on it at the January meeting. Sherry asked for input.

NEW BUSINESS

NLA/NEMA Report: La Vista had a great facility for the conference. Eleven scholarships were given. Terri submitted a written report of the conference for the newsletter, Valleytalk, as the Biblionix stipend winner.

Meeting with Skype: Skype and conference calls were discussed as options for the January meeting because of potential bad weather. No decision was made.

Winter Workshop: Tentative date is January 29th in Hastings. Program will include Pam Bohmfalk talking on fictional books with recipes, Morris Press, cake decorating by Vicki Perrie's daughter-in-law, and a wine shop visit.

Annual Meeting: Terri will check on the price and availability of the Patty Birge room at the North Platte Playhouse and then travel to the Golden Spike Tower for a tour as the last event of the day.

Early Election of Officers: Since all of the officers' board terms expire in June, having new officers elected in March was suggested so old officers could mentor new ones. Bylaws dictate elections to be 1st meeting after annual meeting so discussion was dropped.

NLC Commissioner Report: Steve Batty reported nothing new except for budget cut discussion. He encouraged us to contact him with ideas as he can take our ideas to the Commission. At the 2009 NLA/NEMA conference, he learned that Census 2010 is proposing paid (\$14.00/hr) census information people to be placed at libraries. He encouraged libraries to look into this to bring more people into our buildings. Steve will be "trained" next week and will attend the colloquium and Book Festival.

NLC Representative Report: There was no NLC Representative present to give a report as NLC staff can't attend due to budget cuts. Several online sessions are available including Ncompass Live, College of DuPage, and ALA booklist online.

Business Meeting Adjourned at 12:17. A card and gift were presented to Patty Hall who has retired from McCook and will be moving to Gillette, Wyoming to be a nanny to her grandchildren.

Terri Johnson, Acting Secretary