

Western Council Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2015
Cape May, NJ

Attendees:

Linda Thibodeua, AK
Holly Henley, AZ
Carolyn Ashcraft, AR
Gene Hainer, CO
Stacey Aldrich, HI
Michael Scott, IA
Ann Joslin, ID
Barbara Reading, MO
Jennie Stapp, MT
Rod Wagner, NE
Mary Soucie, ND
Kathleen Moeller-Peiffer, NM
Susan McVey, OK
MaryKay Dahlgreen, OR
Daria Bossman, SD
Donna Jones Morris, UT
Greg Lane, WA

The meeting was called to order and introductions were made.

Minutes of the previous meeting: It was determined that the Fall 2014 minutes were never approved. Susan moved, seconded by Carolyn to approve the Fall 2014 minutes. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Draft Spring and Fall 2015 will be shared with the group and posted on the WestCo site.

Vacant officer positions: The Vice-President/President-elect position is vacant due to Rand's (WA) job change. Mary moved, seconded by Carolyn to elect Mary Kay Vice-President/President- elect, effective immediately. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Susan moved, seconded by Linda to elect Mary as secretary to fill the rest of Mary Kay's term, effective immediately. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Spring 2016 meeting arrangements:

- a. Spring meeting location – Tacoma, Washington
- b. Spring meeting CE and questions- Mary Kay will oversee the CE program. Mary Kay, Ann and Linda suggested school libraries as a topic; Mary Kay has a strong school library consultant. Another suggestion was Colet Bartew, the school library consultant that works for the Montana Department of Ed. A three-pronged approach is needed- Dept. of Ed; Dept. of Ed at Universities and Colleges; School principals and teachers. Greg Lane (WA) will approach the i-School at the University of Washington to see if they would present on the topic as well. Topic: school libraries and supporting K-12. Could we identify a homeschool model that is fairly universal; Mary Kay can find someone to address the homeschool piece. Linda questioned if this should be

at the policy level or at the practical, hands-on level for consultants. Mary Kay boiled it down that we're talking about how to become a player at the policy level. Daphne questioned who has a program that can speak to the model of how to become a player. Another option is to get a Governor's policy advisor to come and speak to us. Stacey suggested that we look at the educational eco-system and suggest new solutions on how we support students, schools, public libraries. Daria will share an article from a principal's magazine that discusses how people that are digital natives are not necessarily digital literates. Stacey commented it needs to come down to the practical and how we can help students become digital literates. Mary Kay brought the group back to the topic of what do we need to know more about. For instance, Aspen Institute or Harwood Institute. Nevada is having success with their Dept. of Ed adding a school library consultant position; questioning if they can keep the forward motion. They are having conversations on broadband, sharing IP #'s; how to serve the 1:1 students. The topic for the spring is serving students in libraries in the future. We will look at 2 areas- the practical and the theoretical of how to serve. Stacey, Mary, Jennie and Greg Lane will assist Mary Kay. Mary Kay is sending her reference staff out to pro-actively serve state agencies.

Treasurer's report: The Library Development Directors will be looking to the model of the CE Coordinators, i.e. the State Library will pay for attendance. Mary moved, second by Susan that the September Treasurer's Report be accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

2015-16 budget: Tabled

Other business as needed

- a. IMLS Focus Convening Learning in libraries- Barbara went to the convening on learning. The day consisted of managers of the different grant programs and what they've discovered for best practices. Cycled through early learning and different aspects. Afternoon conversation was centered on how to prepare librarians coming through grad school to serve in various libraries. They talked about working with various library schools to help address the needs of current students. The meeting was broadcast so librarians did attend virtually. There will be a report forthcoming. Susan questioned if there was a mention that this is where IMLS is looking to focus their grant projects.
- b. Data convening/ Library Stats Working Group- There was a discussion about library stats and IMLS, the annual public library survey, the LSWG and the role they play. LSWG has 4-5 Chiefs, 4-5 State Data Coordinators, and representatives from ALA, ARL (Association of Research Libraries), and the census, along with IMLS staff. At the spring meeting, WestCo passed a resolution, requesting IMLS to convene a data summit. IMLS would prefer it be done as a grant. There has been a fair amount of discussion between ALA, PLA (Public Library Association), ULC (Urban Library Council), and the Gates Foundation regarding this topic. We need to define what the right data is that we need to be collecting because each group has a different idea. Susan is serving on the ALA LSTA Reauthorization subcommittee; they looked at if something should be put in the reauthorization language. They thought it should be a separate priority so that SLA's (State Library Agencies) and/or IMLS could use funds to address this topic. The idea is to put the onus on IMLS to pay for the tools to collect the data such as the Edge because there's no sustainability. Carolyn's concern is what will be done after the data summit; we need to keep the momentum going. At the base, the things we're collecting are not showing what we're doing. The snail's pace at which we make changes to the data elements also needs to be addressed. Instead of saying "it's because of" we should be saying "look at what's happening".

We have to know that the libraries can collect the data. We discussed the process of how stats are gathered and who is determining what stats are gathered. We also need to address the survey fatigue people are experiencing. We asked to involved IMLS, ULC, ARSL, COSLA, PLA and John Barteau. Stacey said if we could build a simple portal of tools and eliminate the overlap. Another question is should it be a sample rather than a survey; we need to make certain that people understand how to do a sample. It's critical to have ARSL involved. RIPL (Research Institute for Public Libraries) is addressing the training needs; Mary and Jennie both attended RIPL and both found it to be very beneficial. Greg Lane commented that we needed to make sure that we emphasize that if we don't collect the data the public won't have access to it. We need to collect the services we offer. The main challenge for public libraries is the need for better infrastructure. ID is paying for 3 libraries to participate in Edge. 7 states have paid for statewide access. 70% of OK participated in the soft launch. OR started this year; legislators have responded positively. PA had about 360 out of 452 libraries complete. SD will fund 25 rural libraries next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00.