

Western Council Summer Meeting 2019 Minutes

Welcome and Introductions: Jennie Stapp MT, Mark Smith TX, Michael Scott IA, Mary Soucie ND, Cindy Aden WA, Eric Norris KS, Holly Henley AZ, Colleen Eggert UT, Melody Kellogg OK, Stephanie Bailey-White ID, Jennifer Patterson OR, Tod Colegrove NV, Jamie Markus WY, Nicolle Davies CO, Rod Wagner NE, Eli Guinnee NM, Patience Frederiksen AK, Cindy Aden WA, Stacey Aldrich (HI) joined the meeting at 9:40.

Guests Karen Agata, Tammy Westergard

Western Council Business Meeting

Approval of minutes-Motion to approve Cindy, Patience. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report- Treasurer Cindy Aden sent the Treasurer's report to the list ahead of the meeting. Invoices will be sent out soon for the next year. Cindy reviewed the process for submitting expense reports. We have some expenses for association management, website and audit. Keith from Amigos suggested we purchase insurance so we purchased Directors and Officers insurance. He also suggested we have liability insurance which was \$744. Cindy reviewed the Professional Development Exchange (PDE) requests. \$2,000 is the max and can be spent in \$500 increments. Can be used for traveling or to bring a speaker into the state. Request needs to come from the Chief or the Chief should be cc'd on the email. Eli asked some questions about the website and some issues with the PDE form.

Discussion of general and professional liability insurance- Mark presented two quotes. Liberty Mutual was \$350 annually and Chubb was \$650. Coverage seemed similar. Mark's recommendation was to go with the less expensive one. Cindy has not had an opportunity to review them. Cindy will review them and make a recommendation. Cindy moved, second by Colleen that the Executive Committee choose the insurance and report back to membership.

Officer election – Michael moved, second by Jamie, to elect Mary Soucie as Secretary for another year. Motion carried with one abstention. Officer cycle: President serves a four-year term, two years as President-elect and two years as President. Secretary serves for two years and Treasurer serves for three years. A new President-elect and Treasurer will be elected at the spring 2020 meeting.

Status of Dollar per capita- Mark gave an update on the Dollar per capita campaign. Western Council originated the idea which was handed off to COSLA. The goal of the campaign is to raise the Grants to States amount to \$1 per capita which will double the amount of the program. 26 states have signed resolutions supporting the campaign as well as the regional library associations, ULC, the Corporate Coalition for Libraries.

- Jennie asked if the ALA National Network of Advocates has been discussed at the committee level. There are three states creating a pilot to create a National Network of Advocates. Jennie was part of a conference call with ALA Advocacy Office and a consultant; each state will have a point person in the state for ALA to work with on local/state issues. The point person would have responsibilities to do network articles and attend Leg Day. They would be the mouthpiece for ALA concerns. Jennie asked questions about the pilot period, evaluation, plans for beyond the pilot. MT was the fourth of

four states. MT drafted some suggestions for the pilot program, including how the State Library would be included if the advocates are not State Library staff and some other suggestions. The MT Library Association Government Affairs chair agreed to participate if ALA was interested in the suggestions but they were uninvited from participating. Other states are AL, NY, FL. Jennie reached out to the other state libraries and they were not aware even though their states had already agreed to participate. Jennie has communicated with her legislators offices that they may hear different messages from ALA and the local MT people. AK SLA is working with ALA to bring Senator McKowsky on broadband. They are targeting the Senate appropriations committee; goal is to move them from being supporters to super-supporters.

- Mark will be attending a meeting of the ALA IMLS Funding Taskforce this afternoon. He clarified that we agree that COSLA can have a legislative agenda outside of ALA's. Our goal is to increase federal funding for our states. Mark asked for consensus that either ALA or COSLA will have to continue the process and ask for additional money.
- A suggestion was made that COSLA/WestCo consider having its own Leg Day. We need to make sure our message aligns with ALA so that it doesn't look like we're chaotic and at odds. Repetition is the key to learning and we need to do multiple visits as often as we can.
- Mark summarized the discussion thusly: we are willing to watch and see what happens with the task force but we're willing to move ahead if it looks like the committee is stalling or not representing our concerns. Mark will communicate with Tim and Stacey that we think that COSLA should consider developing its own legislative agenda and leg day.
- We need to make sure that ALA understands we are all working for the same thing- additional funding for libraries- not against each other.
- Jennie said that COSLA/WestCo need to keep our eyes on the process from the committee on how we get to the increased funding and make sure that we are communicating with our legislators/staff.
- For clarification, the \$1 per capita translates to the population of the US but it does not translate to \$1 per capita for each state due to the formula.

Smart cities and libraries- Mary shared information about an IMLS grant looking at smart cities technology and libraries. AK SLA hosted a two day conference on how to merge data gathered by state agencies and they'll be heavily involved in creating the portal. MT is in a partnership with the state of WA, ending at the end of 2019, creating a real-time network. Interconnected series of hyper accurate GPS stations that are in communication with each other to create a network that will direct autonomous vehicles for example. MT SLA will be hosting the open data.

Update on Census 2020- Jennie updated us. ALA has a task force meeting that Jennie and Karen Mellor (RI) serve on. There will be 3-4 census activities at ALA. Jennie will be on a panel 9-10 Sunday morning on census. There will be a panel on how people can use census data. There is one on trust issues around census data. The approach to promoting the census is taking unique forms in each state. The US Census Bureau is woefully underfunded and so they're relying on state support. Doing some testing now on the census. ALA has a manual that should be shared with local libraries if it hasn't already. ALA has partnered with one of the SUNY campuses to map hard-to-count areas in relation to library districts; libraries should look at this. MT is holding training on the census process and each library is encouraged to identify a census champion to communicate with the local government. They're encouraging libraries to volunteer to serve

on local count community. Libraries will have an opportunity next March to have someone from the census at their library.

Discussion of uses of Oculus VR headsets- Cindy updated us on the headsets agreement, specifically around PR. She sent an email last week with language that can be used by each SLA to publicize the receipt of the headsets. When you're planning something that you can alert them to ahead of time, send to the two Cindy's from Occulus. When someone is writing something local, ask to see it. If it's a good story send it on to them. They want the good stories of how the headsets are being used. We can add free things or purchase stuff to add to them. You can add a 360 camera and then add stories on top of them. Check YouTube for "on the go" stories, especially the Bear Band tribe (or a similar name) from CA. In UT, they had libraries write grant applications for \$2000 in things; 5 public and 5 school libraries were selected. They hosted 2-3 training sessions around UT in partnership with the University of UT to talk about what they're doing with VR. Cindy sent all the documentation from WA; tailor to your own needs. Tod shared the National Park Tour of VR. Library Development in NV partnered with Talking Books to do some training of staff to simulate losing one's sight using the title *Eyes Wide Shut*. Mark thanked Cindy for coordinating the donations. Tammy will be sharing a report of their first year of VR activities.

Discussion of 2020 meeting location- The Exec Committee will investigate HI and AK for the next meeting. If you think it's going to be a problem for your state, let the President know. A third alternative would be the east coast of WestCo i.e. Des Moines IA.

Other business: Mark commented that we don't have an orientation for WestCo but that at some point we should consider creating an orientation process. Cindy, Jennie, Mary and Mark will work on creating an orientation process.

Western Council member reports (3 minutes each)

- WA- had a 12.8M for capital construction projects for rural libraries. Received 1.5M for workforce development. Got a new building; archives, libraries, elections and corporations- all Secretary of State. Planning a symposium on rural broadband; State Librarian was included in the newest bill. Doing a lot with VR, coordinating with CA and NV. Has a new LSTA Coordinator; revamped the organizational structure. Three managers report to her.
- KS: First session; things with the budget has gone along quietly. Learning processes about how to build up relationships in the capitol. State Library hasn't played a large role and he's trying to figure out how to improve the perception of the State Library to be seen as an important player. Building relationships with 7 regional system directors; sponsoring RIPL together in 2021. Hosting ARSL in 2020. Building goodwill among libraries within those regions. Wants to look at what they can do as an agency to rebuild processes in place among departments. Wants to restructure the organizational chart. Looking to other SLA's with similar budget and staff size to see how they operate and will be working with HR to reorganize. Everything's great.
- AZ: Full allocation of LSTA this year so awarded 53 subgrants with 675K dollars. Had three different categories of express grants for those less experienced in grant writing. CAP collections and programming 4K- 19; 5 STEAM grants; 5 Hotspot grants and then 24 regular grants. CAP grants include materials on a specific topic and related programming. Held certification for rural librarians without an MLS using the WestCo certification standards. Brought Ryan Dowd in and others were invited to

attend. Still doing SRP with CSLP; ring of cards- early literacy activities. Adding cards on school readiness.

- HI- Lemon tree projects- places that grow lemon trees are having problems with flooding and other issues so looking at doing projects with a group that plants lemon trees at the libraries and they will provide STEM programs around the trees. Working with Music for Life foundation; Jake Shimabukero, well known ukulele player is doing concerts at the public libraries; 3 branches are circulating ukuleles. Working with a psychologist to work with staff and community members. Looking at using Microsoft Teams to coordinate communication among staff; OR is using it.
- NV- Legislature just wrapped up and for the first time in 13 years, the funding for libraries was increased by 500K. He's met with about 20-30 branch libraries of the 90 in the state. State Library includes Archives, Public Records and the mailroom are all part of the state library. Working a lot on early literature using Bezos Foundation.
ID- legislation passed to filter Wi-Fi connections in local libraries. Tough session overall. Finished up Libraries Future camp; Nancy Pearl interviewed retired SL Anne Joslin and had great keynote speakers. Used as a focus group to hear what library community was thinking for strategic plan. Meeting with leg representative on Monday to introduce herself and talk about LSTA
- NE- session ended a few days earlier than scheduled; this was the long session of 90 days. Funding was increased a little; increases for statewide audiobook/ebook consortium; databases and regional county library systems. Finishing a 3 year IMLS project on rotating makerspace collections for 5 months with 30 libraries. Hope is they'll buy their own equipment at end of project which several have. Had a few libraries that suffered minor damage from flooding; first experience working with FEMA staff who were helpful. In early Oct, will be hosting a joint IA-NE annual conference.
- UT-State Library participated in the 150 anniversary of joining of the intercontinental railroad. Provided displays to 20 libraries throughout the state that included books and lots of giveaways. State Library operates online resources including a large OverDrive consortium. Usage is greatly increasing about 8k per day. Reestablished local Library Day on the Hill in partnership with the state library association. Gave over 1200 books to Odyssey House, a drug and alcohol treatment program from a bookmobile that closed, plus some LSTA dollars. Issuing an RFP for their state docs program. Interactive storytime for the library for the blind.
- OR- Caren is helping her with onboarding since she was the previous interim. Much of her time has been spent meeting people and gathering information. Meeting with staff, stakeholders and other state agency heads. Caren did the heavy lifting for the budget, approved before she started- status quo budget. Other good news from the session was a bill put forth by the OR Library Association, defining what a public library is. State Library will be developing rules. Recently participated in a reference summit. Gearing up for a Summer Reading Summit in August. Celebrating 50 years with Talking Book and Braille being at the State Library; celebrating next week.
- WY-this has been the year of library infrastructure. WY SL runs that state ILS that includes all libraries except the one university in the state. Transitioning to SaaS and a mobile app. They've been doing trainings on the ILS. Dividing out the OCLC bill and passing on to the local libraries; in the past the state library has paid the lion's share. It has allowed the local libraries to see some of the stressors from vendors; local libraries will be calling OCLC directly. 23% turnover of library director in the state; Jamie thinks it will be over 30%. Do a new director orientation in person at the state library as a group.
- AK- new Governor's main goal is to cut 1.1 M from the state budget; two State Library programs are slated to be cut. Waiting to see where budget ends up since legislature put funding back in. Have to

have the webpages totally accessible by June 30 due to a lawsuit. Had an earthquake in Anchorage in Nov; no major damage to the libraries but some damage to museums. Received money from State Dept of Ed for a statewide contract for Tumblebooks and Sesame Street Books. Looking at doing a study on book desserts. Had the AKLA conference in Juneau and then the PNLA/AKLA conference next year. Cooling system failed and has been replaced with an electrical system which has upped the monthly bill by 10K.

- OK- legislative session ended at the end of May. Received an increase of 44K but was expecting 700K more that was cut at the end of the session. Gov believes that all libraries should be locally funded. Hosted first ever day long agency director retreat. Flooding story matches NE. Did online academy for Niche Academy for homeless training; did not renew so would like to talk to anyone that is offering. Vacancy in the position that sends out monthly early literacy packets. Added to the Oklahomans Virtually Everywhere Act, which is increase online presence to one of the tops. Gearing up for second annual book festival; except about 5K.
- NM- busy legislative session, 60 days. 1M for library broadband. In a pilot project now but will be rolling broadband to all states. State Aid increased by 2K but hoping for an additional mil. Rural Library Endowment got funded at 1M. Can request 50M next year. Got funded for a poet laureate program, 107K, having lot of fun developing. Hosting MPLA conference in Albuquerque. Doing a preconference on community engagement and a post conference on Saturday for school librarians. Using a regenerative development plan for strategic plan. Looking at what the next evolution of the bookmobile is.
- MT- session ended in April. Were able to get some funding back that was lost in '17, will be able to be staffed at same level as 17. Flattening organizational structures, esp. in library development. Doing lots of coaching. Redoing their "hippy dippy org chart". Study will be conducted by leg committee to explore more stable funding for libraries so it's not so reliant on state dollars and coal. Optimistic they'll find some palliative solutions. State Library Commission passed a fair access resolution, which confirms the Commissions belief that Montanans should have access to information; first step to educating libraries on access. Entering into a rulemaking process on library standards.
- TX- one of toughest sessions in a long time. Agency did get reauthorized; won't have to do for another 12 years. Received an additional dollars for internal processes, incl. hiring counsel. Received 2.6M for library construction in specific areas. Passed a bill to establish a broadband council in Governor's office which includes libraries. Fought off a censoring bill but expect it to return next session. Will no longer be owner of legislative records. Excited to be launching a new ebook program in the state, rolling out SimplyE to the smaller libraries in the state, purchasing content from DPLA and other vendors.
- IA- in the midst of negotiating a contract for one day per week for delivery to all 544 libraries in the state. Academic libraries in state have a consortium that has delivery and they are providing some funding for academics to join the consortium. Hoping to have the delivery up and running this fall. Another year of status quo budgets. Restored a management position that had been cut at beginning of FY17; Michael has been managing the staff.
- ND-
- CO- Legislative session is January-mid May. Had two library related bills for first time in a long time. One of the bills was targeting school libraries and databases and second one was elected vs. appointed library boards. Both died in committee. Co Association for Libraries got an increase of \$1M for State Aid, hoping to get back to \$5M using the per capita. Presenting increased RIPL sessions. Trying to figure out how to navigate legislative relationship building within the confines of CDE.

After lunch, we reconvened for the education portion of our meeting.

Exploring Workforce Projects Part I

- Neil Ridley, Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown Univ.
cew.georgetown.edu/3Pathways
Neil recommended a study from Government Accountability Office has a study on the impact of trucking industry and autonomous vehicles

- Susan Benton, Urban Libraries Council

Exploring Workforce Project Part II

- Tammy Westergard, Nevada State Library, Nevada Career Explorer initiative
- Eli Guinnee, New Mexico State Library, Libraries as Launchpads initiative
- Summary of other state workforce projects
 - ID is looking at creating internships in local public libraries. Interested in talking to other SLA's doing something similar
 - Future Ready IA- by 2025 70% of Iowans will have some sort of post-secondary training
 - IA is trying to figure out what the role is for IA libraries in workforce development
 - TX had an unsuccessful ask for workforce 2 sessions ago. Workforce Development in TX became aware and reached out and provide several hundred thousand dollars to create a program. Created a curriculum and rolled out to the libraries; funding ended after 2 years.
 - WIOA come from federal DOL. Distributed on population formula basis to each state. States have boards and that can be localized. It's up to us to understand the world. Interact with the Workforce Investment Board.
 - Federal Legislators love when you level more than one bucket of dollars for a project so tap into WIOA funds if possible.
 - Government doesn't go from the point of the person needing the service and we do the same. We need to get it through that we're the starting point and can point people to other service providers.
 - Find the common language that make the connections between the WIBs and the library folk.

Adjournment: President Smith adjourned at 4:45.