

**Report to the Executive Board of WLA
Legislative Committee
February 3, 2005**

The Legislative Reception is almost upon us. Elaine Hayes and her volunteers have been working hard on getting the event organized. The goal of this year's reception will be to say "thank you" to our Wyoming legislators who have played a key role in library development in the recent past. The group as a whole received the 2004 MPLA Library Leadership Award, a well-deserved honor in light of their consistent and insightful funding of the Wyoming Library System.

State Librarian Lesley Boughton has suggested some Statutory language changes related to libraries this session. They include: (1) removing from the State Librarian the responsibility of sending a copy of Wyoming's session laws to other states. This has passed to the State Law Librarian. (2) Wording to broaden name variations for public libraries—that is not just "County Library of....." but also _____County Library System, etc. (3) Change patron privacy records wording from "circulation records" to "patron transactions", which will cover the changes brought on by our electronic environment.

The State Library Board has asked for that body to be abolished. The Board feels that with the evolution of the structure of the State Library within the framework of State Government there is no longer a valid reason for the Board to continue. The need for this move has been discussed for several years.

On December 9, 2004 the Legislative Committee convened by conference call. At that time we unanimously voted to retain Tom Jones as WLA Lobbyist. We approved the proposed Legislative Committee budget for FY2005. Dale Collum volunteered to be the vice chair for Legislative Education and has carried through with communications to the WLA membership regarding pending legislative issues. Cathy Butler took on the vice-chair position for state issues. The committee is still not at full strength. I have not been able to recruit a representative from the "special library" group. The solution may be to have the latitude to choose from outside that group, but this may involve a by-laws change.

Maggie Farrell, UWYO Library Dean, explained the \$45 million request to this session of the legislature for the expansion of the COE Library and renovations to the existing building and asked for WLA's support. It was agreed that general support from the library community would be appropriate, but that this committee could not speak for WLA as a whole.

The main topic of discussion for that meeting was the proposed amendment to the Open Meetings Law from the Wyoming Press Association. This amendment would allow financial penalties to be assessed on those who violate the Open Meetings Law. That organization is eager to have WLA's support of this amendment. Cathy Butler notified the WLA membership of this amendment and the results of the Committees'

deliberations. Her synopsis is as follows: “The Legislative Committee decided to take no position on this bill, because (1) County Attorneys contacted were not in favor of the bill, (2) it creates a potential liability for counties, including libraries, and (3) we did not want to put librarians at odds with county officials.”

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Twing, Legislative Committee Chair