

Legislative Committee Minutes - February 2002

MINUTES

WYOMING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 25, 2002

6:00 P.M.

LARAMIE COUNTY LIBRARY

- I. Chairman Carol Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. Roll call: those present included Carol Thomas, Jenny Ingram, Frances Clymer, Vicki Roth, Alice Hild Farris, Cynthia Twing, Lucie Osborn/ALA Councilor, Tom Jones, lobbyist/ex officio. Lynette Anderson and Lesley Boughton/ex officio were absent.
- III. Approval of minutes from December 12, 2001 A motion was made by Lucie Osborn to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded and carried.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Elizabeth Cuckow reported that goodie bags (food) for the legislators from WLA members were ready to hand out on 2/26 02. The Legislative Reception will be held at the Hitching Post on Tuesday February 26th starting at 5:00 with a briefing by Tom Jones and the formal reception beginning at 5:30. An effort was made to have the same types of food as were popular from previous years. To date, nearly \$600 had been donated by WLA members toward the cost of the reception.
 - B. Tom Jones reported that the lobbying effort on behalf of the Wyoming State Library's exceptions to the base budget had failed. (\$250,000 for new databases and \$495,000 for connectivity of small libraries) Wayne Johnson proposed the amendment in the House of Representatives where it was voted down. Kathryn Sessions sponsored the amendment in the Senate where it also quickly failed. Tom said that health care, K-12 education, and the University of Wyoming are current priority issues for the legislature. Also, the fact that the Wyoming State Library's base budget had gotten a sizeable increase (from nearly \$7 to nearly \$10 million) had legislators questioning the necessity of the amended amounts.
 1. Lucie Osborn expressed concern that if an allowance for inflation is not included in biennial funding, it will adversely affect all WYLD member libraries when it comes to the 60/40 split currently offered by the Wyoming State Library for WYLD fees and maintenance
 2. Committee members discussed some strategies for more effective lobbying efforts
 - a. combining efforts with the Department of Education in marketing the value of WYLD databases in schools for quality and quantity of research options for students
 - b. instructing WLA members on how to lobby and market the WYLD system
 - c. use library patrons as lobbyists
 - d. post "how to's of lobbying" on the WYLA web page
 - e. Tom Jones offer a seminar at WLA Convention on lobbying
 - f. renew in directors a sense of the importance of library advocacy by offering advocacy training. Lucie observed that the strong teamwork state of mind among directors that came about years ago when WYLD was first formed is absent with the influx of new directors in the state;

that directors need to identify with and unite behind a strong common cause

- g. before the next general election invite all candidates to the library for a personalized tour of the facility and the WYLD system
 - h. produce a Campaign Kit, library facts and figures to be given to political candidates by June 2002
 - i. include an Advocacy Kit with WLA registration forms—the ALA Advocacy packet would be ideal for this
 - j. produce a WYLD fact sheet for librarians so they can talk confidently with legislators
 - k. new avenues of marketing libraries—Vicki Roth will look into the possibility of connecting with the Casper Star Tribune
3. Tom Jones was asked if he was aware of any issues of concern for the library community for next year's legislative session (non-budget). He was not aware of anything but suggested getting input from Lesley Boughton
4. Carol Thomas restated her intention of asking gubernatorial candidates take part in the Legislative Luncheon program at WLA in Casper, September 2002
- C. Recruitment of new members—no new members for the Legislative Committee had been found, all current members were urged to think of those who would take on this important role
- D. National Library Legislative Day—Lesley Boughton and Jenny Ingram are registered. Jenny was reminded to make appointments to meet with Mike Enzi, Craig Thomas and Barbara Cubin on May 7

V. New Business

- A. Report from Lesley Boughton—Lesley was in Washington D.C. to take part in the strategic planning effort for the Laura Bush Initiative. She was selected by Dr. Robert Martin, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Laura Bush Initiative will make \$10 million available for the recruitment of librarians for the 21st century
- B. Report from Jenny Ingram, vice chair-federal
- 1. CIPA—Children's Internet Protection Act. Hearing for ALA vs. United States of America is scheduled on March 25 in Federal District Court in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dee Pridgen, UW law professor thinks it will be declared unconstitutional
 - 2. Current events regarding general concerns on government secrecy
 - a. Presidential Records Act gives sitting presidents the right to block the release of records of a previous administration. ALA has formed a committee to monitor it and speculates that it may be challenged by Congress. A group called Public Interest is challenging it in court

3. U.S.A. Patriot Act affects libraries regarding access to patron records and electronic communications. ALA has published "Guidelines for libraries on the USA Patriot Act" and recommends that librarians familiarize themselves with their state's privacy laws
 4. UCITA—The American Bar Association recommends that it be redrafted
 5. Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act—increases copyright to life of the author plus 70 years. The Supreme Court will hear the appeal
 6. The National Digital Divide—The Bush administration has abandoned the strategy
 7. Museum & Library Services Act of 1996 is up for reauthorization. This affects LSTA funds we now enjoy
 8. School Library Funding—significant increases
- C. Report from Frances Clymer, vice-chair-state
- Frances had little else to add to Tom Jones' report. It was suggested that she monitor submitted bills for their potential impact on libraries
- D. Report from Alice Hild Farris, vice-chair-member education
- E. Report from Lucie Osborn, ALA Councilor
1. Council passed a resolution concerning Executive Order 13,233 "Further Implementation of the Presidential Records Act." The resolution urges Congress to reaffirm the principles of public access embodied in the Presidential Records Act of 1978
 2. Council passed a resolution concerning Government Information and Security, which reads: "That ALA urges Congress and government agencies to ensure that public access to government information is maintained absent specific compelling and documented national security of public safety concerns regarding the information in question."
 3. A resolution reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom passed
- F. Committee Retreat—because of the many training sessions scheduled for SIRSI implementation and the Gates Foundation computer grants, plans for a Legislative Committee retreat were tabled
- G. The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be by conference call on May 16th at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Twing