

Legislative Committee Minutes - January 2003

WYOMING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Laramie County Library, Cheyenne
January 28, 2003

Present: Cynthia Twing, Chair; Dail Barbour, Teton County; Alice Hild Farris, Central High School; Lucie Osborn, Laramie County; Paul Holland & Vicki Roth, Sweetwater County; Katie Jones, Chair of Leg. Reception; Lesley Boughton, Wyoming State Library and Tom Jones, lobbyist.

Cynthia introduced and welcomed Dail Barbour, Teton County, as a new member of the committee.

Addition to agenda approved: Position statement - WLA website

Old Business: Lesley is going to National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C on May 13. Cynthia was approved to go with her.

Report from Tom: Tom reported on bills that could impact us as public employees. HB 154 is a Worker's Comp bill that involves creating a deductible for minor accidents at the workplace that could be taken care of without increasing our premiums or affecting our immunity from legal action. **Tom reminded us to thank the legislators at the reception for their support of the databases.**

Policy regarding public's attendance at Legislative Luncheon: At our Sept. 19 meeting we decided to look at changing the policy so that people could attend the legislative luncheon without paying conference registration, for example non-WLA members, spouses of a legislator or guests. The WLA spouses, friends, etc. would pay the one-day registration fee. The lunch does not always cover the cost of the speaker.

The committee approved Cynthia's wording for the change as follows:

The Wyoming Library Association shall allow non-WLA members to attend the Legislative Luncheon of the annual WLA convention. These individuals shall include legislators, dignitaries and their entourage and employees of organizations connected with the luncheon topic.

- *The cost for attendance will be the price of the meal and gratuity as determined by current registration fees.*
- *WLA will pay costs associated with the luncheon meal for the featured speaker(s) plus one person of the speaker's choice.*
- *Attendance by WLA members will be covered by established registration fees.*

(Cynthia took the statement to the Executive Board on Jan. 29 and they changed some of the wording, but not the intent. They eliminated "and employees of organization connected with the luncheon topic" and the 3rd bullet.)

Revised Budget: The original 2003 budget request was \$7,300 with an approved \$300 increase over the last General Session for Tom Jones. At the Executive Board meeting of Nov. 15th, it was suggested that \$700 be added to the proposed budget to "provide for unforeseen Legislative Reception issues." Therefore, the actual approved budget is \$8,000. (Donations from WLA members usually cover our regular expenses for the reception so we had not budgeted money for it.)

Ad hoc committee report on lobbying: Postponed for now.

Position Statement on WLA web site: Reminder from Jerry Krois. Usually ask WLA to adopt a statement. Cynthia will ask the Executive Board about it. Create a link to full page with direction from Exec. Board. (Not sure about this item.)

New Business:

Program Ideas: The conference is in Sheridan Oct. 1-4, 2003.

- How about Senator John Schiffer as Legislative luncheon speaker? He's Chair of Senate Appropriations Committee. Cynthia will ask him.
- Electronic databases selected by conference time, so there's time to lobby legislators before beginning of session.
- WSL budget will be done by conference so we'll know the priorities.

Report from State Librarian: Lesley said LSTA is back on the floor as HB 13 sponsored by Jack Reed. Enzi probably won't be a co-sponsor because of "decency language" but will support it. Wyoming would get \$340,000 as a base grant. LSTA requires support for libraries from the states.

Settlement on CD's - antitrust lawsuit filed against 4 music labels. Lesley's been in touch with Wyoming AG's office and there's no information on how this settlement will affect Wyoming. Possible free CD's, no money.

Reports from Vice Chairs:

- **Federal** - Paul said main issue is US Patriot Act. Discussion about ACLU & posting statement in libraries. Possibility of having a speaker at conference about the Act.
- **State** - Francis Clymer absent. It was reported that Jerry Krois mentioned a Billings Gazette article about Wyoming joining 32 states to add sales tax to Internet sales. It could mean income for libraries. Would have to be approved by Congress.
- **UCITA (Uniform Computer Information Transaction Act)** - involves copyright & use of software. Nothing moving at the moment.
- **Education** - Alice

"Effective Lobbying" pamphlets: Cynthia would like this committee to develop a lobbying piece to go in Director's handbook for the fall meeting. She will put together a packet for all of us before the meeting.

Decided on Buffalo May 8 & 9.

Appointment: Katie would like to be on the committee. Cynthia will ask the President to appoint her.

Submitted by
Vicki Roth