

Legislative Committee Minutes - May 2002

MINUTES

WYOMING LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE CALL

MAY 16, 2002 10:00 A.M

- I. Chairman Carol Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- II. Roll call: those present included Carol Thomas, Jenny Ingram, Frances Clymer, Vicki Roth, Cynthia Twing, Katie Jones, Dale Collum, Lynette Anderson, Tom Jones, lobbyist/ex officio, Lesley Boughton/ex officio and Trish Palluck. Alice Hild Farris and Lucie Osborn/ALA Councilor were absent.
- III. Approval of minutes from February 25, 2002

A motion was made by Jenny Ingram to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and carried. An addition was suggested by Vicki Roth regarding an opinion from Jerry Krois that in addition to grooming prospective library leaders, the Leadership Institute may prove to be a means of finding new directors for those positions made vacant by retirement of current directors. Jenny made a motion that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion was seconded and carried.

- IV. Old Business--Legislative Reception report submitted by Elizabeth Cuckow was reviewed.

- V. New Business

- A. Katie Jones, chair of the Legislative Reception Committee had investigated alternative sites for next year's reception. Her suggestions and others were considered
 1. Plains Hotel—a new complex, may be more cooperative to letting us bring food in
 2. Knights of Columbus facility
 3. Masonic Temple—this facility is close to the Capitol, would accommodate about 300 people, coffee urns, etc. are available. They would allow alcohol to be served as long as it was not sold. If we wanted to sell malt liquor, we would have to purchase a liquor license for \$100. If we wanted to sell hard liquor or wine, we would have to use a licensed caterer. Carol and Katie had toured the reception hall and had some concerns on what kind of response it would receive from the legislators. Carol said it was reminiscent of an old church basement. Jenny asked if other groups were using it for this type of function. Katie said as far as she knew, only groups affiliated with the Masons, but they seemed anxious to have our patronage. Trish wondered if the building would be able to support computer hookups if we would want to do some kind of demo during the reception.
 4. ICON Center—would have the same issues as the Hitching Post
 5. Methodist Church
- B. Because so many options had been offered, Carol decided to table a decision on a reception site until more information could be gathered.

- C. Jenny Ingram thanked the Legislative Committee and Lesley Boughton for the opportunity to go to the National Library Legislative Day in Washington D.C.
1. While she was there she met with Senators Thomas and Enzi and their staffers. She met with Representative Barbara Cubin's staff only.
 2. The approval of LSTA funds is on hold in the House. The Senate needs to improve upon it and schedule a vote. Lesley said the hang-up was from the "museum" side of the equation. The main focus is to get the funding increased from \$300 million to \$500 million. The lower level was set in the 1970's and now many more libraries are eligible to receive LSTA funds. Wyoming's congress people are supportive of LSTA. Senator Enzi's comments regarding LSTA from 4/10/02 were mentioned. He is working to change the current act so that rural states receive a more equalized portion of the base funding.
 3. Senate Bill 803 "E-Government Bill" sponsored by Senator Lieberman preserves federal electronic information and makes it easily accessible to the public on the Web. Wyoming's senators and representative were asked to support this bill.
 4. A bill concerning copyright issues has been introduced by Senator Holland. This bill would allow software companies to imbed protection from copying or pirating into their products.
 5. Distance Learning bill is hung up pending resolution of database protection issues.
- D. Chair Report--Carol Thomas welcomed Dale Collum, Uinta County Library as the ninth and newest member of the Legislative Committee. She urged all committee members to be recruiting additional members. Vicki Roth said she would ask her director Paul Holland if he might be interested. Frances Clymer had talked to several people with no positive response.
1. At the suggestion of the Legislative Committee, Erin Kinney has built an "all@wyla" email list. This will simplify communication among all organization members.
 2. Carol is pursuing her idea of asking gubernatorial candidates to speak at the Legislative Luncheon at WLA on September 19th. Vicki Roth had prepared a draft letter of invitation which will be mailed to all candidates the first week of June. At the time of the WLA convention the field will have narrowed to two or three candidates. A question was posed regarding what steps would be taken if only one candidate responded. Potentially we could have one, two or maybe even three speakers. Tom Jones suggested letting those who agree to come talk for a few minutes and then take questions from the audience. Frances has been monitoring the status of the candidates. She will provide their addresses for Carol after the filing date has closed May 31. All things considered, Carol mentioned the advisability of having a backup speaker in mind. She suggested Wyoming State Librarian, Lesley Boughton as a outstanding alternative. Trish reminded Carol that there should be a committee in charge of the menu for the Legislative Luncheon. Vicki suggested that Carol check with Bill Nelson and/or Kay Carlson before contacting the Parkway Plaza herself.
 3. Lobbyist Tom Jones has prepared a Power Point presentation on lobbying for a workshop at this year's WLA convention. He has planned it so there will be an opportunity for interaction from those who attend. The value of each county library preparing a campaign kit was discussed. This kit could be given to each political candidate in each county and would include information on current library issues and information on that county's library specifically. It was also suggested

that libraries invite all candidates to tour their facilities in July when we can demonstrate SIRSI.

4. Discussion took place regarding the attendance at this year's Legislative Reception and how to improve it
 - a. encourage all to attend, not just directors
 - b. have "helps" available beforehand for librarians on how to talk to representatives from various levels of the political spectrum
 - c. librarians need to know that legislators ASK if "their" librarians are at the reception—they WANT to talk to us
 - d. a date for the reception must be chosen well ahead of time to avoid competition for attendance from other lobbying efforts. Tom suggested that he and Carol go to the Legislative Service Office after the meeting and set a date for the reception in 2003
 - e. because we didn't have to provide food, it was easy for some to justify not coming and just send money
 - f. local focus is a problem for some librarians—we need to broaden our vision and our concept of lobbying
5. Lynn Cheney has been asked to be the key note speaker for the WLA convention in September.
6. Carol will design new stationery for the Legislative Committee's use.

E. Lesley Boughton reported that her focus has been on the new ILS and migration

1. Regarding LSTA funding she said that Frank Galeotos, head of A&I has informed her that education and health issues will be getting the bulk of government support
2. It is her observation that with the election of a new governor, new ideas and priorities will take place. Key positions such as head of A&I will probably change
3. In the next budget session, a request to fund telecommunications would be supplemental. At that time the Legislative Committee should be prepared to respond. Lesley herself would be in communication with library directors

F. Jenny Ingram reported on issues of concern from a Federal level

1. CIPA—still awaiting a decision
2. COPA—thrown back to lower courts
3. Sonny Bono Copyright Act—will go to the Supreme Court in the fall
4. UCITA—on hold till the fall
5. Presidential Records Act—lawsuit in progress
6. GPO—the Bush administration wants competitive bids on government publications instead of using the Government Printing Office exclusively. They argue it would save funds. The GPO questions whether materials printed elsewhere would make it into depository libraries or onto the National Bibliography

G. Frances Clymer reminded committee members of dates to keep in mind as we approach the election season

1. Filing for office—May 16-31

2. New parties registered—June 1
3. Primary—August 20

H. The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held at the Parkway Plaza on Friday, September 20 at the WLA convention in Casper

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Twing