

## Legislative Committee Minutes - May 2003

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Legislative Committee Meeting  
Johnson County Library  
May 1-2, 2003

**Present:** Cynthia Twing, Chair; Lynette Anderson, Dail Barbour, Dale Collum, Alice Hild Farris, Paul Holland, Lucie Osborn, Vicki Roth, Lesley Boughton, Ex-Officio. **Absent:** Frances Clymer, Nicole Cormia.

**Minutes** for January 28, 2003 meeting approved with corrections of typos.

**Patriot Act:** ALA is asking libraries to endorse their statement.

Discussion:

- Do we (WLA) need to make a big issue of it? Staff training on the Act and patron privacy is actually more useful than creating lots of publicity about it. The staff in Laramie County met with the County Attorney in Cheyenne.
- Look at our own privacy law in Wyoming Statutes. It refers only to registration and circulation.
- Our system eliminates records but not the last holder and not if you're overdue.
- State Library actually holds the records so Lesley would be dealing with it.
- Opinion that the Act removes due process and (exceeds) probable cause standards.
- Consensus that ALA's resolution is too long.
- The Patriot Act will be a program in the fall. The membership may be expecting something from the Legislative Committee at the Act at the WLA conference.
- The public who follow the issue may be curious about how their records are handled by the public libraries.
- Would the membership vote on our proposal or just the Executive Board? Probably just E.B.
- What would be the PR ramifications of creating publicity about the Act?
- We could remain mute, moot(?) on ALA's statement.
- Federal agents would have to have a subpoena or search warrant to get records anyway.
- We will continue to not keep records.
- A principle to keep in mind is the time and energy expended vs. the risk. What is the potential PR risk?
- Dail recommended a statement from Illinois with strong language incorporating ALA's position.

**Motion:** *Lynette moved and Vicki seconded the motion to approve the committee's statement on the Patriot Act to submit to the Executive Board of WLA. Motion passed. Dail voted against because she wanted the language in the statement to be stronger.*

### **Statement on Patriot Act:**

1. *WLA considers sections of the USA Patriot Act to be a present danger to the constitutional rights and privacy rights of library users.*
2. *Wyoming in WS 16-4-203 (ix) provides for patron privacy regarding circulation and registration records.*
3. *WLA urges all Wyoming libraries to implement record retention policies, which are solely necessary for the fulfillment of the mission of the library.*
4. *WLA urges librarians to defend and support user privacy and free and open access to knowledge and information.*

### **Lobbying - how to best address needs of directors and members:**

- According to questionnaire @ Director Retreat, we flunked on grassroots lobbying.
- How do we get information from Lesley to Directors and membership? Most do not understand the steps involved. We need hands-on material for Directors.
- How do we get buy-in from Directors?

- Buddy system pairing a veteran & new director.
- What kind of resources can you provide to me that will help me provide service to the public?
- What's the target? Timeline
- This is what we're doing for this year and we need to be ready for September. Here's what we need to have you do: a.b.c.d. - pick one, do what's comfortable.
- **Steps - background - presentation or approach to Directors:**
  1. This is what we have now because of lobbying by WLA & support of legislators.
  2. Target - This is what we want.
  3. Timeline - do this by.....
  4. Options for action
- **Biennium budget from WSL is prepared by August, then goes to Head of A & I who decides what goes to the Governor from his department. Due by Oct. 15 in Gov.'s office. He delivers the budget to the JAC by Dec. 1.** Lesley said the State Library has a direct constituency - a pass through to the state's libraries. The budget request to Head of A&I will be available at WLA.

Before the WYLD meeting, vendors will demonstrate the databases. Lesley will invite Earl Kabeiseman, Head of A & I, so he can get an early look. FYI - Michael Walden-Newman, Head of Wyoming Taxpayers Association, was impressed with the databases and inquired about them.

**Lesley will know the specific databases by August 1st. Earl prioritizes A & I budget between Sept. 1-Oct. 15. That's when WLA can do lobbying.** Between Oct. 15 & Dec. 1, no real lobbying takes place. The Governor and budget analysts are reviewing all the budgets. Information from the Statewide Databases Committee will be available in June.

What about Library Districting bill? (Brief mention of letter from Bill Nelson to Kay Carlson. More discussion on May 2nd.)

**Lobbying cont.** Lesley will be asking for an additional General Fund appropriation. Clarify the "acquisition fund" to Directors at the Retreat. Need to educate those lobbying why the numbers look so big for State Library's acquisition fund.

Legislative luncheon @ WLA - use the opportunity to lobby. Senator John Schiffer is Chair of JAC.

#### **How issues are developed and communicated to membership:**

- WSL issue-----developed in early to mid-summer.
- Then to Directors & Library Boards
- Then to Director's Retreat
- Then to WLA - educate membership
- Then lobby the rest

**Have a lobbying kit in hands of Library Directors by mid-November.** (Note : timeline for kits revised on May 2nd). Discussion about how many, how to disseminate, how to involve school librarians. Suggestion that each county form a lobbying group. Ask Leslie Davies to contact school librarians with information about who to contact. We need specifics about what we want.

#### **Kit:**

- Legislative Directory from Trucking Association
- ALA Library Advocacy handbook, esp. pg. 27-29
- "Effective Lobbying" brochure
- Timeline for issue (include work you should do before you have an issue)
- Options for Action - use list on L.D.'s survey
- Chosen target (WSL's) for the legislative session

## May 2, 2003 - Business Meeting.

### Old Business:

- **Posting Legislative position statements on WYLA website.** Cynthia asked about it at E.B. meeting in January. She will pursue it.
- **Legislative program for WLA convention in the fall:**  
**Senator John Schiffer will speak at Legislative Luncheon.**  
**Possible topics** - equitability of funding, possible solutions; how do you balance needs of education against all other requests, esp. since public libraries serve needs of that constituency, i.e. students & teachers.
- **Legislative Reception:** We don't have a Chair. Katie Jones will co-chair, but not chair. How do we spread the job around so the Chair doesn't do it all? Cynthia will explore. We need to book a reception for next year (it's a short session). **Lucie will call the Plains Hotel if Tom Jones gives her a date.**

### **New Business:**

- Dail said the State Library Board is having an identity crisis. There isn't much of a role for Board since reorganization. When WSL was an independent agency, the Board had more influence. Lesley reports to Earl Kabeiseman, not the Board. Lesley said the libraries of Wyoming are "our" constituents, not the public that walks in. It is an unfunded Board but it does get some money from the WSL. Unfortunately the State Library Board may be taking resources from local libraries in terms of people. It would take LSO to draft legislation to disband the Board.

**Lobbying Kit:** We have money in our budget because no one from the committee is going to Washington.

- Details: who's ordering ALA handbooks? - Lucie. How many? A minimum of 60.
- When does the kit go out? Should go to Director's Retreat, September 10-12.
- Secondary school librarians should get a kit but be selective since some probably have no interest in lobbying. Ask Leslie Davies.
- Friends Group @ Johnson County will put the kits together.
- Lesley will know approximately what additional funds WSL is requesting in June.
- Lesley will keep Earl K. informed.
- FYI - when we need to get together and weather prevents it, Alice said the schools have a video connection we could use.

### **Discussion:**

- Committee needs to thank U.S. Senator Mike Enzi who signed on as co-sponsor for LSTA funding. Ancestry.com came with LSTA money. **Dale will send a thank you from committee to Enzi.** The legislation still needs approval. It stands alone, not attached to another funding bill. It's actually the Museum and Library Technology Act.
- Does Carey Hartmann need names for legislative committee appointments? **Cynthia will check.** Who goes off? (According to web site, both Alice & Cynthia's terms are up in 2003). Nicole Cormier has not attended a meeting. Cynthia will e-mail her and try to get new members. We need people who will attend meetings and be willing to work.
- **Library Districting:** Who is responding to Bill Nelson's letter to Kay Carlson about library district? Maybe he should contact whoever is organizing the Director's Retreat to have input there. But put it at the end of the agenda. We need to have legislators on board for district legislation to pass.
- **District:** There are ramifications in districting that each Director and Board would need to understand, i.e. who owns the building, how to handle insurance? **Bottom line: will districts benefit our patrons?** Is the legislature looking @ special districts? Head of Corporations - Curt Meier - Senate; Tony Ross - House. The district bill was assigned to the Revenue Committee by Kay Carlson at the Executive Board meeting in January.

- Even if legislation is passed, districts are still a local option.
- We should have something in writing, possible letter to Kay Carlson from Cynthia that we think the District issue should be considered by the legislative committee. We could make an offer to talk to Natrona Co. Library Board about districting. There's a time issue, too large an issue to accomplish now, and a huge education issue of all Boards and County Commissions. **Dale will call Bill and tell him we're aware of his letter.**
- **WLA** - make sure the WLA conference schedule includes us for luncheon and committee meeting.
- **The committee agreed that Lesley can invite Earl K. to WLA conference & he doesn't have to pay.**

Submitted by  
Vicki Roth