

Legislative Committee Minutes - September 2000

Minutes of the Legislative Committee of the
Wyoming Library Association
September 22, 2000
Riverton, Wyoming

Members of the Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee in attendance: Helen Higby, chair; Cynthia Twing, Lynette Anderson, Ada Howard, Alice Hild Ferris, Denice Wheeler, Lesley Boughton, Carol Thomas and Sue Knesel, guest Joan Page
Absent: Vicki Roth, Frances Clymer, and Cheryl Davis

Joan brought a question to the group. How can she as a library board member lobby to increase financial support of the library system by the county and community, particularly, in her local branch of Saratoga.

Many ideas were presented:

1. Ask people who know the commissioners to speak for the library.
2. State how much funding increase is needed and what it would accomplish.
3. During the election time ask potential commissioners their position on library support.
4. If your community has a one-cent tax, ask for some of the funding to purchase materials, such as books and computers.
5. If support from commissioners isn't forthcoming try fund raising with a target amount and explaining what will be gained. Fund Raising Ideas:
 - o Form a Friends of the Library to help fund raise and maybe volunteer.
 - o Ask patrons to purchase specific books for the library or pay for a magazine subscription.
 - o At Christmas you can have a wish tree up.
 - o Ask your local paper print the library's wish list.
 - o Some one who purchases books for the library could be part of a bibliophile club.
 - o Form a foundation, the State Library is a source of information.
 - o Have students help raise funds to help the library get it's message of needs out.
 - o Have a used book sale, with discarded books, or donated books.

Helen - Legislation demanding filtering possible. None filed yet.

Lesley - Invited everyone to the meeting about Cyber Savoy in Casper. The State Library will be there to answer questions. Demonstrations of filtering software will be offered. The meetings will be taped and copies sent to all libraries. Helen asked who should attend. Lesley thinks the library community needs to attend to be seen as part of the solution, not the problem.

Back to possible legislation discussion. Denise asked if someone was writing a bill? Lesley answered that it may be moot point due to Federal Legislation that is in conference now. There has been one incident in Wyoming, the soccer coach from Casper had taken pictures of children and posted them on the Internet.

The possibility of a library district bill was brought up. Not under consideration this year.

Carol Thomas asked what the Wyoming Library Association says about the Intellectual Freedom Statement. The answer in a nutshell is that the Association believes it is a local issue and supports that position.

The meeting was adjourned so that we could attend the Legislative luncheon with guest speaker, Tucker Fagen, CEO of the Wyoming Business Council.