

Wyoming Library Association NEWSLETTER

January 2008



WLA Legislative Reception
PLAINS HOTEL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
CHEYENNE

The 22nd Annual Wyoming Library Association's legislative reception is scheduled this year for Wednesday, February 20th. As usual, the reception takes place at the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne. The reception goes from 5:30 - 8:30 pm, and is preceded by an update from the WLA Legislative Committee on pending legislation, especially the Public Library Endowment Challenge (SF 29).

Started in 1986, the WLA reception has become a fixture on the calendars of most legislators. It is chance for them to get a decent home cooked meal while they are in Cheyenne, and to say hello to old friends and their hometown constituents. Additionally, in the past few years Governor Freudenthal and his wife Nancy have attended the reception, so hopefully the reception will be a chance for you to meet or get reacquainted with the governor.

As always, we need your help to make this event a success. Besides showing up, if possible, we would like for you to bring your most prized potluck dish. We need all types of dishes, including appetizers, veggie dishes, meat dishes, desserts, and whatever else you think can woo the heart and satisfy the stomach of a legislator. And if you don't want to cook, we also need cash donations of \$10 or \$25 to help pay for the other costs associated with putting on this event. Checks can be sent ahead of time to the Wyoming Library Association at PO Box 1387, Cheyenne, WY 82003. Please email Paul Heimer at pheimer@will.state.wy.us to let us know what dish you are bringing and if you need an outlet. If you can help on the day of the reception with set-up, food carry-in, clean up, or staffing the registration desk, please contact Katie Jones at kjones@courts.state.wy.us.

The Plains Hotel has a small block of rooms reserved for WLA members at a special reduced rate, so if you are planning to attend and spend the night you should make your reservations ASAP. To make reservations contact the hotel at 307-638-3311 or 866-275-2467. For more information about the hotel their website is www.theplainshotel.com.

Additional Hotels in Cheyenne: Near downtown (West): Holiday Inn Express (307) 433-0751; Hampton Inn (307) 642-2747; La Quinta - (307) 632-7117. Near Frontier Shopping Mall: Fairfield Inn - (307) 637-4070; Oak Tree Inn - (307) 778-6620

To date, the 2008 Legislative Reception Committee Members are: Dail Barbour, Teton County Public Library (Committee Co-Chair); Paul Heimer, Albany County Public Library Foundation, (Committee Co-Chair); Katie Jones, Wyoming State Law Library; and Tina Lackey, Wyoming State Library.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The public library community in Wyoming is crossing its collective fingers that "third time's a charm" will hold true for the Wyoming Public Library Endowment bill: Senate File #29. This is the third year WLA has attempted to have legislation passed that will provide funds to create permanent endowment for reach of Wyoming's 23 public libraries. Senator Hank Coe, R SD 18, is the bill's prime sponsor; Representative Rosie Berger, R HD51 is carrying the bill in the House. The legislation was modeled after the Wyoming Community College Endowment Challenge Program that was passed by the state legislature in 2004.

The bill establishes a \$25.3 million matching endowment fund (or \$1.1 million for each county). Depending on the relative wealth of a county, each library foundation will need to raise \$1 to receive \$1, \$2 or \$3 in state funds. The tiered approach is designed to level the playing field for less wealthy counties, thus enabling all counties to benefit from the appropriation. The counties with the highest total valuation will need to raise \$1 million to receive \$1 million match; counties in the middle bracket will need to raise \$500,000 to receive \$1 million match; counties with the lowest total valuation will need to raise \$333,000 to receive \$1 million match. Counties may raise as little as \$10,000 to receive matching state funds. Each county will have up to 5 years to reach its goal.

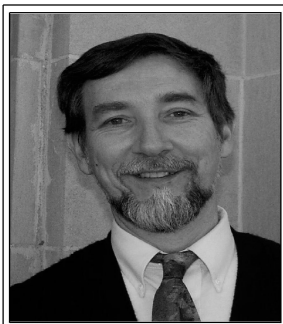
Additionally, each county, regardless of the amount raised, will receive \$100,000 for its permanent library endowment. If each county fully meets the endowment match, local library foundations will have the ability to increase annual funding to their county library systems by up to \$71,000 in counties receiving a 3 for 1 match; \$80,000 for counties receiving the 2 for 1 match; and \$105,000 for counties receiving the 1 for 1 match. The purpose of the bill is to help establish a stable source of revenue using earnings from the public/private partnership. The earnings may be used to supplement operating budgets or to help fund capital projects. The principle will remain untouched, thereby creating a financial legacy that will support our public libraries....forever!

County library boards, library foundations and county commissioners have passed resolutions supporting the passage of the endowment bill. In order for this legislation to pass, we can't depend on luck. We need your voice to be heard! If you support this legislation, we encourage you to share you opinion with your legislators. Report submitted by Cathy Butler, Leg. Chair

Wyoming Library Association Legislative Committee:

- ♦Cathy Butler, Chair ♦Lynnette Anderson ♦Dail Barbour, reception co-chair
- ♦Paul Heimer, reception co-chair ♦Boyd Broughton ♦Maggie Farrell ♦Carey Hartmann
- ♦Bill Nelson ♦Dale Collum

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE 2008 WLA CONFERENCE! Planning is now underway to bring WLA members a fabulous conference in Casper, Oct. 1 - 4 at the Parkway Plaza. If you have a special talent that you'd like to share with the Local Arrangements Committee (making signs, getting door prizes, electronics, etc.) you don't have to be from Casper. We need help from the entire state. Call local arrangements chair, Jeanette Murrell if you can help lend a hand with WLA (307) 268-2269 or jmurrell@caspercollege.edu. Since WLA is having to rely more heavily on the larger cities with the facilities to accommodate WLA, the help we get from smaller libraries statewide will be essential in pulling off a great conference!



Happy New Year to all WLA members, new, prospective and uh, the experienced (long time supporters)

As many of you know, I was at the ALA Midwinter meeting in Philadelphia earlier this month. There were at least 9 WLA members there. An opportunity to experience ALA Midwinter will be close to us next January. The meeting will be DENVER, CO on Jan. 23 - 29, 2009. More realistically, most of the events, meetings and exhibits of greatest interest will be Jan. 23 - Jan. 26. The exhibits hall experience may be worth your while. The book awards ceremony is great if you get in the room but the last two years it has been broadcast online. Last year I was quite taken with The Invention of Hugh Cabret and was delighted to see it win the Caldecott this year.

The Philadelphia midwinter conference drew over 13, 600 librarians and library supporters. The exhibits floor was huge and there were many exhibitors waiting for your presence with their presents. Another highlight for me was the Saturday morning, ALA Washington Office update including the session with FBI whistleblower Bassem Youssef. I enjoyed representing Wyoming at the Chapter Council meeting that afternoon. I had my first meal at a Hard Rock Café and sat by an encased tambourine signed by Jimi Hendrix. I have a picture on my Treo. I enjoyed watching some folks play "Guitar Heroes" in the Registration area and no, I didn't get a chance to play (not this time anyway). They rocked!

Don't forget you can join WLA or renew your membership at <http://wyla.org>. A form is at the "Join WLA " on the left of the home page or just go to link: https://wyla.org/secure/membership_form.html

THANK YOU to those who have already done this good deed. Please don't forget to indicate YOUR PARTICIPATION interests in WLA for committee assignments and the like. Your WLA VPs and Presidents use these to fill committee assignments and I still need people. You are welcome to lobby me personally if you have an interest in an assignment. Those new or with little experience in WLA are very welcome to do so. After all, you may be a future leader of WLA.

I hope you have your 2008 calendars and/or planners updated with the following WLA events.

February 20, 2008 - WLA Legislative Reception usually around 5 pm at the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne.

April 18 - 19, 2008 - WLA spring meeting at the Ramkota Inn in Casper.

NOTE: This is the WLA annual spring get-together which allows WLA sections, committees, interest groups another opportunity to F2F (meet face to face) outside the annual conference. Mary Rhoads at Johnson County Public Library is the chair of the planning group for this meeting.

October 1 - 4, 2008 > Annual meeting and convention in Casper, at the Parkway Plaza.

If you need a reminder, check the Wyoming Libraries Planning Calendar hosted by the Wyoming State Library, <http://will.state.wy.us/ldo/planningcalendar.html>

I've been too quiet . I therefore resolve to communicate more with you. Until the next time,
Brian Greene, your WLA president



DON'T WAIT - NOMINATE! It's time to start thinking about all of the deserving people that make a difference for libraries. Nominate someone for a WLA Award! A complete form and listing of the criteria and awards can be found at the WLA website (<http://wyla.org/awards/awardsform.pdf>). Nominations and supporting criteria is due June 30.

NORA VAN BURGH GRANT

The WLA Executive Board has established a program to provide funding assistance to those who wish to enhance their effectiveness as library employees through additional educational experience. Non-degreed library employees, a majority of the WLA membership, are particularly encouraged to apply.

Requirement for Application

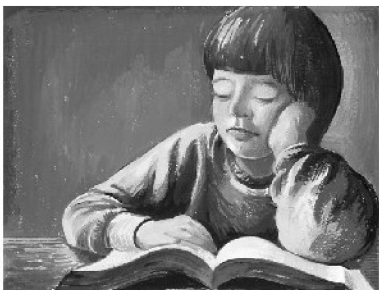
The applicant must have been a member of the Wyoming Library Association for two (2) years, be a resident of Wyoming, and be employed in a Wyoming library. The criteria and application are on the web!

Application: <http://wyla.org/awards/nvbform.shtml> Criteria: <http://wyla.org/awards/nvbgrant.shtml>

10 copies of supporting documentation for all award nominations are
due June 30. Send to: WLA, Box 1387, Cheyenne, WY 82003

**Wyoming Library Association
P.O. Box 1387
Cheyenne, WY 82003**

**Pre-Sort
Standard
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #30
Cheyenne WY**



SPRING SECTION MEETING!

**APRIL 18 & 19 - RAMKOTA INN
CASPER**

APRIL 18

10 am - 4:30 pm

CONNECTING BOYS WITH BOOKS with Michael Sullivan

Boys are in trouble. All right, it seems boys are always in trouble, but this is serious. Boys are failing to read at an alarming rate. Libraries are not solving the problem because boys are not a presence in libraries. Find out how we lose boys, and why, what the consequences are for boys, and what we as librarians can do to save boys from lives as non-readers. Michael Sullivan brings more than fifteen years experience as a Children's Librarian and Library Director, storyteller, chess teacher, and author of the book *Connecting Boys With Books* (ALA, 2003) and *The Fundamentals of Children's Services* (ALA, 2005). We will share practical, proven, and sometimes off-beat suggestions on how to turn boys into life-long readers. Visit his web-site at: www.talestoldtall.com

INDIVIDUAL SECTION MEETINGS

6:30 pm

Registration forms will be mailed to all!

APRIL 19

8 - 9:30 am

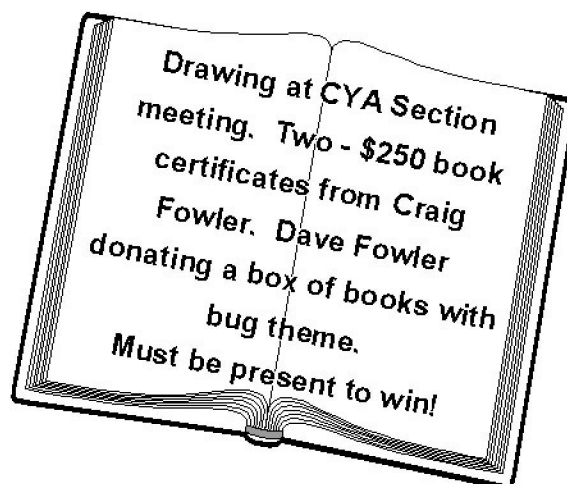
Great Northern Books

What's new in children's and young adult literature? Ron and Barb Scherry will share their new spring collection.

10 am - 3 pm

**CREATING & SUSTAINING A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT
- Peregrine Leadership Institute**

This highly informative and participatory course includes discussions on how to deal with difficult people, dealing with conflict in the workplace productively, creating a team atmosphere in the workplace, understanding diversity issues, and how to foster better communications in the workplace. The workshop is designed to engage in discussions with the participants in order to share best practices and experiences as well learn proven leadership techniques to create a more productive workplace environment. Recommended participants include any employee or volunteer associated with library operations and customer service.



The University of Wyoming is devoted to building their research infrastructure in support of existing programs and the new School of Energy. As part of this effort, the University is committed to expanding research collections of the University Libraries and the College of Law Library. In 2006, the Legislature appropriated \$4.3 million to the University in one time funding as part of the Libraries' Funding Amendment that also distributed funding to the county and community college libraries. As a condition of that funding, the Wyoming Legislature required the University to submit a report on the use of the funds and steps required to re-apply for membership in the Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA) in 2010 as well as requirements for possible membership in the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). The full text of the report is available at:

http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/UW/libraries/2007_Libraries_Legislative_Report.pdf . In order to reach the benchmark of GWLA membership in 2010, the University would require \$18.8 million in biennial funding to build the University Libraries' collection to a comparable size with other GWLA libraries. The Governor has recommended \$9.36 million in biennial funding for the University Libraries with a delayed application to GWLA in 2012. As part of this process, the University will need to request additional funding in 2010 if the University is to apply for GWLA membership in 2012.

GWLA membership serves as a benchmark for comparing universities in support of research and undergraduate resources but this is only a target; not a goal in and of itself. It is critical that the University provide a rich information environment for students and faculty as they require current and advanced materials in their research. As the university expands in the fields of energy, environment, and economic development, the Libraries will need to strengthen these collections. Also, the Libraries require funding to digitize unique Wyoming materials consisting of historical collections, student research, and faculty data. The funding request includes a digitization program building on Libraries' strength of developing online collections such as the Teton Park Herbarium Specimen Collection and the complete collection of the UW dissertations and thesis. The University Libraries also look for opportunities to expand research collections within the state such as the Congressional Serial Set and the Sanborn Insurance maps. The University Libraries look for opportunities to develop partnerships within the state that build the collective information infrastructure.

The Libraries' Funding Amendment was a significant step in building support for Wyoming libraries but sustained funding is required to continue the goal of strong library collections and services throughout the state. Statewide funding assists county libraries in preparing students for the Hathaway Scholarships and advances the collections for all academic libraries. In 2008, UW is requesting funding as part of the university budget request and it has been identified as the top priority for the university. The College Libraries are also requesting \$2.44 million in biennial funding as part of the College Commission budget. Combined with the Endowment Bill for the county libraries, this three legged stool approach ensures that all libraries are funded to appropriate levels. Working together with the Wyoming State Library, we can build a comprehensive library system for Wyoming that supports education, economic development, and research that advances our state. Please thank the Governor and your legislators for their commitment to library funding as demonstrated through the Library Funding Amendment and their initial recommendations for the new state budget.

Report submitted by Maggie Farrell, UW Library Director.

Debbie Iverson MPLA Leadership Institute Scholarship

Upon Debbie Iverson's retirement from Sheridan College, WLA established the Debbie Iverson MPLA Leadership Institute Scholarship. Debbie was instrumental in getting the concept approved and in supporting the work of the initial planning committee for the leadership institute. She has played a key role since the beginning of the institute and has served as a mentor at the institute. Contributions to the Debbie Iverson MPLA Leadership Institute Scholarship will help support other Wyoming librarians in developing their leadership skills at MPLA's Ghost Ranch Leadership Institute. Send check or credit card (VISA/MC) to: WLA, Box 1387, Cheyenne, WY 82003. To date, contributions total: \$1,780.00