



Wyoming Library Association NEWSLETTER

Legislative Issue - January 2006

**"Bring the World to Wyoming"
at the 2006 Wyoming Library Association Legislative Reception**

Tuesday, February 28, 2005

The Historic Plains Hotel Ballroom in Cheyenne

Reception - 5:30-8:30 PM

(Legislative Update by Tom Jones, WLA Lobbyist begins at 5:00 PM)

This year we are celebrating the 20th Annual Wyoming Library Association's Legislative Reception at the historic Plains Hotel in Cheyenne. This event offers a unique opportunity to meet new legislators and renew acquaintances with returning ones. The legislators always rave about our homemade fare so start testing out your most prized potluck dishes to bring to the reception! This is an important event because this reception is one of WLA's most visible public relations and lobbying opportunities with our Wyoming state legislators. Active participation by individual WLA members is crucial to our lobbying success. This year's reception theme will be "Bringing the World to Wyoming" to help kick off the Wyoming State Library's campaign of the same name.

If you cannot attend the reception or bring a dish, financial donations are welcome. Make checks payable to the Wyoming Library Association and mail to WLA, Box 1387, Cheyenne, WY 82003 or bring your donation to the event and give to any reception committee member.

We also encourage you to bring publicity materials about your library's programs and services to place on a display table at the reception.

Please email the Reception Committee chair at ehayes@lclsonline.org to let the committee know what kind of dish you will bring, and if you need an electrical outlet for a hot dish. If you'd like to help on the day of the reception with set-up, food carry-in, clean-up or to staff the registration table, please email Scott Kinney at skinney@lclsonline.org.

ENDOWMENT CHALLENGE PROGRAM

The Legislative Committee of the Wyoming Library Association is proceeding with a course of action involving preparation of legislation for an endowment challenge program for Wyoming's public libraries. The WLA Executive Board approved the committee's idea at WLA/MPLA conference in October and encouraged members to proceed. All county libraries have been contacted in an informal poll to determine if there is support for the legislation. Happily, all of the counties are supportive. With this consensus, the Committee was confident in continuing with the legislative process.

The program is modeled after the Wyoming Community College Endowment Challenge Program that is currently in place. The state treasurer would set up a fund to match endowment gifts received by the public libraries. Each county library would have their own \$1 million dollar account, administered through their library foundations. A match would be paid at the time a library foundation had raised \$10,000 or more. This would DOUBLE the amount of all endowment gifts, and each library would have five years to raise funds.

WLA and the Legislative Committee are concerned that Wyoming's libraries have experienced revenue shortfalls for many years. Some libraries have been forced to reduce service hours, staff and book budgets because of inadequate funding. Wyoming Statute establishes county libraries as the only governance system possible in the state. This endowment challenge would give county libraries an unprecedented opportunity to work with the State. The endowment would allow the State to invest at a higher level in long term, enduring organizations that assist ALL Wyoming citizens....Libraries. There is great potential that this would give more financial security to smaller, struggling libraries.

The economic climate and the opinions of the Joint Appropriations Committee will determine whether the endowment challenge program will be put before the Legislature this year or next. Librarians, trustees, foundations and legislators need to keep in mind that improvements in libraries promote education, life-long learning, literacy and economic vitality. They hold an inestimable value for the future of Wyoming.

THANK YOU!

**Wyoming Community Foundation for the Grant money @ WLA for programs
presented by Kim Patton!**

The beginning of a new year always makes one think about resolutions for change, changing oneself to be better, or changing the way your library does things to be smarter and more efficient. This year sees the Wyoming State Library changing locations to its temporary home sometime this summer. Although there are things about this change we may not like, there is always a positive side to change. The state library's collection will be out of the boxes that have contained it for over a year, and it will all be in one place. Furthermore, there are fantastic projects on the horizon, like the Wyoming Trademark Database and the Wyoming Newspaper Project. The State Library has an exception budget request to help fund the newspaper project, which will benefit everyone in Wyoming, from 4th grade history students, to genealogists, to researchers, to the general public.

I would like to thank everyone who attended, presented, and watched via the webcast the 2005 WLA/MPLA Joint Conference in Jackson. Special thanks go to Dail Barbour and Karen Saner and all of the local arrangements committee and the many volunteers who made it so successful. We showed our colleagues our wonderful Wyoming hospitality, and how we collaborate to make special things happen. We even tried new things, like webcasting and blogging. We celebrated our fellow librarians and library supporters at the awards banquet.

Speaking of awards, also included in this issue is the awards nomination form. It isn't too early to think about all of the great people you work with every day and how one, or maybe more than one, deserve an award this year. Nominations are due in June, so you have plenty of time to think about it.

On a related note, I encourage people to apply for the Nora Van Burgh Development Grant. Each year the WLA executive board budgets \$1000 to fund this wonderful grant. This program was established 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.

I am also busy getting committees together for this year. If you are interested in serving on any, let me know at ekinne@state.wy.us or 777-6332. I look forward to seeing you in Cheyenne in February!



Elaine Hayes, Laramie County Library System (Committee Chair)
Sandra Donovan, Laramie County Community College Library - retired
Sheryl Fanning, Cheyenne East High School Library
Alice Farris, Cheyenne Central High School Library
Janet Glasner, Cheyenne Central High School Library - retired
Scott Kinney, Laramie County Library System
Tina Lackey, Wyoming State Library
Dawn Rohan, Wyoming State Library
Troy Rumpf, Laramie County Library System

Children/YA Section
Spring Meeting

April 28 - 29
Rawlins, WY

Programs to be announced
at a later date!

Put these dates on your
calendar!



School Library Media Personnel Section Meeting
Jan Segerstrom

Don't Miss It!

2006 School Library Media Personnel Spring Section Meeting

April 21-22 @ 4:00 PM

Casper, Wyoming - Ramkota Inn

We'll start with a book talk session with Ron & Barb Scherry from Great Northern Book Company.

Friday evening will be dinner, networking and our section business meeting.

Saturday morning is a workshop with David Loertscher and Information Power planning for Summer 2006. The meeting will end by 1:30 PM on April 22.

The school library media personnel section meeting will piggyback on the Wyoming State Reading Conference being held in Casper at the Ramkota on Thursday evening, April 20 - Friday, April 21. The Children's Section Meeting will be held on a different date this spring due to last minute conflicts. Reading Conference details and registration can be found at: www.wyoread.org/id22.html

Why not attend BOTH!?!

More details and a registration form for the school section's spring meeting will be mailed to all school library media section members as well as appear on the SSLMP mailing list and WLA Information Power web page very soon! Begin spreading the word!

Wyoming Library Association
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