

DRAFT

Secretary of State's Council on Library Development

Minutes

Midwest Genealogy Center
3440 S Lee's Summit Road
Independence, MO

September 19, 2008

Members present: Baker, Bates, Buthod, Byerly, Darst, Fares, Fridley, Hogerty, Maxwell, McCampbell, Mullaly-Quijas, Wilke

Absent: Bray, Carr, Mayer, Moore, Perry, Sanders, Talboy

Guests Attending: Jeanne Sullivan, MOREnet
Representative Paul Levota
Steve Potter, MLA Legislative Chair
Margaret Booker, MLA Executive Director
Leonard Steinman
Dick Wilding, Director, Mid-Continent Public Library

Staff present: Conroy, Steinman, Smith

Conroy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the absence of the Chair, Melissa Carr.

Council members and guests were introduced.

Representative Paul Levota welcomed the Council to the 52nd House District.

Open time for the public to address the Council:

Margaret Booker, Executive Director of the Missouri Library Association addressed the Council. She reminded the Council the MLA Conference will be held Oct 1-3, 2008 in St. Louis. She distributed conference registration forms and programs to the Council.

IMLS Site Visit Update – Margaret Conroy

Conroy said Missouri was recently visited by Robin Cabot from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Mr. Cabot is the LSTA program coordinator for Missouri for the IMLS. The IMLS manages the LSTA funds received from Congress for the state programs and the nationwide grant program. The last site visit was in 2000.

Mr. Cabot was very complimentary of how well organized our state library was. During his visit he toured several public libraries in the area, including Sedalia Public Library and Boonslick Regional Library, to see how libraries in Missouri are using LSTA funding. He participated in a videoconference with the Springfield-Greene County Library, which demonstrated how the state of Missouri uses the videoconferencing equipment. Mr. Cabot also visited MOREnet to learn how MOREnet operates and how public libraries in the state use MOREnet in conjunction with the LSTA program.

The visit was also an opportunity for the state library to ask questions of IMLS. The verbal conversation clarified some items and concerns the state library had.

Status of Current Advocacy Activities and Legislative Update – Margaret Conroy and Steve Potter, Missouri Library Association Legislative Committee Chair

Steve Potter reported that House Bill 1549 on immigration reform has passed. The legislation has four areas that could affect libraries. One concern to libraries involves the definition of public benefit, which could potentially mean loan of library materials, and if so would be restricted under the new law. The other three areas involve employment practices. Conroy said it may require litigation over one or more of the provisions in the bill in order to get clarity on what the legislation actually means.

Potter discussed Senate Bill 711, sponsored by Senator Gibbons involving property tax reform. This bill requires that assessments be done more accurately, changes the definition of a tax ceiling and places additional limits on tax levies. The bill was created to prevent political subdivisions from receiving a “windfall” tax increase resulting from large raises in tax assessments.

Potter then reported that directors of Missouri libraries have begun addressing four primary issues confronting public libraries. These are tax assessment issues, tax abatement programs, alternate forms of tax revenue for public libraries, and advocacy. The issues were discussed at a tax summit meeting in mid-summer via videoconference. Four committees were formed to address each of these areas. The advocacy committee is creating an organization in Missouri to be a venue for advocacy for people interested in libraries, but not necessarily in serving on library boards or in being a “friend of a library” in a formal way. The name of the group is Advocates for Missouri Public Libraries (AMPL.)

Wolfner Library Digital Conversion Update – Richard Smith

Smith gave a PowerPoint presentation on the conversion of talking books from analog to digital format. He also gave a brief demonstration of the new Victor Reader Stream, a commercial product that Wolfner has purchased to supplement digital machines being supplied by the National Library Service (NLS) of the Library of Congress. It will take approximately 3-4 years to replace all of the cassette machines from the NLS.

Part of the conversion to digital includes the ability of patrons to download titles directly. The (NLS) developed an accessible website for a pilot project for downloading digital talking books in October 2006. The download pilot expanded in the fall of 2007 and is expected to be full scale service in December of 2008. This current site has over 10,000 book titles and 35 magazine titles available for download.

Smith explained a new program called “Thumbs Up to Wolfner.” The idea is to have the public donate old, unneeded thumb drives to Wolfner Library. The thumb drives will be wiped clean and then distributed to Wolfner patrons for downloading the new digital books.

Fares suggested contacting the Lions Club for these and Wolfner would have what it needed in no time. She also suggested putting it in her local paper for the Lions’ “Make a Difference Day.” Booker told Smith if he wanted to send a press release in advance of the MLA conference for her to send to the MLA listserv by Wednesday, then people attending the conference would have time to possibly gather some thumb drives together to bring with them to the conference. Maxwell suggested contacting the various Chamber of Commerce groups and have them contact the various industries in their area for help with this project. Allee-Bates suggested the public libraries having a donate a “Thumb Drive and Have Your Library Fines Forgiven Day.”

Fares asked Smith to send her the flyer as a PDF file. Conroy said the flyer would be sent out to the Council as PDF file.

State Library Report – Margaret Conroy

Wolfner Library has two professional positions open. The postings are on the Secretary of State’s website.

Missouri Center for the Book will have two representatives at the Pavilion of States in Washington, D.C.

The State Library recently hosted an Electronic Resources Study Group videoconference to discuss ways to extend access to some popular electronic resources to all Missouri libraries. The videoconference focused on current purchased content and where the greatest need was in the state. The State Library is analyzing a survey of what libraries are currently paying for given database titles to determine if a statewide license could be purchased with little or no additional funding.

Approval of Minutes from: June 20, 2008 Council Meeting

Conroy called for a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Hogerty so moved. Darst seconded. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Conroy announced that she had been invited late last Wednesday by the American Library Association-Washington Office to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee regarding the use of broadband internet in public libraries. She gave testimony on Tuesday.

Annie Busch, Director of Springfield-Greene County Library is retiring. Her reception will be at the library in Springfield on Dec 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date:

December 19, 2008 – Jefferson City

Adjournment:

Conroy adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Remaining Meeting Dates for the 2008:

December 19, 2008