

Approved as presented at the
April 16, 1997 Commission meeting

MINUTES

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION

Montana State Library
Helena, Montana

January 29, 1997

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Present: Cheri Bergeron, Eleanor Gray, Peggy Guthrie, Dorothy Laird, Michael Schulz, Hal Stearns

Commissioners Absent: Mary Doggett

Staff Present: State Librarian Karen Strege, Melody Ballard, Allan Cox, Sandra Jarvie, Kris Schmitz, Darlene Staffeldt, Vicki Terbovich

Guests: Senator Chris Christiaens, Delores Drennen, Lois Fitzpatrick, Jim Heckel, Emory Robotham, Gene Marie Robson, Debbie Schlesinger

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Schulz. New staff of the State Library were introduced: Brenda Sepanski and Ed Madej of NRIS and Carol Churchill in the accounting office. There were no speakers during Open Time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Gray moved approval of the December 4, 1996 minutes. Laird seconded. Minutes were approved as presented.

ILL REIMBURSE- Strege reported that she had met again with legal counsel about the ILL reimbursement issue concerning libraries within the same taxing district, as directed by the Commission. She said Mr. Scheier reiterated his opinion that the administrative rules cannot be changed without first changing the law. He feels an attempt to change the rules would be rejected by the Secretary of State for inconsistency. Strege said she is confident she will be prepared to recommend statute changes for the 1999 legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Strege reported that the joint Subcommittee on Education considered the State Library's budget for the next biennium on January 14th. New proposals for partial funding of a natural resource librarian and a Talking Book Library automation system were not

approved. Commission consensus was that Strege should pursue those proposals through the Appropriations Committee.

Strege also apprised the Commission of the status of HB 53, which changes all references to “handicapped” persons in state law to “disabled.”

She said the bill has been amended, however, to delete the reference to library service to the blind and replace that with the phrase, “provide library services for individuals with disabilities.”

FEDERATION Staffeldt presented the FY 98 federation plans of service and recommend-
PLANS OF ed approval of each, contingent upon final approval of the State Library’s **SERVICE** biennial budget by the legislature and governor. She noted that each of the plans emphasizes at least four of the areas of Commission emphasis: technology, continuing education, reference support, resource sharing and consulting.

FEDERATION Drennen shared notes from the January 28th Federation Coordinators
COORDINATORS meeting. The had discussed draft legislation, Strege’s philosophies and **REPORT** assumptions for a Library Development Plan and the need for the State Library to take a leadership role to facilitate discussions involving all types of libraries. Drennen distributed written reports from each of the federations.

COMMISSION Schulz said he hopes to prepare written reports on his activities as Com-
CHAIR mission Chair.

MLA Heckel reported that plans for the MLA Conference are being finalized. He distributed registration packets, noting that there will be a pre-conference offering on budgeting and a post-conference workshop by WLN on nonprint media. He announced the bowling fundraiser for the Sheila Cates scholarship.

GOVERNMENT Fitzpatrick told the Commission about HB 366, the MLA-sponsored bill to
AFFAIRS provide content and training in electronic information. She said two obscenity bills have been drafted. Heckel talked about HB 89, which would revise telecommunications rates and provide each community with an Internet access center.

NRIS Cox told the Commission that the NRIS Advisory Committee met recently
ADVISORY and discussed their current and future roles. The committee would like to **COMMITTEE** become more active. He said NRIS is in the midst of a strategic planning process, which was initiated by a needs assessment survey and liaison with the Commission.

AUTOMATION SYSTEM Staffeldt reported there are currently 500 electronically registered borrowers on the State Library automation system. The largest groups of users are state employees and patrons from Broad Valleys Federation. Several other libraries are acquiring software to access the collection.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT HONOR ROLL Staffeldt distributed the Montana Collection Management 1996 Honor Roll. She said there were 14 libraries on the honor roll in 1994 and 27 in **HONOR ROLL** 1996. She feels the Honor Roll encourages to libraries to continue adding records to WLN and to update policies.

INTERNET ACCESS Strege said the contract with InfoMine of the Rockies, to provide Internet access to libraries, has been signed. Individual memorandums of understanding have been sent to participating libraries for signature.

FEDERAL FUNDING Strege reported that State Library staff are awaiting guidelines on the new Library Services and Technology Act. Information has been received indicating that 1997 LSCA funds can be carried over into another fiscal year and can be used for LSTA purposes. Preliminary information indicates that a long range plan for the use of LSTA will be due April 1. Strege said she would like to ask for an extension, so that the technology and long range plans currently being developed can be incorporated into a federal plan. Guthrie expressed opposition to requesting an extension. Strege said the deadline may be extended to August.

MLA CONFERENCE It was announced that the State Library Commission will host an open house at the MLA conference.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION Senator Chris Christiaens of Great Falls proposed to the Commission the idea of starting a statewide or regional foundations for libraries, to help defray the rising ongoing costs. He said he envisions a foundation as a means to enhancing services. The Commission may also wish to engage in a public relations effort to help rural areas establish their own foundations, according to Christiaens.

2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT Schmitz discussed the FY 97 second quarter financial report and the additional NRIS contracts. She said we are still facing a deficit in **REPORT** personal services; funds will be requested from the contingency fund.

COMMISSION Schulz asked the Commission if they wished to address specific meeting **BYLAWS** dates (i.e. months, weeks) in their bylaws. Several said they find it easier to have a definite schedule around which to plan. The discussion of bylaws will continue at the April meeting.

LONG RANGE Strege told the Commission she had begun evaluating comments from **PLAN** federations on the long range plan and would like to begin drafting the document soon. She said the Commission had not had the opportunity to provide input and asked them what they would like to see from the State Library in the next ten years. Some of the recommendations were:

- more consulting
- renewed emphasis on trustee training
- technology assistance to schools
- cataloging assistance
- CE for library staffs, trustees
- more consultants
- state-of-the-art equipment
- public relations effort
- leadership role among all libraries
- enabling, instigating
- personal contacts with libraries
- Commission members more active around the state
- State Library as digital archive

Schulz asked Commission members to bring their individual one-year goals to the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Plans of Service

The Commission unanimously approved each of the federation plans of service per the following motions, each with the stipulation that approval is dependent on the 1997 Legislative Session:

Broad Valleys: Gray, Guthrie Sagebrush: Guthrie, Bergeron

Golden Plains: Laird, Gray South Central: Guthrie, Bergeron

Pathfinder: Bergeron, Guthrie Tamarack: Laird, Gray

Financial Report

Gray moved “to approve second quarter 1997 financial report.” Laird seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Collection Management Honor Roll

Gray moved to “approve Collection Management Honor Roll.” Bergeron seconded. Approval was unanimous.

HB 53

Guthrie recommended that the Commission send a resolution to the legislature that the language of HB 53 be returned to the original which

includes service to the blind and physically ~~handicapped~~ disabled. There was Commission consensus to do so.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.