

North Country Public Library Directors Organization
Minutes
26 April 2007
Watertown, New York

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Wheeler at 10:35 a.m.

Attendance: David Franz, Ogdensburg; Dennis Eickhoff, Colton; Stella Todd, Heuvelton; Joan Kampnich, Croghan; Pat Musante, Potsdam; Andrea Arquette, Cranberry Lake; Linda Voorhees, Cape Vincent; Barbara Wheeler, Flower; Charlotte Garofalo, Gouverneur; Lyn Swafford, Canton; Elaina Smith, Madrid; Paul Schaeffer, Massena; Alice Barton, Clayton; Ceil Cunningham, Vicky Brothers, Norfolk; Alexandria Bay; Penny Kerfien, Fulton; Amy Perry, Philadelphia; Margaret Weigel, Pulaski, Sandy Lamb, Black River; Beverly Ripka, Williamstown, Linda McCullough, Carthage, Steve Bolton, NCLS, Amy Degnan, NCLS; Jerry Schell, NCLS; Marcia Gray, NCLS.

The minutes of the October 7, 2006 were approved on a motion by Lyn Swafford, seconded by David Franz, carried.

President Wheeler gave the floor to Penny Kersien, Acting Director and children's librarian at Fulton who gave those present a review of what had happened with the former library director and the Fulton library. Penny was reassured that if she needed any help with things, that she could call anyone of us who might be able to give her some advice or answers to any questions.

Old Business

Lyn Swafford gave an update on Tumblebooks. Currently, Canton, Potsdam, and Watertown have this program. There is a price break if 9 libraries would subscribe. The cost would be approximately \$40.80 for the year. It might be a good way to have a trial run with this program by joining. The usual cost is about \$400 per subscription. The program would be accessed through your library web page. Also, you receive reports of how many hits you receive which is considered circulation. You can e-mail Ron at rz@tumblebooks.com for more information. It was also stated that the program can be accessed from a patron's home and be a learning tool for home-schoolers.

A question was asked about the archives of the organization. The secretary currently has a binder that contains all of the organization information. It was also suggested that the by-laws and constitution be updated.

New Business

Ceil Cunningham led a discussion on use of law enforcement to get back library materials from patrons who don't return library property. She also passed out the statute on New York State Education Law:

Section 265 Detention New York State Education Law Rules of the Board of Regents and Regulations of the Commissioner of Education pertaining to public and free association libraries, library systems, trustees, and librarians states that:

“Whoever willfully detains any book, newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, manuscript or other property belonging to any public or incorporated library reading room, museum or other educational institution, for thirty days after notice in writing to return same, given after the expiration of the time which by the rules of such institution, such article or other property shall be kept, shall be punished by a fine of not less than one nor more than twenty-five dollars, or by imprisonment in jail not exceeding six months, and the said notice shall bear on its face a copy of this section”.

Discussion followed and it was recommended that perhaps with the help of our government representatives, the law could be moved from the State Education Law to Criminal Law. Discussion was also held for patron blocking on the system. This will be discussed at an upcoming JAB meeting. S. Bolton reported that the system had a lawyer on retainer by the name of Joann Novack.

Possibly contact NYLA to see if it something that that organization could look into.

Charlotte Garofalo questioned the benefits about belonging to PLS. Others at the meeting felt that they were getting nothing for their membership. Discussion was held on the possibility of contacting NYLA about forming a rural and small library section in NYLA. President Wheeler will draft a letter to NYLA concerning this idea and also send a copy to PLS. It was stated that if this idea went through, we would want participation from our group. President Wheeler was authorized to write the letter on a motion by Linda Voorhees, seconded by Charlotte Garofalo, carried.

A discussion was held on giving out juvenile library cards. Flower Library currently gives out library cards to newborns as part of a package given to children born at Samaritan. It was suggested that rather than issue a different card since we are trying to promote the universal card, that perhaps some sort card holder be used that would hold their universal card.

Paul Schaeffer had some questions about issuing cards to temporary residents etc. Some suggestions were given and will be discussed at the JAB meeting.

Jerry Schell presented his report following the investigating of books lost in transit. A list of tips that he came up with will be sent out to the libraries.

Liaison Report- No report at this time

NCLS Director Report:

Steve Bolton reported on the of the adoption of the State Budget and the funding for libraries. Letters or faxes should be sent to legislators thanking them for their support of libraries.

A question was asked about libraries joining NYLA. Steve stated that the benefit of joining NYLA was for the access of libraries lobbyists who work for us.

Steve reported that is was time for library committees to meet for county funding. The dates for meetings are Lewis [Lyons Falls], June 12; Jefferson, [NCLS], June 12; St. Lawrence [Canton], June 5; and Oswego [Hannibal], May 9.

A reminder that May 11th is the deadline for the Gates computer inventory- no exceptions. If you have already done the inventory, you need to check with NCLS to see if it was received.

Steve reported that the construction grant deadline will be earlier this year, possibly in September.

Charlotte Garofalo asked about the upkeep of dvd's and cd's and was wondering if the system might consider purchasing a polishing machine. Walmart has a cheap machine available for sale.

Pat Musante reported on adding Tutor.com for the Potsdam Library. Anyone interested should contact tutor.com for more information.

The next meeting of the organization will be held on Thursday June 28, 2007 at Alexandria Bay beginning at 10:30 a.m.

A motion was made for adjournment by Stella Todd, seconded by Alice Barton at 12:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Eickhoff
Secretary NCPLDO