

North Country Public Library Directors Organization
13 June 2005
Canton, NY

Present: Ceil Cunningham, Alexandria Bay; Sandy Lamb, Black River; Carole Berard, Canton; Lyn Swafford, Canton; Linda Voorhees, Cape Vincent; Alice Barton, Clayton; Andrea Arquette, Cranberry Lake; Dennis Eickhoff, Colton; Joan Kampisch, Croghan; Charlotte Garofalo, Gouverneur; Stella Todd, Heuvelton; Vicky Brothers, Norfolk; Pat Musante, Potsdam; Tony Wells, Potsdam; Barbara Wheeler, Watertown; Steve Bolton, NCLS; Yvonne Reff, NCLS.

The meeting was called to order by Pat Musante at 10:34 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

The minutes of the April 15, 2005 meeting were approved on a motion by Lyn Swafford, seconded by Stella Todd, carried.

A letter was read from Pat which was received from Susan Charley in response to a letter that was sent through Susan to Carol Desch of New York State Library Development suggestions for the regarding the annual report.

A letter was sent from Pat to the Brantingham-Greig Community Library congratulating them on the opening of their new library. Sandy Lamb gave an update on what was done at this library.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Regan DeFranza from the directors organization congratulating her on her recent excellence award from NNYLN.

Barbara Wheeler from the liaison committee reported on the NCLS board meeting. Discussion at this meeting included the successes of the school board ballot votes that took place in various area, the report by Susan Charley on the NCLS outreach program and the opening for a web design person at NCLS.

Steve Bolton discussed the construction project at NCLS. The system will be getting a new sign and now has some of its property up for sale, which will help offset some of the cost of renovation. Steve reported that he went to Albany with the NYLA committee to meet with the legislators to discuss a change in Education Law #259 in which only library boards may submit petitions to get on a school ballot. Presently, anyone can submit a petition. Discussion was held on this law and a motion was made by Sandy Lamb, seconded by Charlie Garofalo that the directors organization send a letter to Sandy Galef, director of library services in favor of amending this law so that only library boards may submit petitions, carried.

Steve Bolton handed out the results of the most recent survey regarding services at NCLS. It was mentioned that NCLS soon will no longer be doing

catalog cards for libraries.

Steve Bolton stated that a new plan of service needs to be written for NCLS and that the plan has to be to the State by October 2006. This will be a 5-year plan. Steve asked if the directors organization could have a committee who would look over the draft of the 5-year plan when it is ready.

Discussion was held on Directors and Officers Insurance and Public Officers Law sections 18 and 19. Pat noted that a public library may submit a statement to their municipality to ask to be included in the municipality's Public Officers insurance coverage, which is free. It is not known whether this law applies to association libraries. Public Officers Law also requires a trustee to take an oath of office within thirty days of being appointed. . The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 was also mentioned and Pat noted that it was not intended to take the place of D & O insurance but that it is good to be aware that it exists. Lynn Swafford noted the high cost of attorney fees; they are not covered by the Volunteer Protection Act. Pat will be e-mailing to all the recommendations of Potsdam Village attorney Steve Easter during a law suit which was upheld in court. This document outlines the relationship of all (public and association) libraries in New York State to their municipality.

Discussion was held on the use of filters and filtering of library computers. Cybersitter was one of the software most mentioned and several libraries are already using this program. Tony Wells, I-T technician at Potsdam provided some insight to filtering and the use of timers on the public access computers so patrons will not go over their appointed time of usage.

Discussion was held on energy efficiency audits. Canton has had one done and through the changing of lights and ballasts have cut their energy bill in half. Colton has just gotten a report on the audit that was done in April. The energy audit is done through NYSERDA. Scott Shipley of Community Energy Services, Inc., did the audit. Vicky Brothers reported that Power Authority also has a program for an energy audit which is free. Stephen Harrington, lead project engineer can be reached at 518-373-0490.

Alice Barton reported that the Hawn Memorial Library received a \$3,000 grant from the John Ben Snow Foundation and used a local grant writer to help obtain the grant.

The Chaumont library has made many improvements to their library and would like to host a directors meeting when it comes to Jefferson County again.

The Hepburn Library at Colton received their charter amendment on changing the amount of trustees on their board.

The next meeting of the directors organization will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2005 at Pulaski Library beginning at 10:30 a.m.

A motion for adjournment was made by Charlie Garofalo, seconded by Alice Barton.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis E. Eickhoff
Acting Secretary