Lyn Swafford called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM


Minutes of the April 21, 2009 meeting were read and approved.

Committee Reports

Central Library Advisory Committee- Steve Bolton reports that:

- They are going to start promoting Ask Us 24/7 more in the fall, and Ogdensburg will also begin participating in the service.
- Reference services at the central libraries will be promoted by making generic email addresses available to the library staff so they can more easily submit reference questions.
- Central libraries will begin allowing one week circulation of reference materials for in-house use.
- SIRSI reports will be generated to identify the number of ANF holds being placed.
- SIRSI will also compare the ANF collections of WAT and ODG to avoid duplication.

Liaison Committee-

Barbara Wheeler was on the agenda at the last NCLS trustee meeting during which time she defined her role for the benefit of the trustees.

Old Business

Gates Online Opportunity Phase II grant update- Jerry Schell is sending the hard drives on to Dell today, they will be checked one more time and then the final order will be placed (approx. 3-4 weeks). He reminded everyone that all libraries are eligible to purchase equipment at this time. Those who are not participating in the grant must use their own funds but one staff computer and one public computer may be purchased per library at the cost of $400, which is half the normal cost. NCLS will continue with the idea of an annual buying cycle which makes it easier in that Dell configures them all the same that way.

NYLA Rural Roundtable news- Lyn Swafford reported that the meeting was cancelled. Penny Kerfien stated that a meeting will take place August 7th at NCLS and again at NYLA.

Status of Ask Us 24/7- Joan Pellikka announced that Ogdensburg, Oswego, Potsdam, Fulton, Watertown, Canton and NCLS will now be participating.

Printer/computer management software- Oswego uses EnvisionWare, Watertown uses EMetrics ($29 per computer per year). Talk to Steve Gaines for further information.

New Business

NCLS Director’s remarks- Steve Bolton
The continuing education brochure has been distributed.

NCLS would like email addresses for all library trustees. Please add them on the NCLS webpage or email them to Dawn Vincent at dvincent@ncls.org

Re: the turnover in Albany. The “government consolidation bill” passed last week in both houses allows counties to reorganize local districts (i.e. combine Carthage and West Carthage). The concern is that since libraries are not stipulated as exempt, as are school districts, this may mean problems for some libraries. There is a template of an action letter on the NYLA website, Please check it out and consider sending one to Albany.

Senator Aubertine proposed a bill to change the matching amount for construction grants to 25% instead of the current 50%. The bill is now in committee, but it could be derailed by the changes taking place in Albany.

County Legislature funding- Emily Owen stressed the importance of talking to individual legislators, and getting patron testimonials. St Lawrence County libraries will be asking for a 10 cent per person increase. The following information from Marcia Gray may be helpful: more than 94,000 holds were placed in 2008 and 42,223 have been placed so far in 2009. 177,311 items have circulated to 122,632 patrons (1/3 of the population!)

Items that go missing after being put in the delivery. – Ceil Cunningham questioned whether we may need a “standard” of service written by the Directors’ Org. to go out to all libraries regarding ILL and the treatment of other libraries’ materials. It was specifically recommended that all libraries commit to checking ICICILL and reading and responding to their email every day. Ceil, Steve Bolton, Barbara Wheeler, Stella Todd, Sally Brown and Meg White will form a committee to compose a letter on the subject to go out to libraries (especially for the edification of new staff, but also for reminding current staff). The above statistics quoted by Marcia Gray reinforce the need for consistency and accuracy when dealing with interlibrary loaned materials.

Wayne Miller questioned whether other libraries Friends groups are incorporated or not. The answer- some are, some aren’t.

EnergyPlus- Lyn Swafford explained that EnergyPlus (a benefit from NYLA) will provide users at home or in the library with a 3% cash rebate every 12 months on the electric bill. Nothing else changes if you opt for this plan; if you are interested you can contact Shaun Basalik at 267-295-0608 or SBasalik@energypluscompany.com.

Library Workshops- how to improve attendance. Jerry Schell offered that the option of “virtual workshops” is being explored to make it easier for us all to “attend” without actually having to leave our libraries. More to come on this subject.

Nomination of officers for 2010.- Penny Kerfien, Sally Brown, Alice Barton and Wayne Miller will seek willing candidates. Voting will take place at the meeting in October.

Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 12:35. (Motion by S Todd, second by S. Lamb).