Spring Sagebrush Federation Meeting

October 28th, 2017

9:30am

Meeting called to order.

Introductions and Attendance: Stacey Moore (Fallon Co.), Kelly Reisig (Sidney-Richland), Diane Van Gordon (Baker High School), Pat Kalstrom (Ekalaka), Denice Strickland (Ekalaka Trustee), Mindy Van Vleet (Wibaux), Dawn Kingstad (Glendive), Linda Bruski (Prairie Co Trustee), Rolane Christofferson (Prairie Co), Pam Henley (State Library), Diane Volmer (Garfield), Sonja Woods (Miles City), Jennie Stapp (online- presenter; State Librarian).

No additions to the Agenda.

Minutes from the Spring 2017 Meeting (Kelly Reisig moves to accept minutes), discussion, (Dawn Kingstad 2nd), motion carries.

Report from State Librarian Jennie Stapp:

Professional book collection available through Overdrive for anyone with a State Library Card. (<https://montanastatelibrary.overdrive.com>). Emails on Wired-MT with instructions on requesting a State Library card.

Budget Cuts: budget cuts and pending budget cuts. State General Fund budget is at stalemate whether or not additional budget cuts will need to be made. Special Session of Legislature may change future cuts (possibility of 10% further cuts). 25% cut in General Fund earlier this summer. Request to Governor regarding a reprieve of further cuts. Further cuts means additional staffing cuts, limited travel, services cuts. Spending is currently at a “bare bones” level. Very little of State General Fund goes to support library development. Possibility of Federations helping to cover the cost of state employee travel—will need to be explored further before approved.

Federation Funds: Shared account has been disabled and switched to an “individual account” which will change how money is distributed to Federations. Legislature approved a four year plan of higher percentage of Coal Severance Tax funds funneled toward libraries. Because this is a brand new account, Federations must wait for the first revenue payments to start arriving before disbursement. No General Fund Loans exist, so the State Library is waiting for Revenue payments to begin disbursing funds (possibly incremental disbursement). Please let your Consultants know if this delay will adversely affect your library.

Federal Funding (Technology): appears that funds are reliable. FY2018 budget may contain a slight increase. Federal funds help cover Consultants, Shared Catalog staff. Senator Tester is advocating for library funding.

State Library received a substantial donation over the summer, which was placed into a Trust. Plans for donated funds are decided on by the Library Commission. Three tentative projects: 1. group funding projects at state level (shared catalog, databases, talking book, etc). State Library will hire a consultant to help setup this non-profit. A steering committee will help direct vision. 2. Fund a PR campaign to help develop materials and messaging to communicate that libraries are an essential service/expense. 3. Talking Book Library: digitize the remaining analog cassette collection.

Staffing Update: Shared Catalog turnover: offer was made to a librarian to accept the Training position, conducting interviews for a System Admin. Mike Price is retiring November 10th.

Structure of the Sagebrush Federation: Trustees do not have a grasp of the day-to-day workings of the library. Even when trustees do attend, they still ask the Director how to vote/explanations. Some smaller communities struggle to maintain a full board.

Committee to change the Bylaws regarding Trustee attendance: Dawn Kingstad, Stacey Moore (Chair), Kelly Reisig, Sonja Woods. Committee will meet to discuss changing Bylaws and direction of Federation.

Tentative Date for Spring Meeting: Saturday, March 3rd.

Hannah Nash presented class on Webpage Design 101; Noon-2:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hannah Nash, MCPL