



General Membership Meeting  
Broyhill Inn and Conference Center  
Boone, North Carolina  
August 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mark Pumphrey at 9:01 a.m.

Sarah Greene, the new director from Caldwell County, was pinned by Mark.

The State Library report was given by Mary Boone. She reported that State Aid is fully funded at the recurring level of \$15.7 million. Mary explained how the budget process worked and how the Secretary of Cultural Resources, Linda Carlisle, and her Legislative Liaison, Melanie Soles, went to bat for us and helped us keep our funding this year. Next Mary described cuts that were made to the State Library's budget including the loss of five vacant positions plus one temporary position and the converting of two state positions to federal funds; a 30% cut to the operating budget which will greatly impact the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped; and a 20% cut to the budget that funds statewide programs. Mary explained that we are very fortunate in our state that a lot of programs that some states pay with federal money, we have always traditionally paid with state money. These include their Libraries for the Blind, their training programs, their summer reading programs, their NC LIVE programs, and even their entire library development programs. Now that our state revenue is way down, the State Library will need to use federal money in ways we haven't before, for projects such as the Resource Sharing Summit and the statewide Needs Assessment. Mary reported that the State Library will be joining Web Junction which will give libraries access to training programs. Just like individual libraries, the State Library must also maintain MOE for the past three- year average in order to be eligible for federal funding and Mary reported that it will not be met for the coming year, so the State Library will lose some of its federal funding for the next four or five years.

Next Mary reported on the Federal Stimulus package and its broadband technology opportunity program (BTOP). While the State Library had great hopes for doing some kind of statewide project, when the guidelines came out, there was no place for a statewide BTOP project that fell within those guidelines. Mary also mentioned that the Eligibility Rules for State Aid have already been rewritten and were adopted in October, 2007. As of a year ago the State Library had the rest of the rules completed, but unfortunately they have not been acted on as of yet. The intention is that subsection A through F will be repealed and it will be replaced by a new subsection G through J, which would include changes to the regional rules. The Eligibility Rules for State Aid would simply be re-adopted during this process. Mary reported that the Governor has agreed to be our spokesperson this year for the Smartest Card campaign but that the State Library will be unable to print posters and send them to the libraries due to budget constraints. Lastly, Mary reported that the NC Literary Festival will be held September 10 – 13 in Chapel

Hill and the North Carolina Center for the Book will be a sponsor for the Saturday evening program with Elizabeth Strout, the author of *Olive Kitteridge*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction this year.

The Awards Committee report was given by Jane Rustin who thanked the committee for all their hard work. Committee members are Daphne Childres, Ruth Hoyle, Kem Ellis, Martie Smith, and Co-Chair Jeanne Fox. Jane asked directors to take their submissions back with them to their libraries and reminded the group that there will be a showcase of awards at the December meeting and that personal awards will be a feature of the banquet.

Dr. Barron gave the Eco Audit Committee report. He hoped that people had a chance to look over the results of the survey and thanked people for their 100% participation in it. It will serve well beyond being a benchmark and next we will have to do something with it. Dan has been in touch with Library Journal and American Libraries about it. Currently 84% of the respondents report there is no sustainable program in their area. The green concept is something that is worthwhile for our communities and for the future of our nation and 92% of the respondents said they are willing to go as green as possible. The committee will help people move forward and reminded the group that the concept now is “cost avoidance” as opposed to “cost savings”. Dan reported that there will be a presentation on this at NCLA in October.

Dr. Barron reported for the Teleconferencing Committee and basically stated that the idea of teleconferencing this meeting was not high on people’s list of priorities. Mark added that this topic was mentioned earlier due to travel restrictions but so far attendance has been strong for our meetings.

Ruth Ann Copley reported for the Website Development and Marketing Committee. She reported that information regarding Awards is now on the website. She reported that the Director’s Directory is being updated now with current information and pictures. The group recognized Ruth Ann for all the time she has spent putting information on the website for our organization.

Mark introduced the speaker for today’s program. Andrew Sanderbeck from the People Connect Institute presented a program called “Managing Team Excellence in Times of Change”. Handouts of the presentation were received by everyone in attendance.

The Archives Committee report was given by Martha Schatz. Mark noted that Martha has done more with this committee than anyone before her in the position. Martha has read ten years of archives and plans to put a condensed version of the highlights on the website. Martha asked for help from the directors to find missing information from past years as well as pictures and/or audio tapes that should be added to the archives. She also hopes there will be a “home” for the seven boxes of archival information in the future. Martha reminded the group that this organization will be 30 years old this year and that we should be in celebration mode at the December meeting.

Greg Needham reported that the Nominating Committee has a slate of officers to be voted on in December and it is as follows: President: Mike Taylor; Vice President/President Elect: Karen Foss; Secretary: Jeff Hall; Treasurer: Robert Busko; Regional Rep: Karen Wallace; County Rep: Jean Krause; and Municipal Rep: Megin Chapman. It was noted that Ruth Hoyle will complete her term on the State Library Commission in June, 2010, and the Nominating Committee will need to fill that vacancy.

Linda Hadden reported for the Membership Committee which she co-chairs along with Agnes Ho. Linda had several suggestions for directors to use in welcoming new members and drawing them into the group. She also reminded directors that we can all learn from each other and that it is good to ask questions and to share information with each other. She mentioned the possibility of a mentoring program between directors. Linda also shared suggestions for recognizing the accomplishments of directors who are leaving the group and reminded everyone to reach out to inactive members.

Suzanne Tate reported for the Hospitality Committee and thanked everyone for their support and contributions to this committee. Ed is co-chair for the committee.

Greg Needham reported for the Legislative Committee. Fundraising efforts were discussed especially along the lines of getting vendor support by asking them for relatively small donations of money. He mentioned that directors will be surveyed to see how contributions from Friends of the Library groups are coming along this year. Greg reported that he has been chairing the Legislative Committee since David Paynter retired and he was happy to report that he now has Skip Auld as his Co-Chair. Greg shared his appreciation for the added help and reminded directors to go back and thank their legislators for the support they gave during this most recent legislative initiative.

Skip Auld reported on his experience in the Public Executive Leadership Academy which is a part of UNC's School of Government. It was held for one week in July, followed by a break of three weeks and then another week in August. Skip described the benefits of the program and reported that he would like NCPLDA to pay a partial scholarship or a full scholarship for one or two people to attend this academy, which costs \$4,100 to attend. The program revolves around adaptive leadership as opposed to technical leadership and the academy is built around each person coming there with a community change project in mind---a project that crosses all boundaries. Another beneficial part of the program is being able to network with community leaders and other government officials. Skip is the first librarian to participate in this program which has been in existence for five years now and has about 125 graduates.

An Open Forum was held. Phil Cherry mentioned his use of the state statistical report data as a powerful marketing tool and how it paid dividends in the local budgeting process. Phil's suggestion was to use this "fact sheet" during our legislative process to help us better tell our story. Sharon Stack's Message Committee could work on this "fact sheet" or something along the lines of an annual report to tell our story more in depth. Everyone seemed to think this was a great idea. She was also interested in who might have access to graphics people in their libraries. Kem Ellis reported that the next NCLA Leadership Institute will be held Nov 7-11, 2010, at Camp Caraway near Asheboro. More information will be available at this year's NCLA Conference. Lynn Thompson mentioned that she chairs the Public Library Section of NCLA and would like us to encourage our staff members to join it. There are lots of programs and opportunities for participation and there are areas of mutual interest to NCPLDA such as the open source concept. Lynn suggested maybe we can have some joint discussions in the future. She welcomes feedback and would like to energize the group. Phalbe Henriksen mentioned how hard it is for new directors to talk to county managers during bad economic times and suggested that experienced directors help new directors along this line whenever possible. Mark suggested that this could be a discussion to have with the Membership Committee. Jennifer mentioned that this topic is included in the new directors' orientation and mentoring might be a part of it in the future. Mary Boone mentioned that there will be another traveling photo exhibit starting as early as February and more info will be forthcoming. Sue Loper mentioned that her library currently has a special traveling Smithsonian exhibit entitled: New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots. Ruth Hoyle mentioned that Secretary Linda Carlisle will be a luncheon speaker at NCLA. Andrew Sanderbeck mentioned that a 5-question survey will be put on the listserv for directors to take.

Mark announced that the next meeting will be held December 3 - 4 in Winston-Salem at the Marriott.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Callison

