



General Membership Meeting
Grandover Resort
Greensboro, North Carolina
December 5, 2008

Meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

President elect Mark Pumphrey handed out committee sign-up sheets to the membership.

Dan Barron gave a report of the Regional Library meeting held on Wednesday; nine library directors and two State Library reps were present. Here are some key points from the meeting:

- Maintenance of goodwill and positive community caring that has been the hallmark of NCPLDA.
- Work toward more recurring funding regardless of economic climate.
- Not supporters of the 2 tier funding.
- Keep formula as is; it's working, don't fix it.
- Spend more time working on message.
- More time in face to face discussion at meetings.
- We need dialog and action among ourselves, not just programs.
- Emphasis solutions to problems.
- Emphasis technology.
- Need to look at alternatives to legislative day.
- Themes: Womb to tomb, cradle to grave, stroller to stretcher; we provide HOPE.
- Message should be for libraries generally and not one specific service.
- When the regions vote, does the Region count as one vote or does each county in our region get a vote.

We then heard from the spokesperson of each of the breakout groups and what was discussed within each group.

Kem Ellis – group: Kem Ellis, Martie Smith, Anna Yount, Jeff Hall, John Hedrick, Jane Rustin, Robert Busko, Jeanne Fox

- Need to voice support for the fundamental purpose of State Aid as equalization of service for public libraries across North Carolina or recommend a new purpose for State Aid.
- Do not advocate a different or secondary formula for political strategic purposes only.
- We want to leave here with this issue settled, so Kem presented a motion: *NCPLDA endorse equalization of service as the fundamental purpose of the Aid to Libraries fund, and continue to use the current formula for distributing all State Aid funds until such time as the fundamental purpose for State Aid should change.* Robert Busko seconded the motion. Bill Snyder then presented a motion to table Kem's motion; seconded by Jeff Watson. Vote to table the motion: 37; vote to have motion stand: 11.

Carol Wilson – group: Carol Wilson, Daphne Childress, Cindy Moose, Karen Wallace, Louise Humphrey, Ed Sheary

- State Aid as it exists now – block grant part is a good idea; equalization, less so. There was one opinion who felt the whole thing should be scrapped.
- We need to get the right message and get it out. It should be simple.
- We need to do something that will benefit everyone.
- Need to speak with one voice that will benefit all library system with a message we can all hang our hats on. Libraries are not a priority in State government, although education is. How do we get the State to understand our value as educators?

Bob Fisher – group: Bob Fisher, Jim McKee, Willie Nelms, Ruth Hoyle, Lynn Thompson, Dan Swartout, Sue Loper

- State Aid has been effective – more funds over the years, NC LIVE.
- Need to be prepared in case new federal money is available for infrastructure.
- Work more closely with local government and with the Association of County Commissioners and the NC League of Municipalities.
- Unified plan to be presented next session. We should thank the legislature very much for what they've done, but that we should also ask for what we should have gotten this year before we were cut.
- Continue to work with the lobbyist and do all we can to get into the Governor's next budget.

Dan Barron – group: Dan Barron, Karen Foss, Jean Krause, MJ Carbo, Linda Hadden, Heather Bonney, Martha Schatz, Agnes Ho, Mike Taylor, Harry Tuchmayer

- Feel relatively comfortable with the formula as is.
- How do we find out why our full request last year was turned down and how do we get to the ones that didn't support us and make them supporters?
- Need to take a look at our guidelines – do not want to tie standards and guidelines to funding, but we do want our communities to know what we should be doing.
- Let's all speak with the same voice.
- Develop talking points – know what is on the local political agenda and become part of it.
- Go beyond simple slogans – get people to understand how to get political action.

Skip Auld – group: Skip Auld, Jennifer Pratt, Mark Pumphrey, Jeff Watson, Cathey Clifton, Suzanne Tate, Tom Dillard

- Want to impact every library
- State Aid is crucial for the survival of all.
- Lobbyist – yes – but it is expensive and there is concern that we don't have the money in the budget now.
- What are the legislators interested in? Education, economic development and jobs – we play a role in each – need a way to get legislators to understand this.
- We are the solution to problems for many.
- Need to increase recurring funds – what should we ask for? – ask for \$6 million. – what we really need.
- Do some benchmarking from all the states (Jennifer Pratt said she would look into this).

Jackie Beach – group: Jackie Beach, Margaret Marshall, Ruth Ann Copley, Becky Callison, Kay Davis

- Support the single message
- No Changes to State Aid at this time
- Made many of the same points already discussed.

Jeff Hall asked to bring up the tabled motion; the Secretary to reread the motion (twice).

Greg Needham read the purpose of State Aid from General Statutes Chapter 125-7.

Mary Boone read from the General Statutes 153A-261, the Declaration of State Policy.

The motion was read again followed by a lively and lengthy discussion much of which was about equalization. There was a motion to split the original motion, but that was turned down. Then Ed Sheary made a motion to table the original motion indefinitely; seconded by Jackie Beach; voted down 25 to 20. Then Kem Ellis offered to amend the original motion by removing the equalization part. Mike Taylor seconded. So the amended motion is now: *NCPLDA endorses the fundamental purpose of the Aid to Public Libraries Fund and the current formula for distributing all State Aid funds until such time as the fundamental purpose for State Aid should change.* There was a vote: 35 in favor and 6 opposed.

Break at 10:35 a.m.; return at 11:00 a.m.

Staci Meyer, Chief Deputy Secretary, Department of Cultural Resources (DCR) – Gave a brief update on happenings at DCR, the absence of Secretary, budget reductions (5%), freeze on hiring and purchasing, and working hard not to reduce services. She attempted to get an exemption to the State's 5% budget cut requirement for the Aid to Public Libraries Fund, however, the attempts were denied by the Office of State Budget and Management. She also wanted to thank us for all we have done and what we are doing; libraries have been tremendously supportive. DCR is making preparations for the Transition Team for the new Governor; working hard to make sure that History, Arts and Libraries are all equal partners. Staci is wrapping up some major projects, like the Administrative Rules, and DCR is in good shape to grow. It's exciting to be growing in a new direction, and libraries will be a part of that. "It's been a pleasure working with you."

Theresa Kostrzewa, Capitol Advantage Associates, Inc. – Started off by thanking Staci for stepping into a difficult situation at DCR with grace and aplomb. She followed by looking at our legislative agenda. In rough economic times, library usage skyrockets. The Game – our goal is to get as many legislators into our public libraries as possible before the end of the year; send stories to TK by December 31; there will be prizes. Esther Vida from UNC TV will feature libraries in a story next week. The segment will feature Mark Pumphrey, talking from the Cameron Village Library, and Skip Auld at the Durham library. Point this segment out to your legislators; we need to impress upon them that the need for libraries is greater than ever. Mickey Michaux, Senior Appropriations chair, has pointed out that there is a \$1.6 billion shortfall, almost 10% of the budget, and that libraries will be lucky to get what we have been getting. We need to do what we did well last year, like Library Day which was very successful and visual. Questions and comments followed.

The gavel was passed to Mark Pumphrey who thanked Greg and recognized him as "the future of our organization". Mark presented Greg with a gift (an indoor fountain) from Seagrove Pottery.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Marshall