

Directors gather for annual session

Library directors found affirmation of their leadership styles, insight into communication issues and discovered techniques for the theory and practice of peer coaching at the annual retreat.

The session, held Oct. 17-18 in Thermopolis, attracted 24 participants. This is the fourth year of the retreat sponsored by the Wyoming State Library with the use of Library Services and Technology Act funds.

Program presenters John Kanengieter and Missy White, from the Professional Training Institute, National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, led the directors through a number of exercises to help them understand different leadership styles.

Cynthia Twing, Johnson County library, felt that the peer coaching process was one of the best activities she has ever participated in as a director.

A portion of the program was devoted to

strategic discussion with Lesley Boughton, the state librarian. Time was devoted to the subjects of Gates grant opportunities, LSTA, College of DuPage teleconferences, McMurry grants and the *Wyoming Public Library Directors' Handbook*. Academic directors voiced their interest in adding sections to the handbook to include their areas of responsibility.

Maggie Farrell, the new dean of the University of Wyoming Libraries, spoke of her plans for the future of her organization.

Directors were asked to evaluate the programs and the benefits of such a gathering. Sharing issues and challenges, hearing the perspectives of others and connecting with other directors scored the highest marks.

The planning committee members for the retreat were: Susan Simpson, Jill Mackey, Chrissy Bendlin, Sandra Donovan, Cynthia Twing with assistance from the library development staff at the the WSL.

Branch library opens in Wamsutter

There is a new library branch in the state.

Wamsutter became the sixth rural branch library in the Sweetwater County Library system in mid-September after the cooperative actions of volunteers, donors, the Town Council and county library officials.

Colleen Eifealtdt is credited with the inspiration that started the new library. She encouraged her employer, BP Amoco, to donate a building or trailer to be converted to a library. The company provided a trailer and moved it to the town.

Eifealtdt found volunteers to clear the land and when the need for remodeling became apparent, she recruited her husband, Judd. The Town Council donated water and sewer service, and paid for the electricity during the remodeling.

Paul Holland, director, took the concept to the board so funding for staff, materials and operations would be in the system's annual budget. The new library has 9,000 items in the collection and Joni Harris serves as the sole staff member. Carla Hardy, head of the rural



branches, provided her expertise for the project and Harold Hayes, rural branch liaison, will make monthly visits to offer training and materials.

Thousands attend national book fes-

Lesley Boughton, state librarian, and Linn Rounds, publications and marketing manager, represented Wyoming at the National Book Festival held on the west lawn of the Capitol Oct. 12.

The Library of Congress sponsored the event with First Lady Laura Bush serving as host.



Photo by Linn Rounds

Working from the Pavilion of the States, the Wyoming folks stamped specially-prepared national maps with the state's trademark bucking horse and rider.

They also distributed material about reading, authors and literary projects as well as general tourist information.

The Wyoming Business Council, University Bookstore and Pioneer Printing cooperated by providing materials to complement the State Library hand-outs. Crowds were estimated at 45,000 along with 70 authors, illustrators and storytellers who spoke and signed books.



Photo by Linn Rounds

MEDLINEplus offers consumer health information

Website allows for comprehensive, free information on a variety of health-related topics

Library patrons often inquire about health conditions, treatments, and medications. Questions the public service staff fields run the gamut from adult onset diabetes to the student doing a school bioterrorism project on anthrax.

MEDLINEplus is *medlineplus.gov* is the National Library of Medicine's consumer health website, gives librarians a comprehensive, authoritative, full-text, and free resource for meeting their patrons' health information needs.

More than 500 Health Topics form the core of MEDLINEplus. The Health Topics pages are the entry point for hundreds of subjects with more being added weekly. They pro-

vide links to information on the topic, current news, connections to related topics, and more. All of the resources provided on the Health Topics pages give the full text for free online.

The key to MEDLINEplus' success as a consumer health resource is it is NOT an exhaustive list of every health resource available on the Web. Rather, it is a selective list of authoritative health information from reputable organizations like the National Institutes of Health. The material has been selected and evaluated by medical librarians and health professionals at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda MD, so public service librarians can be

assured their patrons are getting the best, most timely information available.

You and your patrons can reach MEDLINEplus from any Internet-accessible computer in your library or in their homes at *medlineplus.gov*. Click on the 'About MEDLINEplus' link available at the top of each page to learn more.

Susan Whitson, the Wyoming liaison for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, is available to answer your questions or provide training on MEDLINEplus, PubMed, or other National Library of Medicine databases by calling 1-800-338-7657 or via email at *swhitson@uwyo.edu*.

Trustees' Corner

by Jerry Krois, deputy state librarian

Make sure everything is getting reported

Are you and your board members aware of the accounting requirements in GASB 34?

This unusual acronym refers to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, which monitors the financial reporting methods for state and local governments. The 34 refers to *Statement No. 34: Basic Financial Statements and Management Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*, which has been in effect since 1979.

Under this standard, your library reports assets, expenditures and revenues on an accrual accounting basis. Your library assets (the building, furnishings and parts of the collection), along with your revenues are reported as part of the government's overall statement on expenses, revenues and assets. Assets will be recorded on a depreciating basis.

All this information is designed to provide a public report on the state, county or city,

by creating a spreadsheet somewhat parallel to the annual report of a business.

This reporting process will have significant implications for public libraries as a component unit of the government. Your library foundation and Friends of the Library may also have to report their assets, revenues and expenses because their roles are to support only one entity – the library.

This means that the financial records of these two organizations may be subject to governmental audits. In the past, the library foundation usually didn't show its records to the library's auditor but GASB 34 changes all these practices.

This reporting standard is being implemented in stages so that governments with total annual revenues and assets between \$10 and \$90 million begin reporting at the end of this fiscal year (June 30, 2003). Those governmental entities under \$10 million will

begin the reporting with fiscal year 2004.

You will find more information on the web at <http://www.gasb.org> and <http://accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/gasb/repmodel>.

Be sure to open discussions with your auditors about their expectations and your obligations, and let your Foundation and Friends officers know about their relationships to this standard.

To add to this issue, GASB No 39: *Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units* identifies the three criteria that make Foundation and Friends finances reportable. You will find that information at <http://accounting.rutgers.edu/raw/gasb/st/summary/gstsm39.htm>.

Additional information on GASB 34 and GASB 39 can be found using the Google search engine at www.google.com.

Levendosky earns MPLA Intellectual Freedom Award

Regional librarians bestowed another honor on Charles Levendosky, editorial editor of the Casper Star-Tribune. Levendosky received the Mountains and Plains Library Association's Intellectual Freedom Award for 2002. He accepted the award at the association's October meeting in Fargo, N.D.

Levendosky has been the editorial page editor of the Casper paper since 1982 where he also writes a weekly column. He was instrumental in establishing the First Amendment Cyber Tribune Website and serves as its editor.

His interest in censorship and free speech has brought previous recognition from Wyoming Library Association, American Library Association, American Bar Association, Society of Professional Journalists and many others.

Marcia Wright, director of the Campbell County Library and chair of the WLA Intellectual Freedom committee, nominated Levendosky because of his support of libraries and the freedom to read.



Photo by Jerry Krois

Author and former State Legislator Matilda Hansen stands with Lesley Boughton, state librarian, with her latest book, "Clear Use of Power – A Slice of Wyoming Political History."



Crystal Stratton receives top honors as Wyoming Library Association's **Librarian of the Year**. Stratton was cited for her work on remodeling the Laramie County Community College library and for her work on the new automated statewide system. She is shown with Lesley Boughton, state librarian and former boss at the Platte County Library where Stratton began her library career as a page. She is now head of technical services at LCCC.

WLA recognizes member achievements, presents book awards

Photos by Jerry Krois

Proving librarianship runs in the family, Crystal Stratton is married to a librarian. Marc Stratton is WYLD systems manager at the state library. Together after Marc presented her award she beams in her tiara and sparkles.





Members of the WYLD Migration and Implementation Team received WLA's **Georgia Shovlain Award** for a special project completed or in progress. Joe French (left), the WSL business office manager, served as emcee for the WLA awards and he joins the winning team Brian Greene, Trish Palluck, Marc Stratton, Lesley Boughton, Desiree Saunders and Chris Van Burgh.

and welcomes the new president



Trish Palluck hands the gavel to the new president, Kay Carlson. With the pass, Palluck concludes her term as WLA president and is recognized with a plaque.

More WLA awards

Debbie Iverson,
Sheridan College,
Distinguished Service Award

Barb Edmunds,
Laramie County,
Milstead Award

**Teton County Library/
Latino Outreach Program**,
Andy Fisher Award

David Kathka,
Sweetwater County BOCES,
Meritorious Service Award

Suellen Carman,
Jackson,
Wyoming Intellectual Freedom
Award

Paul and Lynn Montoya,
KJL, Cheyenne,
Media Support

Ruth Ann McCann,
Johnson County,
Trustee Citation

**Gertie Brown, Youlen Colling
and Maxine Pasley**,
Laramie County,
Unsung Heroine Award

Dail Barbour,
Teton County Library,
Award Award

Laurie Lye,
Casper College Library,
Nora Van Burgh Development Grant

**Ann Deromedi, Sandy Frazier,
Janet Grey**,
Retiring Librarians

**Jeff Anthony, Nora Ivers,
Mary Alice Hinkel, Jame
O'Connor**, Retiring Trustees

David Shannon,
No David,
Buckaroo Book Award

J.K. Rowling,
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire,
Indian Paintbrush Award

J.K. Rowling,
*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of
Azkaban*, Soaring Eagle Award

AROUND THE STATE

Sweetwater County Library System has a new mission statement that was approved by the board at the end of October.

It reads "SCLS improves the quality of life in communities by: helping individuals obtain information, providing materials that are reliable and current, encouraging a lifelong joy of reading and learning for all, especially children."

Trudy Howatson made a gift of \$30,000 to the **Laramie County Library Foundation** to create the John and Gertrude Howatson endowment. She is a retired school teacher and the widow of a former UW chemistry professor. The Howatson Endowment is a permanent fund with earnings going to benefit the foundation and the library.

The **Doris and Neil McMurray** family of Casper were honored as the Wyoming Family of the Year by the Associated Parents-University of Wyoming. The family was cited for their commitment and devotion to the university and the state. Seven family members are UW graduates and daughters Carol, Susan and Gayle are responsible for establishing the **McMurray Library Endowment Fund**.

Campbell County School District busses are now running to the Campbell County Library. One bus from each school will take students to the library Monday through Thursday after school. A grant from the Campbell County Public Recreation District made the funds available.

A collaboration among **Fremont County Library, Fremont County School District 21, the Shoshone tribe and the Fort Washakie community** is making a new addition to the school possible. A 12,300 square-foot supplement to the existing building will house a new school and community library, technology center and Traditional Center.

The new addition, expected to open in spring 2003, will have space to offer library services to school children and work as an outreach center for Fremont County Library offering evening and weekend hours. FCL will have a memorandum of understanding with the community library and offer training, rotating collections of books and books on tape. It will also provide some donated books and supplies. The Technology Center will be for both students and adults.

The Wyoming Medical Center held an open house in mid-November to celebrate the new Community Medical Library and rededicate the "The Country Doctor" sculpture by Pershing Geiger.

Lynn Friesner, information service manager at the **Sheridan County Public Library System**, reports the library is now a Foundation Center Cooperating Library. The Foundation Center is a non-profit organization which publishes books and computer resources to help grant seekers find funding sources. SCPL is offering classes for the community to learn about these print and electronic resources.

In mid-November the **Albany County Public Library Foundation, Inc.** recognized four staff members for their continuing service to the public library: Russ Ingram, 5 years; Robin Petroski, 10 years; Ann Horan, 15 years; and Peggy Thompson, 20 years. The foundation provides a check, \$140 for each year of service, to the recognized staff under guidelines established by a committee.

Jean Kirol former **Teton County Library** director and co-founder of the *Jackson Hole Guide*, died recently. She, her husband, and her mother started the *Guide* in 1952 and she worked at the newspaper until 1968 when they sold it. She then started her career at library and continued there until the late '70s.

PERSONNEL-LY SPEAKING

State library welcomes Jill Rourke



Jill Rourke is the newest member of the State Library staff. She started work on Oct. 1, 2002, as the continuing education librarian in the Library Development office. She is already involved in an update to the trustees' handbook, scheduling video conferences and preparing a CE survey for distribution in the next few months. She also expects to take on responsibilities for collection of public library statistics and concentrate on writing grants and holding grant-writing workshops.

While Rourke's last job was as library director in Saluda, S.C., she is no newcomer to Wyoming. She was born in Casper and lived there, and other places in Natrona, Carbon and Sweetwater Counties before moving east.

Her experience in libraries covers both paraprofessional and professional jobs. "When I saw an ad for my first library position, I thought what a nice little part-time job it would be. It would help me redecorate my home. Before long I was hooked. I saw how libraries connect the community and help level the playing field. My personal focus at the WSL is to find ways of making the job easier for library professionals and staff who are working in the field," she said.

She is a graduate of Warner Southern College in Lake Wales, Fla., and has a masters degree in library science from the University of South Florida, Tampa. She is married to Tom Rourke and has a son, Steven, who is a student in Greenwood, S.C. Her parents reside in Casper. Rourke fills the position that has been vacant since the retirement of Judy Yeo.

Justina Buckles joined the Public Programs, Publications and Marketing staff in October as a public information specialist.

She was excited to return to her hometown of Laramie after spending the last year working for a law firm in Florida. Prior to that, she studied graphic design at the Art Institute of Portland for two years and worked for various advertising and marketing firms there. She spent her first two years of college studying journalism and communications at the University of Wyoming.



Scott Axtell brings his newspaper experience to the Public Programs, Publications and Marketing office. Starting in November, he was excited to still be able to use his journalism degree from



the University of Northern Colorado to work for P3M.

Before coming to P3M, he worked at the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle, and newspapers in Kansas and Colorado. He is married with a 16-month-old daughter, Deanna.

Larsen & Mackey

Recent deaths impact libraries

Two recent deaths impacted the Wyoming library community, one in Rock Springs and the other in Sundance.

Terri Larsen, head of youth services at the Rock Springs Library, died on Oct. 4 of liver disease. She was 51.

She started at the Rock Springs Library in 1990 and became the assistant youth services librarian in 1991. In 1993 she was named head of youth services and continued in that position until her death. She was interested in reading and literacy activities and was chair of the WLA Indian Paintbrush committee during the past year.

She leaves her husband, two daughters, a son, and her parents. The family directs memorials to Donor Awareness Council, 3773 Cherry Creek North Dr. #601, Denver, CO 80209.

The library staff continues to accept requests for tickets for the handmade quilt. Tickets are \$1 a piece or six for \$5. Money will be used to defray cost of medical and travel expenses. Call or write Debora Soule, 400 C St., Rock Springs, WY 82901-6221, (307) 362-6212.

John iScotti Mackey, husband of **Jill Mackey**, Crook County Library director, died on Nov. 2. He was 46. Jill survives him along with two sons, three daughters, his father, one brother and two sisters.

Memorial donations can be made to the Crook County Library Foundation or to a scholarship fund for his children.

He was a port of entry officer for the Wyoming Department of Transportation at the time of his death.

Before that he spent more than 20 years in the Air Force. He was the unofficial computer expert for the Crook County Library where he installed equipment and maintained software. He was active in both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

VITA volunteers help in dealing with taxes

Have you visited one of your local libraries or community colleges and noticed a line of people waiting outside a room that said VITA? Did you wonder what VITA was all about?

VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. In 1970, its first year, 7,500 VITA volunteers assisted 104,000 taxpayers by completing their tax returns, answering their tax questions and providing them tax forms. In 2001, 44,203 volunteers assisted over 2 million taxpayers.

This increase is a direct result of the tremendous support of the program by community vol-

unteers, both individuals and organizations.

What is a VITA Site?

VITA sites offer free preparation of basic, uncomplicated income tax returns to low-income families, senior citizens, the disabled, or whose primary language is not English. Electronic preparation and filing or, E-Filing, of these tax returns is now at a majority of these locations.

Do volunteers have to be professional accountants or tax practitioners to participate?

No. No prior tax experience is required. The Internal Revenue Service annually develops training

materials to teach the basic tax laws needed by the volunteers in preparing them to conduct their volunteer services successfully and accurately. They also provide the software and training for use in E-filing of tax returns for volunteers at sites that have the equipment to provide electronic services.

Tax professionals who do participate in VITA, instructing other volunteers in tax law or by preparing tax returns at a local site, can earn CPE/CEU credits by contacting the Wyoming Stakeholder Partnership, Education and Communication (SPEC) Specialist.

What difference does VITA make?

VITA volunteers assist those individuals and families who cannot afford professional tax preparation to help them comply with their income tax responsibilities. They help them claim every tax benefit to which they are entitled.

If you or anyone you know would like to become a VITA volunteer, or if you would like to host a VITA site in your community, contact Virginia Sonntag, SPEC Tax Specialist in Wyoming, at 307-633-0803 or by email at: Virginia.Sonntag@irs.gov.



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