

Members present:

Paula Chapman/Aurora, Debby Bocnuk/Babbitt, Mary Zaitz/Chisholm, Mary Lukkarila/Cloquet, Carla Powers/Duluth, Amy Hay/Gilbert, MaryBeth Kafut/Eveleth, Marcia Anderson/Grand Rapids, Ginny Richmond/Hibbing, Sue Sowers/Hoyt Lakes, Diane Adams/International Falls, Linda Wadman/NCLC, Julie Billings/Silver Bay, Nancy Maxwell/Virginia; Shari Fisher/ALS, Sharon Kangas/ALS, Mark Koukol/ALS, Rebecca Patton/ALS, Jim Weikum/ALS; Guest: Jo Vos/Office of the Legislative Auditor

President Nancy Maxwell called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

Introductions were made by all present.

Approval of COMPASS minutes for August 26 meeting: M/S Adams/Richmond. **Approved.**

COMPASS AND COMPUTER RELATED ISSUES**Questions or problems with Horizon functions:**

- There are currently staffing issues with the Nashwauk/Keewatin High School, and delivery issues at Keewatin Elementary School. Mark has a meeting scheduled this week to see if these issues can be resolved. Until further notice, do not fill requests going to Keewatin Elementary School or Nashwauk/Keewatin High School. The Keewatin Public Library is staffed during public library hours; it is fine to send items requested by the Keewatin Public Library.

Horizon news, updates & upgrades:

- ALS is having a new RPA server (which manages patron authentication for OverDrive and works with Telemessaging) installed; hardware work will be done on Monday and software work on Tuesday next week. OverDrive and Telemessaging will not be available for part of Tuesday; all telemessaging calls will be shifted to later in the day. Once the RPA server is installed, Mark will schedule the upgrade to Horizon 7.5 and HIP 3.2 (the public catalog upgrade). He will also send out information about their bug fixes or improvements. SirsiDynix has said that there will be a Horizon release 7.5.1 next year; so far, they have not announced an end-of-life date for Horizon. Support will continue for 3 years beyond the end-of-life date.
- Once Windows 7 has been released, Mark will test Horizon on it to make sure it works. Although Mark expects it to work, he recommends not purchasing staff computers with Windows 7 until it is certain. Deep Freeze now has a product available for purchase that will work with Windows 7; libraries using Deep Freeze will need to purchase the updated version.

ILS replacement process: update

- Jim Weikum will contact a potential consultant within the next couple of weeks. Since Sirsi/Dynix has not yet announced an end-of-life date for Horizon, there is not a sense of urgency.
- Evergreen, which now has consortia functionality, has joined Koha as an open-source contender.

Status Report: Technical Services Librarian position @ ALS:

- The fairly small pool of applicants was narrowed to three; one of the three accepted a position elsewhere. ALS conducted one phone interview and one on-site interview; the person who was

interviewed over the phone will come to ALS for an on-site interview next week. One candidate is stronger in the area of project management/supervision; the other has stronger cataloging skills. A decision will be made following the remaining interview.

Staff reports: None

Other: None

LIBRARY ISSUES

Jo Vos: Public Library study by the Office of the Legislative Auditor

- Last spring the state legislature selected public libraries as one area for the research arm of the legislative audit commission to study. The legislature is concerned about how libraries are organized and how services are delivered, and about how libraries are funded. The study will also look at what the roles of State Library Services and the legislature should be. Legislatures are wondering if the state should mandate more or if library issues should be left to local governments.
- The library study started in June. It will lay out and evaluate governance structure, to what effect there is equal access to like services across the state, and how regionalization is working to provide efficiency and greater services. Information will be obtained from annual report data from State Library Services, surveys sent to library directors, interviews with regional library system and multitype directors, and meetings with interest groups and city officials. A draft report will be submitted to State Library Services for review, and any needed corrections will be made. The report will then be sent to the Minnesota Department of Education for a formal response. This response, along with the final version of the report, will be sent to the legislature in January. It will also be available to libraries.
- One area of concern to ALS libraries was the disparity of funding between cities and counties. A significant amount of circulation at several city libraries goes to patrons residing outside the City limits. LGA cuts, and consequent cuts to staffing and materials line items, are impacting the libraries' ability to maintain service.
- It was asked if there should be consideration of how many hours a week a library should be open if it is to exist.
- The conclusion of a discussion of Interlibrary Loan was that member libraries like and benefit from sharing, but the delivery and staff costs are high.
- There was some discussion of the role of State Library Services.
- ALS libraries felt that Maintenance of Effort is critical to libraries; since libraries aren't considered "essential services," they are very vulnerable to budget cuts. Library services are none-the-less valuable to communities. One critical service is the provision of high-speed Internet. The digital divide is growing, and access to government services is increasingly moving online.
- It was suggested that the state needs to redefine broadband for Regional Library Telecommunications Aid; the current T-1 standard is now very minimal for the way computers are used at libraries.
- If library staff have further input, please contact Jo Vos at jo.vos@state.mn.us or 651-296-1233.

What's happening at your library?

- Debby/Babbitt: The Minnesota Crime Wave authors will be doing a presentation at Babbitt Public Library on Tuesday, October 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- Marcia/Grand Rapids: Greg Breining, author of *A Hard-water World: Ice Fishing and Why We Do It*, will give a presentation at the Grand Rapids Public Library on Tuesday, October 6.
- Mary L./Cloquet: William Durbin will give a presentation at the Cloquet Public Library on Thursday, October 22. On Monday, October 19, Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie will give a talk at the library about the Coleman/Franken race.

- Which libraries have security cameras? Virginia, Cloquet, and Hibbing, both inside and outside
- Nancy/Virginia Public Library wondered which City Council committee would be best for sending Whitney Cretol's strategic plan for approval.

MnLink ILL: tabled until October meeting

“Legacy Amendment” funds for projects & programs in ALS region

- A committee has been formed to recommend how the legacy funds for the arts in libraries should be used. The regional committee members are: Public Library staff: Amy Hay, Judy Sheriff, and David Ellis Hollenhorst; ALS Board members: Terry Anderson, Marjorie McPeak; ALS staff: Rebecca Patton, Shari Fisher; Regional Arts members: Bob Diamond/Arrowhead Regional Arts Council, Steven Downing/Reif Center for the Arts, Tom Gillach/Northern Lights Music Festival.
- Funds will not likely be distributed until next year and, since there is no carry-over language, they will need to be expended by June 30 unless legislation is passed to include carry-over language.
- 10% of ALS's total expected portion of \$457,000 will be set aside for a state-wide project. It is expected to be based on the Minnesota Historical Society's Greatest Generation project and will be brought to as many libraries as possible.
- The committee has discussed various project ideas. One possibility will be having Terrence Smith do a dance program and instruction in some libraries and partnering daycares; another would be having students who attend the Perpich Center for the Arts do a program at their local public library. An idea for February is, in association with the “Love Your Library” campaign, offering free “Love Your Museum” passes. April is National Poetry Month; perhaps libraries could offer a poetry event. Betsy Bowen is now doing puppetry and could be contacted about doing programs in communities.
- The Arrowhead Regional Arts council will partner with ALS in providing contact information for presenters.
- Libraries will need to discuss effective ways to advertise so people are aware of the programs and events.
- Work is being done to schedule an October statewide Round Robin discussion with Leah Hughes. There will also be a workshop on how to integrate arts and cultural encounters into library programming, with an afternoon discussion of legacy funding and projects.
- It will need to be decided to what extent programs should be regional and to what extent there can be local projects at a smaller cluster of libraries. At present, the committee is favoring local artist and presenters rather than presenters being brought in from other regions.
- Please contact Rebecca if you have ideas for additional programs or events and with contact people for local arts organizations.
- The hope is to build sustainability for arts programming, and to offer different programs and events each year. Evaluation and feedback will be important.
- Legacy funding will provide additional programs; it will not replace the current KidStuff programs or funding.

Staff reports: Rebecca Patton

- Learning Express training will take place on Thursday, 10/22.
- In-person ELM training on the new databases will be offered at ALS the afternoon of the October 28 COMPASS meeting and the afternoon of the following day (10/29). There are still openings; contact Rebecca if interested in attending.

Staff reports: Jim Weikum

- While the League of Minnesota Cities has notified cities about the opportunity to apply for Minimum Level of Support recertification and encouraged them to do so, there appears to be some confusion among cities and few have applied. The recertified amount is tied to the City's LGA cuts. Grand Rapids has applied for recertification for both 2009 and 2010. International Falls Public Library has received 2009 cuts that put them below minimum level of support; the City will be encouraged to apply for recertification so the library's ALS membership is not endangered. Responses to requests for 2010 recertification are not expected to be issued until January or February of 2010.

NCLC:

- Scholarship funds are available for library staff to attend educational events; contact Linda for an application form. While applications for partial funding (with the employer or individual paying the remainder) are looked on favorably, all applications are considered. MLA will be in St. Cloud; PLA will be in Portland next fall, and the 2010 Association for Rural and Small Libraries conference will be in Denver.

Other: None

Meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, October 28, 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Chapman, Secretary