

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 2006

Director's Report and Highlights

March 14, 2006

Submitted by Pam Kiesner

Trustee education – your questions please!

Alan Marriner, Assistant City Attorney, will attend our Library Board meeting to give a presentation on the Open Meetings Act, Public Disclosure, Email communications and answer your questions about your legal responsibilities as a trustee. “What constitutes a meeting?” “What is a quorum of the Board?” “Is it okay to email each other about a library issue?” He’ll speak for about 20 minutes, and leave time for questions and answers.

Iris Kaneshige, Head of Circulation Services, will be back with us this month to talk about our debt collection service. Iris will share background on UNIQUE, why we engage their services, and we’ll answer your questions about our fee for this service. Iris has information for you about trends in the number of accounts submitted, and our recovery rate using UNIQUE.

Recruitment – and outside expertise

We have two active groups reviewing applications for both open positions: Assistant Director and Head of Information and Reader Services. Two separate panels will interview top candidates by the beginning of April and the panels include:

Director of the Whatcom Literacy Council, Rachel Myers

Director of Libraries and Instructional Technology for the Bellingham Public Schools, Ann Reid, and

Alan Kemble from our Library Board.

Some other outside assistance has been helpful as well; Carl Oekerman and I met to talk about his facilitation of the “Community Conversations” which took place with staff, board, and public in 2003 around library plans for the future. It was excellent to hear from him about that process, and I’ll share more with you at our meeting.

We have a wealth of expertise in this community! It is a richer opportunity for all of us when we have such good assistance in making important hiring and planning decisions.

Board meeting date – and PLA

Thank you to the Board for changing this month’s meeting date so I can attend the Public Library Association Conference next week. One of my primary interests in going is the opportunity to attend a pre-conference: “Planning Smart: Managing Your Building Project from Concept to Cost Estimate”. I look forward to sharing highlights with you of this and the other sessions.