

**Columbia County Library System Board**  
**January 17, 2020**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Portage Public Library  
Portage, Wisconsin

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Susanna Bradley  
Dianne Effinger  
Gus Knitt  
Nancy Long  
Betty Reiter  
Linda Ross  
Beth Ann Scott

**Library Directors in Attendance:**

Whitney Parrillo, Randolph  
Tracie Miller, Wyocena

**Visitors and Guests in Attendance:**

Mark Ibach – SCLS Consulting Services Coordinator

Vice President, Susanna Bradley called the meeting to order at 9:02AM. Members introduced themselves to our new member, Gus Knitt. Susanna noted the meeting has been properly posted.

Betty Reiter made a motion to approve the agenda and Linda Ross seconded it  
Nancy Long made a motion to approve the minutes and Linda Ross seconded it.

**SCLS Report:**

Mark reported that the improved software program is up and running. Annual report is under way and it is due February 29<sup>th</sup>. In 2020 DPI is funding a series of DVD's by Ryan Dawd. These DVD's are training videos to give libraries ideas in addressing the needs of the homeless. Prior years this series was paid for by SCLS. Wild Wisconsin Winter Conference is being held Jan. 29 & 30. It is a free webinar for library staff, and trustees. There are three or four one-hour topics will be covered and will be available to view at a later date. Building Needs Assessment Group continues to work toward finding a site where all SCLS can be under one roof. Digitization continues with about half the South Central libraries about ready to upload content. Bibliovation continues and the staff is trying to meet the needs of sight impaired individuals.

**Resource Library Report:**

Nancy Long, Suzanna Bradley and Debbie Bird met with Dan Drew, Board of Supervisors concerning needs of county libraries and funding. Mark Iback suggested Debbie contact Connie Meyer, who is on the Library Development Legislation Committee. Debbie handed out a copy of their correspondence. We need to move ahead with our Plan of Service. Connie is interested in meeting with this board to share ideas. The primary focus of the Portage library for 2020 is the community of Portage and Columbia County. Their foundation has gifted the library with a smart board and a digital sign board. Ancestry.com contacted Debbie to ship to them the microfilm for the Portage Daily Register that goes back to the 1800's. The benefit was a digital copy of the paper and a link to this information. There is a large homeless problem in Portage. Debbie will be using the DVD's from Ryan Dawd with the staff. The library will also be focusing on the need for jobs in Columbia County. The census people will use the library as a contact hub.

**Annual Report and 2021 Goals:**

We discussed the upcoming Annual Report that is due February 29<sup>th</sup>. Library directors are collecting data and will be sending it to Debbie. We are to look over our goals for our next meeting. Debbie will check to see when this is due and will send that information to our committee.

**Election of Officers:**

Beth Ann nominated Betty Reiter to continue as Secretary and that nomination was seconded by Diane. Nancy nominated Linda Ross as Vice President and Diane seconded it. Betty nominated Nancy Long to serve as President and Suzanne seconded it. All three were unanimously elected and graciously accepted their roles. Suzanne turned the meeting over to our new president, Nancy Long.

**Library Legislative Day:**

Legislative day is February 11<sup>th</sup> and sign up is today, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Select County Advocate of the Year:**

We didn't have any nominations. Debbie will mention this at the directors meeting today. Nominations will be due the end of February. Debbie will email these nominations to us before our March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. We need to put a deadline on the nomination form to indicate a January first deadline. The current plaque is full so when Pardeeville has finished their display of the plaque they should send it to Portage, our resource library.

**Discuss Updating "Columbia County Plan for Library Services 2015-2020":**

Each member needs to look at the current plan and be prepared to make suggestions at our March meeting. We need to work with legislators to address the revenue cap. Some counties are funded 100%, some others are trying to get to that percentage. Further discussion took place about the need for clarity when we go before the County Board. Telling our story is important. After the new board has been sworn in maybe we should get on the agenda and do a 5-10-minute presentation as to what libraries are doing now and what we're planning in the future. Clarification of our funding request is needed. There are two uses of the funds, one is budget and the second is adjacent county reimbursement. A possible idea was to invite board members to visit the library closest to the area they serve. An invitation could be sent from the library director and a member of their board. April is National Library Month and it might be a good time to do this. Whitney, Tracey, Nancy, Debbie, and Susanna will meet to discuss ideas. If anyone else is interested just contact Debbie. We need to continue to tell our story, over and over until they grasp our need.

**Reports on Library Visits:**

There were no visits to report.

**Any Additional Input from County Library Directors:**

Tracie Miller, Director of the Wycocena library shared the cooperation of her board, the Village board and her Friends of the Library. Tracie put together a Year in Review. She highlighted what the library has accomplished, 66 programs and shared the volunteer hours that has been donated to the library. She added up the hour's staff, board and the friends group have donated. The cost of volunteer hours was twenty-one thousand dollars!

In March, we need to approve the Annual Report, work on the Plan for Library Services, Action Plan 2020, 2021 Goals, and vote on Advocate of the Year. Our meeting will be in Randolph, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

Our meeting adjourned at 10:50.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Betty Reiter 1/20/2020