

# COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Columbus Public Library  
Columbus, Wisconsin

March 4, 2011

**Board Members Present:** Gisela Hamm, Nan Hughes, Susan Martin, Andy Ross, Patricia Westby and Carol Ziehmke.

**Board Member Absent:** Judy Eulberg

**South Central Library System Representatives:** Martha VanPelt and Cheryl Becker

**Library Directors Present:**

Kris Daugherty	Poynette
Erin Foley	Rio
Mary Friesen	Wyocena
Peggy Kindschi	Columbus
Trish Prieue	Lodi
Jeanne Radke	Cambria
Shannon Schultz	Portage

Board President Carol Ziehmke called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The Meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum of the Board was present.

**Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda, and it was unanimously approved upon the motion by Gisela Hamm and Pat Westby's second.

**Minutes:** Andy Ross moved that the minutes of the January 7, 2011 meeting be approved as presented; second by Nan Hughes. The minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

**Library Advocate of the Year (2011):** Nominations were received from the Randolph Library, the Poynette Area Library, and the Kilbourn Public Library in the Wisconsin Dells. Resource Librarian Shannon Schultz had distributed the nominations to the Board members prior to the meeting for their review. There was a short discussion on each of the nominations, and those present from the nominating libraries made additional comments. The members of the Board voted by secret ballot, and Robert M. Garske, nominated by the Poynette Area Public Library was selected, in a very close vote, as the Columbia County Library Board's Advocate of the Year for 2011.

Poynette Library Director Kris Daugherty agreed to let President Ziehmke know when the Poynette Library Board would like to announce Mr. Garske's selection, and when the award will be presented. Sue Martin volunteered to prepare an article for publication in conjunction with Poynette's plans.

**Annual Report to the County Board:** Shannon Schultz presented a draft of the annual report for review and discussion by the Board. Several revisions were suggested to

clarify content and correct typographical/format errors. Gisela Hamm moved that the annual report be approved as amended, and Pat Westby seconded the motion that was then unanimously approved by the Board.

**Resource Librarian’s Report:** Shannon Schultz deferred to the county library directors in attendance at the meeting.

**South Central Library System Report:** Cheryl Becker reported that all of the annual county library reports had been submitted. SCLS’s migration to the new software has been delayed until sometime in April to assure that it will be fully functional when it goes live. The Angie Cox Public Library in Pardeeville has made an offer, which has been accepted, to a new director; the name of the successful candidate has not been announced. Cheryl announced that the State of Wisconsin’s Department of Administration had declined the fiber grant, and explained that their system will remain on copper until its capacity is maxed out. The annual Library Legislative Day was postponed to March 22. The location has been moved to Monona Terrace. Since the Governor’s Budget Repair Bill calls for a 10% decrease in State aid to libraries as well as the elimination of the maintenance of effort requirement, active participation in this event by all libraries is strongly encouraged. The fact that the Bill also puts the levy limit at 0% or the cost of new construction in each county, funding will become even more difficult in the year ahead.

**Library Visits:** Nan Hughes visits the Columbus Library frequently, but she wants to make her report after she makes a ‘formal’ visit.

**Board Member Library Choices – 2011:**

<u>Library</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Day/Time of Board Meeting</u>
Cambria	G. Hamm	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday/9:00 a.m.
Columbus	N. Hughes	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday/5:00 p.m.
Lodi	P. Westby	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday/6:30 p.m.
Pardeeville	P. Westby	*
Portage	N. Hughes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday/noon
Poynette	S. Martin	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday/5:00 p.m.
Randolph	J. Eulberg	**
Rio	S. Martin	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday/5:00 p.m.
Wisconsin Dells	C. Ziehmke	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday/10:30 a.m.
Wyocena	A, Ross	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday/4:45 p.m.

\* Previously held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 4:30 p.m.

\*\* Previously held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Other Items of Interest:**

- Fall River connects Children’s Library Month in November to its Summer Library Program.
- March 2 was Read Across America Day, and the group discussed ways in which it was celebrated
- The Portage Library recently hosted a Rock Band event to encourage teen/tween involvement in its programs.

**Next Meeting:** May 6, 2011 at the Lodi Women’s Club Public Library  
(SCLS representative Cheryl Becker will not be able to attend the meeting.)

**Joint Meeting with Columbia County Library Directors:**

President Ziehmke opened the joint Board/Library Directors meeting at 10:05. Everyone in attendance introduced him/herself, providing some information about their experience and backgrounds. Each director was asked to describe recent or current activities in her library.

**•Portage Public Library: Shannon Schultz:**

The director and her Board have been reviewing it Standards of Service, and have discovered that the service is at less than the basic level in many categories. She reported that the City of Portage’s financial support of the library pays its operating expenses, while the county support pays for materials. She is currently working on adjusting job descriptions. The library is doubling its computer capacity, and plans to add computers for children to use. The major project on which Shannon and the Board are working is the renovation and expansion of the current library facility. The alterations will center on children’s activities with a story-time room, a craft room, program areas and kid-sized furniture will be incorporated. In addition a drive-through book drop-off is planned.

**•Poynette Area Public Library – Kris Daugherty**

Kris has been able to hire an 8-hour per week person, enabling the children’s librarian to do more programming for kids. Currently, they are coordinating with the school on a fifth grade history project. Matthew Eckers, the author of a book about Henry McCollum, a native of Dekorra who died at Gettysburg in the Civil War, will participate in the event. Tom Pease, a singer/song writer who has roots in Pardeeville, will kick-off National Library Week in Poynette; ‘The Library is the Heart of the Community’ is the theme that has been selected for National Library Week. Kris reported that the library will have a number of summer groups this year, and a tween/teen group will be added. She hopes that soon the library will have a larger facility to better serve the community.

**•Wyocena Library – Mary Friesen**

The Wyocena Library serves a community of about 700 people, and it has been open for seven years. The staff is made up of three part timers, including one individual who has been hired to expand children’s programs. The library has instituted Wednesday noon ‘Game Days,’ during which 10-12 people meet regularly to play dominoes or cards, for example. The library is going to be featured at a school assembly program soon to promote its summer programs. The library Board has decided to take a more active role in fund-raising, and the number of computers is being expanded slowly with plans to add three this year. Mary has begun an ‘Artist of the Month’ program to highlight local artisans, and a display shelf will be built in the library so that the artists’ works can be appropriately displayed.

**•Jane Morgan Memorial Library (Cambria) – Jeanne Radke:**

Jeanne noted that when she started her career in Cambria, she was given \$700 to buy books of her choice for the library! The library joined the South Central Library System in 2000, and now it gets municipal funding, also. In the community, she stresses that the ‘library is not here for books only.’ The library is adding programming for both adults and children, and is adding a teen group, also. It is a one-person library, in that only one

person is on staff at a time, and they are all part timers. The library has an annual Tea Party; this year's theme was aprons, and 45 women, as well as the library board, were in attendance at the event. The library is also sponsoring its second annual bowling tournament this year.

•Rio Community Library – Erin Foley:

Erin thanked the county for its financial support of the Rio Library, pointing out that the county dollars represent 1/3 of the library's total budget! The library is open 46 hours a week, and there are no full-time employees. The library has received no money from the village for computers, but the townspeople and the Friends group have been very supportive – the Friends have purchased six computers for the library. The library has received some Federal funds to install handicapped accessible doors.

•Lodi Women's Club Public Library – Trish Priewe:

Lodi's library is "incredibly busy and has an incredibly supportive population," reported Trish, the co-director of the library. The library averages one program a day, all year around! On March 5, the library will be the focus for Read Aldo Leopold Day, and will take Leopold's mission to the public. In April, the library will hold Civil War-themed events, and it will celebrate "Christmas in July," with the author of a book about the 'Christmas Tree Ship.' Summer library program events will partner with the schools and with volunteer programs. A teen area has recently been created, and a teen advisory group will help schedule /suggest appropriate programs for that age group. The library will soon kick-off a new fund-raising event to beautify the garden space outside of the building. It will include a winding path with trees and shrubs and which will lead to a savannah behind the library. The Bruce Company donated a landscaping plan, and the plan is to sell bricks to line the path; patrons can have the bricks inscribed as they wish (within certain guidelines). They also plan to have 'thinking points' on the path with questions to ponder like "What was your favorite book as a child?" Adding wireless capabilities to the library was a 'real boon,' and the wireless system is being upgraded. A two-hour open house featuring an e-book hands-on demonstration is being planned; it will be called an "E-Reader Petting Zoo."

•Columbus Public Library – Peggy Kindschi:

A teen advisory board has recently been started, and one of the first programs was a DJ Workshop. A Friends of the Library group has been re-started with library renovation and expansion in mind. More space is needed for both adult and children's programming, as well as meeting space. Programs are limited by the space the library has, and the library's mechanicals are at the end of their life cycle; it is estimated that \$350,000 is needed to maintain the building and up-date its mechanicals. Once a month craft Saturdays have been instituted, and there will be an Author's Festival in April. Three authors will share ideas on how to get a book published. Computer usage time slots have been expanded to one hour to better meet the needs of the patrons and laptops are available. The Columbus Library is on *Facebook*, and recently the CBS TV program *48 Hours* used the library's fireplace area (reconfigured to resemble a living room) to film a segment of the program that will air on April 23 about the Marilyn McIntire murder in 1981, and the recent conviction of her murderer. The library distributes the publication *Book Page*, which reviews new books, to businesses in the area for their waiting rooms; the plan is to expand the distribution to hospitals too. Recently, the library purchased 'MagBoxes' to display and hold magazines, saving a great deal of shelf

space. This made it possible to move the videos to the open shelving so that patrons have free access to select the ones they want without help from the staff.

- Kilbourn Library – Wisconsin Dells

In Cathy Borck's absence, board member Gisela Hmck commented on activities in that library. The addition to that library is well underway and should be completed in April. An open house will then be scheduled, and the county Library Board and the county's library directors will be invited to attend. The library has a strong volunteer group, and the hours the volunteers put in are equal to one full-time employee. The Chair of the City's Finance Committee is a library trustee. The library also has one of a very few Bookmobiles in the State.

President Ziehmke adjourned the County Library Board meeting and its joint meeting with the county library directors at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Martin, Secretary