

# COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Poynette Public Library  
Poynette, Wisconsin

November 11, 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 Representative:** Cheryl Becker

**Library Directors Present:** Kris Daugherty-Poynette  
Shannon Schultz – Portage

**Guest:** Dolores Hausmann – Poynette Library Board

Board President Carol Ziehmke called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. The meeting was properly noticed, and a quorum of the Board members was present.

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

**Minutes:** Gisela Hamm moved that the minutes of the September 9, 2011 meeting be approved as presented; second by Pat Westby. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

**County Library Budget:** President Ziehmke and Resource Librarian Shannon Schultz discussed the meeting with the County Finance Committee on the Library System's 2012 budget. The Library System's budget for 2012 provides reimbursement to the county libraries at 80% of the formula as defined by the State of Wisconsin Statutes. This maintains the level of funding provided in 2011, but the dollar amount increased by \$10,809 due to the county's obligation to reimburse adjacent counties for services rendered to Columbia County residents. This payment is more commonly called "cross border payments." The amount received by each of the county libraries is based on a formula which was agreed to by the county library directors. The formula ensured that each library would share proportionally in the available funding. All in all, Carol and Shannon were pleased with the results of the meeting, and Shannon thanked the Finance Committee for its continued support of the library system. She also sent individual thank you notes to all of the Finance Committee members.

**Resource Librarian's Report:** Shannon Schultz, Alyssa Cleland (Pardeeville), Mary Friesen (Wyocena) and Jennifer Tallman (Cambria) attended the Wisconsin Library Association conference. Shannon has been appointed to the WLA's Leadership Development and Legislative Committee. Nan Hughes commented that it was unfortunate that the timing of the WLA conference precluded teachers from participating in it. She asked Shannon what major topics were on the agenda, and Shannon mentioned the emphasis on electronic media, dealing with a tough financial environment, and

establishing libraries as renewable resources in the community. Shannon and Mary Friesen have both been nominated for leadership positions on the Administrative Council of the South Central Library System. Shannon continues to research adult literacy programs and grants available for such programs. She mentioned that Kris Millard, co-director of the Lodi Women's Club Public Library, is an excellent resource for information on family literacy.

**South Central Library System Report:** Cheryl Becker announced that all libraries have agreed to participate in the WPLC buying pool, which is a state-wide joint collection of downloadable material. This will result in a significant increase in material. Those downloads are now in Overdrive, but that could change in the future. She also announced that, because of financial constraints, SCLS will no longer pay WLA dues for library Board members, but she encouraged Board members to continue to support the Wisconsin Library Association. Cheryl discussed the Wisconsin Library Association's proposal to add a fifth method of public library organization and governance as an alternative to the four methods currently in place: Municipal libraries, Joint libraries, Consolidated county libraries and County library services. The fifth method would be the establishment of **public library districts**; nearly 15% of U.S. Public libraries are organized as districts. She said that it is felt this method of organization allows more flexibility, and helps funding since it includes independent taxing authority. Information on the proposal can be found at: [www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/districts-summary.htm](http://www.wla.lib.wi.us/legis/districts-summary.htm)

Cheryl announced that she has decided to retire, and that she would be leaving SCLS in mid-December. The Columbia County Library Board members expressed their thanks to Cheryl for her support and guidance through the years and wished her well in her retirement.

**Board Reappointments:** Andy Ross nominated Patricia Westby to continue to serve on the County Library Systems Board. Nan Hughes seconded that motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Board. Gisela Hamm asked that, for health reasons, she not be considered for reappointment to the Board. She will ensure that the Kilbourn Library (Wisconsin Dells) submits names for consideration to replace her. The Columbia County Library Board thanked Ms. Hamm for her service on the Columbia County Library Systems Board and wished her good health and happiness in the future.

Andy Ross moved, and Gisela Hamm seconded the motion, that the name of Patricia Westby be submitted to the Columbia County Board of Supervisors to continue as the County's alternate representative to the South Central Library Board

**Library Advocate of the Year Award:** The Board agreed to continue this recognition program in 2012. In early December, letters will be sent to each library to encourage that it nominate a Library Advocate of the Year. It was also agreed that all nominations must be submitted in electronic form. Letters, signed by President Ziehmke, will be sent out on or around December 1, and nominations will be due back to President Ziehmke electronically (ONLY) by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Library Visits:**

Susan Martin reported on her visit with Erin Foley, Director of the Rio Library.

Sue especially enjoyed the library's children's area (in spite of the much too realistic cloth snake who lives there) and remarked about the library's very nice memorial collection of art work, as well as the library's user-friendly (no higher than eye-level) shelves.

**Other Items of Interest:** Nan Hughes commented about a recent visit to the Waupaca Library and described it as 'exemplary.' Carol Ziehmke reported on the library in Cable, Wisconsin that is in a log cabin and has an old stone fireplace; it is situated next to a children's natural museum. Gisela Hamm talked about the Wisconsin Dells' Library Volunteers Luncheon held recently. She felt that the 'quiz' about the library's service was very informative. (as well as a great learning tool!) At that luncheon, 'Fast Facts about Wisconsin Public Libraries – 2010' was distributed, and Gisela shared copies of that with the County Library Board.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Columbia County Library Board will be on Friday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m. at the Rio Public Library.

President Ziehmke adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Martin, Secretary