

**California Library Association
Public Library Section**

**Annual Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2005**

1. Jean Scully, outgoing President of the CLA Public Library Section called the meeting to order at 12PM.
2. Albert Tovar, outgoing Public Library Section representative on the Assembly report:
 - 25% of the CLA membership is students.
 - The current CLA Public Awareness Campaign is on the importance of libraries.
 - A statewide collaborative Summer Reading program is being created.
 - CLA pre-registration was at 1260 for 2005 in Pasadena; the highest recent count was at the Millennium Conference in 2000 where there were 1360.
3. The new CLA Public Library Assembly Representative is Louise Mazerov.
4. Karen Burnett presented the Award for Excellence as a Public Librarian to Mary Hanel. Mary is a local history and genealogy specialist for the Santa Clara City Library. Mary speaks to groups, especially about genealogy and local history. She is a knowledgeable and thorough reference librarian. Mary was selected to be the recipient of the new Public Library Section Award from a field of six well-qualified candidates.
5. Jean Scully gave the Financial Report. Expenses for the past year totaled \$354. The City Librarians' Interest Group no longer exists and their funds have been contributed to the Public Library Section. Currently there is \$5,276.36 in the Section account. Buttons for Legislative Day will come out of the fund to promote the Public Library Fund at the Capitol in Sacramento.
6. Ideas for programs to be held both in the North and the South of the state between CLA conferences. 14 Suggestions are listed below (some made in response to a posted summary of the in meeting suggestions):
 - Create a training for those who are new to the legislative process – Legislative Committee 101 – to de-mystify how it's done. Collaborate on this with the Legislative Committee. Collaborate with Los Angeles County who has an excellent staff-training program on this topic. [Note: CALTAC is working on or would be good co-sponsor.]
 - Join with the Legislative Committee to create training for potential new members of that committee. [Note: the Legislative Committee apparently already does this.]

- Join with the Legislative committee to create “How to be an activist in your local political environment” training, especially for rural libraries, perhaps online. [Suggestions were made to check with the Rural Library Initiative, Infopeople and CALTAC about this suggestion, to see if they already provide such training, wish to co-sponsor with us, and if they can provide as a webcast.]
- Create a leadership training sequence (multi-part) for potential new library managers. Collaborate on this with CLA’s Management Services Section. Coordinate with Joan Frye Williams and Infopeople who are developing something similar for the State. Include a (separate?) session on “How to Be a Supervisor When You Aren’t” for those who need to influence others. [Note: the Public Section is coordinating such a session with the Management Section and Legislative Committee and will make an announcement within the next few months.]
- Create a Student Council liaison from our section to join Student Council meetings and present at the annual conference introduction session. Be active participants in the SJSU and (if exists) UCLA Library School Career Day to enhance the recruitment effort of future public librarians. [Anyone having information about either Career Day, please contact Julie Farnsworth at jfarnsworth@ci.pleasanton.ca.us or (925) 931-3406.]
- Hold a forum or online brainstorming session on how best to promote public librarianship as a career choice for MLS students.
- Create a celebration (or one each in the North and South) of the efforts of supportive legislators to recognize their contributions. Collaborate on this with the Legislative Committee. [Note: CALTAC gives an award at CLA to an outstanding legislator. Should our section help promote *that* award or co-sponsor it? Perhaps expand the number of legislators?]
- Repeat Linda Wood’s excellent presentation to directors on the different types and combinations of public libraries in California. [Note: Anne Marie Gold (Director of the Sacramento Library) got an LSTA grant to update the info in the publication of Linda Wood’s that you mention about the different types of libraries - She plans to have the study completed in 2006.]
- Create information sessions, blog entries or other communications to update Public Section members on the “Standards for Librarians” project. [Anyone who knows what this project is, please contact Julie Farnsworth at the contact points above. Inquiring minds at the State Library would like to know.]
- Create multiple information sources for rural librarians who are not usually able to attend CLA sessions – blog, email, web chat, whatever works
- Have a booth at the League of California Cities Conference. Our local officials and legislators need to be kept aware of all the things that public libraries have to offer. We could have an entire exhibit or web site of all the after school programs sponsored by public libraries throughout the State, One City/One Book events, adult literacy programs or what libraries use their PLF funds for. Karen Burnett, Past President, has attended League of CA Cities Conference in the past. She stated the need for promotional give-

away items from libraries at the League Conference and asked libraries to donate items to hand out at future CA Cities Conferences. [Note: Ann Cousineau of Solano County made the arrangements for the booth that we had at the recent League of California Cities conference in SF - it was a booth for the Office of Library Construction of the State Library and the campaign to pass the 2006 bond measure - Ann staffed the booth for the campaign and Richard Hall represented the OLC.]

- Approach the State Library about having a “Virtual Exhibit” by posting information on the library construction projects and bond on a website. [Note: the State Library has a great visual slide show on their OLC website now – I’d love to take credit for us but it was entirely their own idea!]
 - Create a public library section blog as a distance collaboration/learning/excitement building/best practice-sharing tool. Encourage blogging content on all conference sessions, especially CLA.
7. A suggestion was made to hold the section meeting at a better time at the CLA Conference to gain more members for the meeting. [Note: this is controlled by the Conference Planning Committee and the members have an equal interest in not having section meetings conflicted with their sponsored sessions. Additionally, the exhibitors are very sensitive to conflicts with exhibit time. In short, it is a difficult problem that may be solved by providing a meal during the section meetings.]
 8. Status of CLING (City Librarians’ Interest Group), a part of CLA was discussed. CLING sponsored a booth at the League of California Cities Conference. Now CLING needs to be voted as defunct. Paula Weiner made a motion to disband CLING and to transfer their funds to the Public Library Section. Barbara Pearson seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.
 9. Mark Smith is raising money for the Bond Construction Support Fund which, if it passes, would support building of public libraries in California. He asked for \$5,000 from CLING as a contribution for the Bond Fund. Given the desire of the membership to fund a Public Section Booth at the League conference, Barbara Pearson moved to give \$2,500 towards the Bond Construction Fund. Terri Maguire seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
 10. The gavel was handed to new 2006 Public Library Section President, Julie Farnsworth. Cynthia Pirtle is the new Vice President/President Elect and Dolly Barnes is the new Secretary.
 11. Suggestions were made for program topics for the 2006 CLA Conference:
 - Developing special collections
 - Lobbyists Mike and Christina Dillon to speak
 - Technology for rural libraries

- Joan Frye Williams on Training - through InfoPeople
- Attend the meeting for new CLA attendees to promote public librarianship.
- Create a conference session on “Obtaining Your First Public Library Job” aimed at students
- Use the existing audience that library school professors bring to the conference by sponsoring one as a speaker
- Create a session (at conference or out) on grant writing that focuses on special collections and new services rather than programs [Note: State Library consultants provide already, perhaps a list of public library directors who are willing to share successful grant requests as templates for others would be more helpful. Or the samples printed and distributed.]
- Public library roles in a disaster: looking at Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma, it was interesting to see the role that libraries played in disaster planning, particularly as it relates to the use of the Internet. We have the equipment, the technology (broad bandwidth), and staff to help people access things like FEMA forms, lost relative databases, sending email, news media websites, etc. A CLA program that invites libraries from New Orleans or Florida might be interesting.

In the next year, the following PL Section members should be able to help with scheduling programs at CLA Conference 2006 and at regional sites: Julie Farnsworth (Conference Planning Committee), Jean Scully (Award committee), Louise Mazerov (new Assembly representative).

Attendance: 32

Susan W. Denniston
CLA, Public Library Section Secretary
12/05