

MCLS Administrative Council Meeting
March 19, 2009
Glendale Public Library

HIGHLIGHTS

Public Forum. Kris Anderson, Brodart, distributed her business card and announced a new online product.

Consent Calendar. The consent calendar was approved consisting of the minutes of the January 22, 2009 Administrative Council meeting.

2009/10 Proposed Budget. Rosario Garza reviewed the proposed 2009/10 budget, noting that the numbers reflect the funding that will be in effect with the proposed consolidation of the MCLS/SLS/SSCLS systems. Garza pointed out a decrease in the Salaries line to reflect the pending retirement of Pam Alger, Training and Development Officer, in October 2009. The Executive Committee recommended reducing the number of National Library Legislative Day attendees from 10 to six to reduce the Travel line. A final budget will be brought to the next meeting. Comments or suggestions for the 2009/10 budget should be forwarded to Rosario Garza.

CLSA Plan of Service 09/10. Rosario Garza reviewed the components of the Plan of Service and solicited suggestions or projects to include for next year. It was suggested that usage statistics for the online reference guides be reviewed.

Contracts with Other Systems. Rosario Garza reported that the contract with the 49-99 system to provide administrative and fiscal services will continue with a 3.7% increase and MCLS will provide reference services for the Pacific Library Partnership in 09/10.

Revision of MCLS Investment Policy. Council members approved the proposed revision of the MCLS Investment Policy, updating all references to the name of the committee from Audit Committee to Audit and Finance Committee and changing the authorized signatures in Schedule B from Members of the Audit Committee to the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, Business Manager, and Executive Director.

Financial Update 2008/09. Rosario Garza reported that the reduction in interest rates resulting in a \$12,000 decrease in revenue, underbudgeting of the contract drivers, and having a driver out on extended leave for illness, results in a projected deficit of approximately \$100,000 at the end of the year.

Rescission of the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust Fund Agreement and Resolution of Delegation of Authority to Request Disbursements. In accordance with Council agreement at the January 22, 2009 meeting not to prefund retiree health care because of the inflexibility of an irrevocable trust, Council approved rescinding the California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust Fund Agreement and Resolution of Delegation of Authority to Request Disbursements that had been approved at the July 24, 2008 Administrative Council meeting.

Consolidation Update. Greg Mullen reported that the Consolidation Steering Committee was scheduled to meet the following week to review proposed bylaws and standing rules for the new consolidated system. These will be distributed to Council members for review and approval at the next Council meeting. In July, the first meeting of the consolidated system will be held; approval of the bylaws and standing rules, and election of officers will be among the first items of business. A name for the new system is still needed.

LSTA Grant Updates. Rosario Garza reported that applications were being accepted for reimbursement for library programming involving authors to celebrate El día de los niños/El día de los libros. Those receiving reimbursement will also receive 100 copies of a bilingual book to be given away to children during the celebration. A website for the program is available at: www.diaCalifornia.org.

For the Statewide Reference grant, a meeting of the Builders group was held, resulting in recommendations based on feedback from the presentation at CLA and the webinar held in January. The grant for next year will pilot 1-3 of the projects recommended. The State Library plans to have a meeting with all system directors regarding second level reference.

The Family Place grant is setting up a training facility at the CoLAPL Carson Branch and CoLAPL staff are being trained to serve as Family Place trainers. Next year, the project will award grants to libraries that want to set up Family Place locations.

Written Update Reports. The following written reports were distributed: FILL (From Interns to Library Leaders), Training Update, AskNow, Big Box Programming, and MCLS Reference. It was noted that the overall number of AskNow questions being asked is low, however there has been no promotion of the service for over three years. It has been proposed that LSTA funding for the project only be continued for one more year.

Legislative Update. Kathy Gould reported that there are two parts of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that may benefit libraries. \$1.8 billion is available to be spent at the discretion of the Governor, possibly on facility renovation and upgrade, not on new construction. Libraries with projects that are potentially eligible for funding have been contacted and are advised to submit their information in order to be positioned if funding becomes available. The other area that may possibly benefit libraries is with broadband upgrades for underserved communities. The Governor has established a task force with statewide representation led by Manuel Perez to review the stimulus package and determine how it will be handled in California. It is possible the funds may be needed to cover continually declining state revenues. Locally, the approved state budget does not change funding levels for TBR or PLF. There may be changes with the May revise.

AB886 has been introduced to require library employees to be mandatory reporters of child abuse, which includes sexually exploitative material being viewed on a library computer. A Senate bill has been introduced to lower the voter approval threshold for local bond measures. A small group led by Melinda Cervantes is exploring the formation of a PAC that would allow for collecting funds to pursue a citizens ballot initiative to lower the voter approval threshold to 55% for library bond and parcel tax measures.

During CLA Legislative Day this year, it is important to reach as many legislators as possible; there are many new legislators who do not know much about libraries and what they offer. A media event is being organized to take place on the capitol steps to generate media interest. Representatives from MCLS have been selected to attend National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. in May.

Chairperson's Report. Greg Mullen expressed support to Council members in having success with keeping up service without losing funding.

Executive Director's Report. Rosario Garza reported the following:

- She has been asked to serve on the Infopeople Advisory Board; the next meeting will be held at the MCLS Headquarters office. It was suggested that the Technology Petting Zoo be made available again; Ms. Garza noted that a virtual petting zoo is also being considered.
- Ms. Garza was scheduled to meet with the new director of the Huntington Beach Library the following day regarding joining the system. Ms. Garza was also asked to talk with the Santa Ana Library director regarding the possibility of joining the system, however the director position is currently in transition.
- She made presentations to two library school classes at UCLA, one on the role of the CLSA systems in providing second level reference and the other with Stacey Aldrich on statewide reference.
- At least two people have been interviewed for the State Librarian position; it is hoped that a new State Librarian will be named by May.
- Don Means, Digital Village Associates, wants to bring broadband to all libraries in California and proposes having a workshop for directors to analyze opportunities under the Stimulus Act for broadband grants. Council members did not feel there was a need for this within this system and were not interested.