



General Membership Meeting
March 7, 2008

President Greg Needham called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Two new library directors were introduced and pinned: Gloria Moore from the George H. and Laura E. Brown Library in Washington and Jody Risacher from Cumberland County.

State Library Report – Mary Boone, Jennifer Pratt, Grant Pair

Mary reported that the staff is continuing to work on the Strategic Plan. The Advocacy and Spanish Language workshops have been very successful. Lori Special has been taking the Summer Reading Club workshop all over the state. The next Trustees Conference is March 16-18, 2008. Over 120 applications have been received for Career Enrichment Grants. The Administrative Rules (Dept. of Cultural Resources Code) are being updated, including the recent changes to State Aid. Staci Meyer, Chief Deputy Secretary, Department of Cultural Resources, would like to complete this before she leaves her position.

Jennifer presented several graphs made by Timothy Owen, State Data Coordinator, to illustrate the types of presentations you can make with Bibliostat Connect. It is a very powerful tool available to all of us.

Grant presented a timeline of the Gates Foundation Opportunity Online Grants. For those successful libraries, 1/8th of the money will need to be available by next March. The first money will be released in April 2009. There will be a requirement that at least one library in the system attend a Gates Foundation advocacy workshop, either in person or online. You must also participate in the PLA public library computing survey to be eligible.

Committee Reports:

Awards – Martie Smith – The Executive Board approved the proposal to use the same format for presenting awards as they did in Greenville with additional time. The Public Relations award will be separate.

Nominating – Mary Sizemore – The committee will have info to report in August.

Membership – Greg Needham thought it would be nice to create a “new directors” packet and that we need to form an ad hoc committee to examine the NCPLDA web site; Ruth Ann Copley has agreed to chair this committee.

Legislative – David Paynter – the committee has been meeting monthly over the phone. Our legislative focus this session will be on “collections”. Every library would receive a base of \$10,000 and the balance would be distributed on a per capital basis. We will need the Friends support for this legislative initiative. Find contacts in the community to talk to the legislators. Theresa Kostrzewa (our lobbyist) talked about what she is (and has been) doing for us and what we need to do to get our effort passed. Demonstrate the difference the library makes in the community. Contact our legislators and tell them that we are asking for money for our collections and exactly what we will spend our money on (break down collections; be specific). Jim Crawford (Vance) will be lead sponsor of our bill in the House. Be prepared to tell your legislators how much people are reading books; that our collections are more important than ever. We need to have a “living library day”.

A great example of a library success story is Tracy Williams, raised in Carteret County, former Harlem Globetrotter, who spoke to us about his passion for libraries. “Leaders are readers”. “If you learn more, you earn more.”

Library Legislative Day – May 21 – Carol Wilson – find someone other than us to do the talking. The committee will provide talking points. We will spread ourselves around this year to be more visible and be in the lobby of the Legislative Office Building (3rd floor) and 1100 court in the Legislative Bldg. where there is a fountain. Also we can have the area outside the third floor lobby of the Legislative Office Bldg. We want to provide photo opportunities for the legislators. If you have someone willing to dress up as a storybook character, that would be great. Another photo op will be story times so that the legislators can read to children; Dale Cousins from the Cameron Village Library, Wake County will coordinate this. Bring pictures, quotes, something to show circ stats (like M&M’s), or any interesting visual way to show how much libraries are used. This day is to celebrate success and make the legislators part of the party.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Marshall