

Council on Library and Network Development
March 11, 2016
Altoona Public Library

As part of her report, COLAND Chair Cara Cavin noted that Jonathan Barry was recently named Executive Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, which is of particular importance to libraries since BCPL is the funding source of the Common School Fund & it was suggested that COLAND invite him to attend a meeting.

She also called attention to a letter of appreciation sent from COLAND to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Evers thanking him for supporting Wisconsin's participation in ILEAD USA & urging him to continue sponsoring ILEAD despite the loss of federal funding

In the update on the System Revision Steering Committee, it was reported that a communications plan was approved to more effectively disseminate progress information to the public. The guiding principle involves identifying areas for process improvement by determining what's best for the customer & thorough communication is essential. In addition, numerous workgroups have been created to review such topics as: chapter 43, consulting, continuing education, delivery, e-resources, ILL, role of resource libraries & technology.

Approval of COLAND's Biennial Report to the State Superintendent (COLAND Biennial Report on Condition and Progress of Wisconsin Libraries, 2013-15, dated November 2015) was discussed, with attention being called to its posting on the COLAND Web page along with the State Superintendent's Biennial Report on Intertype Library Cooperation and Resource Sharing 2013-2017 (also dated November 2015). Both reports are available on the COLAND Web page at <http://dpi.wi.gov/coland>.

As part of DLT's standing report, it was noted that DPI staff had created a workgroup to review and update guidance on the use of common school funds. The Library Media Specialists licensing project was also described which will go before the Professional Standards Council in February. It was announced that after years of information gathering and conversations with interested parties, WiLS is nearing implementation of a school e-books consortium.

The Every Student Succeeds Act, a new federal law providing federal money to spend on professional development for instructional services at libraries, was described.

Like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), funds would be passed through DPI to districts based on established criteria.

A conference call was held with workforce development officials to discuss the extent to which libraries excel at forming public/private partnerships & how that expertise can facilitate implementation of the WIOA

It was noted that public libraries can compete for competitive one-stop operator (“OSO”) processes (job service centers) & it was suggested that COLAND members encourage library representatives to reach out to the local Department of Workforce Development Boards and apply if doing so fits within a library’s plan of service.

Final regulations for the WIOA will be issued by the federal Department of Labor this summer.

In the Legislative Update it was confirmed that SB466, the “Collections Bill”, which allows public libraries to use 3rd party collection agencies or law enforcement to recover overdue materials, has been signed into law by Governor Walker. It was acknowledged that some libraries have utilized collection agencies in the past despite ambiguous authority. When asked in 2003 if libraries have that statutory authority, the Attorney General’s answer was indecisive so clarifying legislation was sought & has now been achieved.

Separately, legislation has been introduced to permit the Menominee County library to be recognized as a “public” library under relevant statutes. The bill addresses statutory problems created because the vast majority of Menominee County is tribal reservation land. A similar library is on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation & needs comparable legislation to authorize its library as public as defined in Chapter 43.

It was noted in connection with this year’s Wisconsin Library Legislative Day that the South Carolina State Librarian successfully increased her state’s funding for public libraries from \$13 million to \$14 million after the state’s library association changed tactics from sponsoring a single legislative day to regularly inviting legislators to visit libraries in their districts throughout the year.

No information has been forthcoming on new COLAND appointees to fill several membership vacancies & members were encouraged to talk to people they know who might be interested in serving on COLAND.

The next full COLAND meeting to be held at the Mercer Public Library on May 20, 2015, the day prior to the May WVLS meeting. .

Submitted by Doug Lay