

Section 8

Academic & Special Library Section

North Dakota Library Association

2009-2010

1st Quarterly Report (Oct. – Dec. 2009)

Hello, Everyone –

MINUTES

Along with this report are the minutes from our last business meeting. I don't believe that I have ever called for our section to actually "approve" our minutes during the entire time I've been Chair, but I'm perfectly willing to entertain a motion should anyone choose to make one! Thank you very much to Kristen Borysewicz for volunteering at our annual conference business meeting to take these notes and write them up for our records.

DECEMBER NDLA EXEC BOARD MEETING

I shall be attending the upcoming Executive Board meeting in Jamestown this Friday, December 4, 2009. If there is any issues you wish me to raise at the meeting, please feel free to let me know, and I will do what I can to bring them up. Otherwise, I shall next contact the group probably some time later in December (I hope) and update everyone about what when on.

CONFERENCE(S)

I received quite a few favorable comments about this past NDLA conference, as well as some specifically about the ASL programs. ASL sponsored the "Darwin/*Origin of Species*" talk by Prof. Michael Shaughnessy, and co-sponsored with the Intellectual Freedom Committee, the "Intellectual Freedom" discussion panel, with Prof. Shaughnessy, author John Berendt, and NDLA members Rhonda Schwartz & Kathy Jo Cline. I feel these were wonderful events to attend, and were fascinating and informative programs.

So, any thoughts about what you would like to see at next year's conference?

OTHER ACTIVITIES

At our annual business meeting, we discussed a couple of issues in addition to general announcements. I hope to pursue 2 of these a bit more vigorously than I have so far.

The first was to explore options to coordinate better with the ND/MB chapter of ACRL. I said that I would contact their chapter representative, and see if there is any way we can do something cooperatively in the near future. I will also keep in touch with our chair-elect, Konnie Wightman, about these discussions, as we don't know yet if these plans will work out for the current ASL year (through September), or be something we need to plan over a longer stretch.

Another discussion we had at our business meeting was whether “Library Vision 2015” was the most appropriate program for academic & special libraries to work within if we wish to seek greater funding for libraries and institutions such as our own. The LV 2015, as well as testimony and lobbying done by the State Library, are very heavily (exclusively?) geared to public & school library funding. None of us will argue that this isn’t a crucial and worthwhile goal, but is there a forum out there that would be more focused on the funding needs of ASL institutions? It seems to be more a question of where we will choose to apply our very limited time and resources to achieve the greatest impact.

No real section activity to speak of so far this year, but I hope that people will be in touch with me directly, or post to the list, if they have thoughts and ideas they wish to share. I’ll be in touch after the Executive Board meeting, if not sooner.

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Chair
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