



# Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The Official Newsletter of the State Library of Iowa

VOLUME 27, NO. 1/2

January/February 2003

## First school library survey completed *Survey provides baseline to track progress*

With the completion of an FY02 survey, Iowans now have a detailed picture of the condition of the state's school libraries. Iowa is the first state to embark on an annual survey of all school library media centers.

According to State Librarian Mary Wegner, a partnership between the State Library and the Area Education Agency (AEA) media divisions made completion of the survey possible.

"The study helps us to understand the condition of Iowa school libraries in the same way we understand the condition of public and academic libraries," said Wegner. "Now we have a baseline to track the progress of school libraries and each individual school library media center can use this information to tell the story of how it is of service to the students and faculty, and can compare itself with other schools in the district and statewide."

The survey questions were based on "Make the Connection: Quality School Library Media Program Impact Academic Achievement in Iowa," a 2001 research project funded by the State Library, AEAs, and the Iowa Educational Media Association. The questions were modified by a subcommittee of the State Library Uniform Data Advisory Committee to be comparable with questions asked on the Public Library General Information Survey.

A unique feature of the survey was that each school library completed it on the web. It was developed and hosted by Southern Prairie Area Education Agency. The State Library received a grant from the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science to cover the cost of web development, web hosting, and training via the ICN.

Gerry Rowland, a State Library consultant who coordinated the survey, said the response from libraries was excellent. The surveys represented 1,221 of 1,528 school buildings, or nearly 80 percent.

"This has been a very exciting project on many levels," said Rowland. "We know for the first time how many school libraries we have, how they are staffed, the hours they are open, what kind of usage they get, what they have for book and media collections, the level of computer technology, funding levels and information about how they partner with other kinds of libraries and the AEAs."

School libraries provide a high level of service with very limited resources, Rowland said. The survey showed that operations budgets, not including salaries, for all school libraries was \$6.3 million. A typical school library has a budget of \$4,008 for books and materials. But libraries check out more than 600,000 items a week, about 400 items a week in a typical school.

The Iowa study is also putting pressure on other states and the National Center for Education Statistics to collect and present detailed and timely data from all types of libraries including school libraries, said Rowland.

Dr. Tom Hoffman, administrator of the Media Services Division of Heartland AEA, said that managing any program, department or organization requires having information on which to make decisions.

"Statistics and other data help see trends, note changes in services, and prepare for future action," said Hoffman. "The information gathered from the study can be used to understand programs, outcomes and areas to continue or begin to focus."

Hoffman said workshops are being scheduled for media specialists to learn about data driven decision-making and how to apply that knowledge to the data gathered in the survey.

Survey results are available on the State Library's web site at [www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/statistics/lib-stats.html](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/statistics/lib-stats.html).



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## Newbery, Caldecott award winners announced

The American Library Association has awarded author Avi (*Crispin: The Cross of Lead*) with the John Newbery Medal for the most distinguished contribution to children's literature. Author/illustrator Eric Rohmann (*My Friend Rabbit*) won the Randolph Caldecott Medal for best picture book.

According to an article in the January 28 *Des Moines Register*, "Avi, who was born in 1937 and grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., is a prolific author who crosses genres, writing mysteries, fantasies, ghost stories, animal tales and picture books. The Newbery Award committee praised Crispin for a 'plot that sustains tension and suspense from beginning to end, while seamlessly weaving in details of daily medieval life.' "

The American Library Association (ALA) web site reported that five Newbery Honor Books were named: *The House of the Scorpion*, by Nancy Farmer, a Richard Jackson Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division; *Pictures of Hollis Woods*, by Patricia Reilly Giff and published by Wendy Lamb Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; *Hoot*, by Carl Hiaasen and published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Random House, Inc.; *A Corner of the Universe*, by Ann M. Martin and published by Scholastic Press, a division of Scholastic, Inc.; and *Surviving the Applewhites*, by Stephanie S. Tolan and published by HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins.

Three Caldecott Honor Books were named: *The Spider and the Fly*, illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi, written by Mary Howitt and published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; *Hondo & Fabian*, illustrated and written by Peter McCarty and published by Henry Holt & Company LLC; and *Noah's Ark*, illustrated and written by Jerry Pinkney and published by SeaStar Books, a division of North-South Books Inc.



## Novelist Trial for Iowa Libraries

Iowa libraries have an opportunity to try Novelist until April 15, 2003. During this time, Novelist will be available at special pricing for smaller libraries. Currently, *Peace Like A River* is featured with a book discussion guide and related readings.

The trial site is: <http://trial.epnet.com>. The trial user id is "iowa" and the password is "library." The normal price for libraries is \$500, but through April 15 public libraries that serve populations under 10,000 will be able to order Novelist for \$300. Orders will be taken by the State Library. Order forms are available on the Iowa Educators Consortium web site at [www.iec-ia.org/MediaTech/onlinetrials/onlinetrials.html](http://www.iec-ia.org/MediaTech/onlinetrials/onlinetrials.html). Discounts on additional online resources are also listed.

Novelist is a readers' advisory service that provides access to a database that was selected as a Library Journal Best Reference Database. It offers a wide range of resources that will expand a library's ability to serve fiction readers.

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## Certification update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

**Paula Brown**, Spencer  
**Mary Jo Cronk**, Toledo  
**Beth Crow**, Blainstown  
**Rachelle Doyle**, Granger  
**Dawn Gustas**, Marion  
**Laura Hammersley**, La Porte City  
**Sharon Hippen**, Buffalo Center  
**Jennie Horton**, Clarinda  
**Joe Hyman**, Des Moines  
**Janet Lubben**, North Liberty  
**Betty Milner**, Corydon  
**Mary Osgood**, Grinnell  
**Denise Pohl**, Hospers  
**Sandra Ransier**, Marion  
**Barbara Schroeder**, Elma  
**Pauline Smith**, South English  
**Kristi Sorensen**, Belle Plaine  
**Marty Stahl**, Parkersburg  
**Tina Twito**, Callender  
**Sally Van Dorin**, Indianola  
**Patricia Young**, Granger  
**Judyth Zweibohmer**, Ossian

## Holstein students "Read Across Iowa and Return"

Holstein students have developed a unique project for First Lady Christie Vilsack's Iowa Stories 2000 initiative and the Stubbs Memorial Library. The program, "Read Across Iowa and Return," requires groups in the community to read a certain number of "miles." One book equals one mile and a total of 800 miles is needed to read across Iowa and return.

According to organizers, the project has required a solid working relationship between school and public libraries, and strong partnerships between the library and other community organizations and businesses.

## Academic libraries and First Amendment rights focus of spring conference

This year's Iowa Library Association/Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) 2003 Spring Conference is ***Know Your Rights: The First Amendment and Academic Libraries***. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. May 2 at the University of Dubuque, Dubuque, IA. The keynote speaker is Ralph Gregory Elliott, a lawyer with the firm of Tyler Cooper & Alpert in Hartford, CT and a speaker for the Center for First Amendment Rights, Inc.

Evening festivities on May 1 include a trolley ride to dinner at the Bricktown, a brew pub in Dubuque, and visits to the libraries at Clarke College, Loras College, and the University of Dubuque.

Registration information will be available on the ILA/ACRL website: <http://www.iren.net/acrl/>. For further information, contact Jane Campagna, Associate Dean for Learning Resources, Scott Community College, Bettendorf, at (563) 441-4152 or [jcampagna@eicc.edu](mailto:jcampagna@eicc.edu).

## Important Dates - 2003

### February

Registration for Spring Public Library Management 1 and 2

Summer Library Workshops

24th - Fayette; 25th - Mason City

26th - Fort Dodge; 27th - Everly; 28th - Arthur

February 25 - Commission meeting - Des Moines

### March

March 6-8 - Public Library Association Spring Symposium, Chicago

March 12 - ILA Legislative Day. 2:30 p.m., Legislative Briefing, Rm. 310, State Library - 4 p.m., Reception, Law Library, Capitol.

July 31 - 2002 LSTA Partnership Grant claims and final report due - State Library

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## Kids First Conference

April 24-25, 2003  
Four Points Sheraton  
Merle Hay Road  
Des Moines, IA

**More information, including the content of break out sessions, is available at <http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/youth-services/kids-first-conf.html>.**

**Sponsored by the State Library of Iowa in cooperation with Children and Young Peoples Forum of the Iowa Library Association**

### Keynote Speakers

#### April 24

**Claudia Quigg**, Executive Director of Baby TALK, a non-profit organization that encourages parents in the nurture of children ages 0-3 years, will be Thursday's keynote speaker. The organization provides information to parents, develops early childhood parenting education programs and offers national workshops on how to develop early childhood programs in communities.

#### April 25

**Walter Minkel**, author of "How to do 'The Three Bears' with two hands; Performing with Puppets" and "Delivering Web Reference Service to Young People," will discuss what the next few years hold for librarians who work with kids, the many ways technology will change our jobs and which skills will always be important.

Registration Form  
Kids First Conference - "Proud Traditions, Bright Futures"  
April 24-25, 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Registering for \_\_\_\_\_ Both Days (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_ April 24 (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_ April 25 (\$25)  
(Includes lunches and breaks)

**Cancellations must be received 24 hours in advance.**

Check enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to State Library of Iowa) \_\_\_\_\_ Bill Me (No money accepted)

Is receipt needed? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No **Payment due by 4/24/03** at conference)

Send registration form to: Fran Fessler, State Library of Iowa, E. 12th and Grand, Des Moines, IA 50319

Fax: (515) 281-6191

Questions: Contact Mary Cameron, 1-800-248-4483; (515) 281-7572; [mary.cameron@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:mary.cameron@lib.state.ia.us)

Registration confirmation will be sent by e-mail only. Confirmation needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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## All Iowa Reads 2003 off to a great start

Groups across the state are choosing this year's All Iowa Reads 2003 selection, *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger, for their book discussions.

The book was a hit at the recent Maquoketa Public Library reading event according to director Karen Manning. "Our discussion went very well. We had 25 in attendance, which is about 10 more than average. We could have stayed all night!"

The State Library has a web site for All Iowa Reads at [www.silo.lib.ia.us](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us) (under News and Announcements). Book reviews, study guides, sources for acquiring the book, promotional pieces and much more are available.

Anyone planning a book discussion event is encouraged to fill out the short form on the web page about their upcoming program. There is also valuable information from those who have already hosted events.

For more information about the web site, contact Annette Wetteland, State Library, 1-800-248-4483; [annette.wetteland@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:annette.wetteland@lib.state.ia.us). For information about All Iowa Reads, contact Susan Craig, director, Iowa City Public Library, (319) 356-5200 ext. 153, [sraig@icpl.org](mailto:sraig@icpl.org); or Kristin Gerhard, Iowa State University Library, (515) 294-2112; [kgerhard@iastate.edu](mailto:kgerhard@iastate.edu). All Iowa Reads is a project of the Iowa Center for the Book located at the State Library of Iowa.



*First Lady Christie Vilsack and Dale Ross, chair, Iowa Commission of Libraries, lead a book discussion planning session for Peace Like a River that was broadcast to 27 ICN sites in Iowa on February 4.*

## Visitors celebrate Vilsack-Pederson inauguration with Iowa Authors Showcase

Visitors to the Miller Building on January 17 listened to over 20 Iowa authors read during the Iowa Authors Showcase, part of the inauguration activities for Governor Tom Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson. Authors also signed books in the State Library.



First Lady Christie Vilsack signs some young authors' books.



Lt. Governor Sally Pederson (left) and State Librarian Mary Wegner



The Governor with State Library staff, from left, Steve Cox, Carol Simmons, Margaret Noon and Mary Wegner.

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## Register Now For The Creative Economy “Unconference” March 5

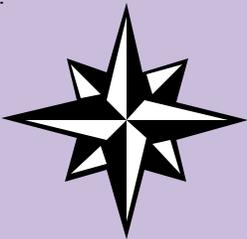
Forget what you think you know about conferences. The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs is ditching the ties, the suits and the conference rooms for a truly unique creative experience. The Iowa Creative Economy “Unconference” will be held March 5, beginning at 10 a.m., at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

See that light bulb over your head? Turn it on! The “Unconference,” is designed for Iowans who want to generate new ideas and methods that will boost economic development and build cultural attractions in their communities. Special guest will be Dr. Richard Florida, author of the bestselling book, *The Rise of the Creative Class and How It’s Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday Life*. Florida will conduct a panel discussion at noon called “Plugging the Brain Drain: Strategies for Keeping Our Best and Our Brightest.” Florida will also present an evening keynote address, “Transforming Iowa’s Economy: The Creative Catalyst,” during a dinner event at the Temple for the Performing Arts in downtown Des Moines.

There will be many workshops to attend throughout the day, but they won’t be held in boring neutral-tone conference rooms with no windows. Workshops will be held in historic buildings, artist’s studios, and rehabbed spaces in Des Moines’ Historic East Village to demonstrate the idea of the Creative Economy.

Workshops include: Mark Barone of Paducah, Ky., discussing Paducah’s Artist Relocation Program; Dr. Willard “Sandy” Boyd on “Nonprofits in the Creative Economy”; Dr. David Skorton, president of the University of Iowa, on “Creating a Climate for Economic Growth”; Jim Salmons and Timlynn Babitsky of Sohodojo.com discussing “Nanocorps”; “Housing in the Creative Economy” presented by the Iowa Finance Authority and much more.

Full registration for The Creative Economy Unconference is \$85. For complete details on the “Unconference” and registration, visit [www.culturalaffairs.org](http://www.culturalaffairs.org).



### Extra copies available of *Iowa Library Trustee’s Handbook 2003*

Complimentary copies of the 2003 Iowa Library Trustee’s Handbook were mailed to library directors and board presidents in January. The State Library has extra copies available for \$5 each. To order, fill out the form below and mail to the State Library, E. 12th and Grand, Des Moines, IA 50319. Checks should be made payable to the State Library of Iowa.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies requested \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5 each). Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*For more information, contact Fran Fessler or Sandy Dixon, State Library, 1-800-248-4483;  
[fran.fessler@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:fran.fessler@lib.state.ia.us); [sandy.dixon@lib.state.ia.us](mailto:sandy.dixon@lib.state.ia.us).*

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes December 10 2002 - State Library, Des Moines (These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries)

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**Present:** Berta Van Ekeren, Pam Bradley, Monica Gohlinghorst, Dale Ross, John Bennett, Eldon Huston, Bill O'Brien  
**Staff:** Mary Wegner, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Carol Simmons, Annette Wetteland  
**Guest:** Karen Burns, SWILSA

### 1.0 Set Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

### 2.0 Approve Minutes

Bradley moved to approve the minutes as written. Huston seconded. Motion carried.

### 3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported the State Library was on target with both state and federal funding. Huston asked about using federal carry over funds. Cox projected that the State Library would begin to use federal FY03 (Oct 02-Sep 03) funds in April 2003, three months earlier than the previous year. Ross reported that LSTA appropriations had not yet been passed by Congress and an increase may not occur this year. Cox noted that the State Library distributed 80% of the Enrich Iowa funds and are holding 20% in case of further budget cuts. He reported that 100% of the Infrastructure and Direct State Aid funds were distributed. Ross asked if state agencies can raise funds. Cox said some agencies have items for sale, but that most do not have that capability. Dixon reported that the marketing team asked to use a photograph to create postcards to sell to people who have asked for them, but was turned down by the photographer. Ross also inquired about the rare book collection. Wegner said the appraiser would be in town next week and more information would be available then. Cox also informed the Commission that the State Library has some funds that do not revert to the general fund; Iowa Code allows the State Library to keep this money. Huston moved to approve the financial report, Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

### 4.0 Communications

#### A. Special Reports

Southwest Library Service Area vision initiative - Karen Burns

At the request of the Commission, Burns gave an overview of Southwest Iowa Library Service Area's (SWILSA) vision initiative, which has been approved by the SWILSA board. Burns provided a handout that outlined "Give them wings, let them fly." The first annual "Vision Awards" were given to the Guthrie Center Public Library Board and to Sherry Waddell, library director, Anita Public Library. Burns has given several presentations to library boards, county library associations, and other groups. She and Wetteland continue to work on the "Telling the Library Story" website. Burns created a Member Libraries Survey to help with her job evaluation. Burns said the survey will likely be returned by 75% of her librarians. Ross asked if she had discussed this vision with other Library Service Areas. Burns said that they are aware of her efforts. Ross suggested she consider doing an Iowa Library Association fall conference session on the topic, and consider writing an article. The Commission thanked Burns for her commitment and leadership.

#### B. Library Service Area Report - Karen Burns, SWILSA

Burns reported that she and libraries in Southwest continue to work on "Telling the Library Story" in a variety of ways. She reported that a virtual backup reference pilot project is being initiated. Almost all of her libraries have received their Gates Grants packets and 64 out of 68 libraries in her LSA are eligible. Gates staff will provide a workshop sometime in February. A representative from all libraries receiving computers are expected to attend. Ross asked what was happening in her area with the All Iowa Reads project. Burns said they were just finishing an All Pottawattamie Reads program that began this fall. The book chosen was the same one that will be used in All Iowa Reads 2003, "Peace Like a River." Bennett asked if there was a push to get libraries on the Internet. Wegner said a main emphasis is getting high speed internet access in Iowa libraries, since almost all Iowa libraries have the Internet. Burns also reported that some of the libraries in western Iowa will be getting wireless Internet access. Wegner reported that Mediacom is expanding to other communities in Iowa and is giving libraries free high speed access. The Commission will write the company a letter of commendation.

#### C. Commission Reports

Ross was contacted by First Lady Christie Vilsack and the coordinators of All Iowa Reads to lead a book discussion over the ICN in February. Commissioners will be notified when a date is set. O'Brien noted there would be a small law library in the new Judicial Building. Gohlinghorst reported that an open house for Jim Godsey, who is leaving as director of the Council Bluffs Public Library, will occur from 5 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 18 at the library. Diane Herzog has been named interim director.

#### D. State Librarian's Report

Wegner told the Commission that State Library offices on the ground floor, west wing of the building will be moved to the east wing. Legislative offices will eventually be located on all west wing floors.

CBS News has contacted Linda Robertson about broadcasting from the Law Library in the State Capitol again during the 2004 caucuses.

Sid Huttner, the special collections librarian at the University of Iowa, will be in Des Moines later this month and will visit the State Library to examine the Curtis Indian volumes.

Several marketing team activities have been accomplished. Paycheck inserts informing state workers about EBSCOhost and FirstSearch availability were distributed in November, and information sessions for Legislative Fiscal Bureau and Legislative Services Bureau staff were held. Rich Johnson from the Legislative Services Bureau gave a session on how an idea becomes a law.

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes December 10, 2002 - State Library, Des Moines (Cont. from Pg. 7)

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Public libraries are beginning to receive checks from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for new computers. The State Library is working with the LSAs and the League of Cities on budget implications for libraries. Another Gates grant is available that requires matching funds and would include as much as \$548,000 for a broadband connection upgrade. The State Library is investigating.

Judy Jones and Wegner attended the annual Institute of Museum and Library Services conference in Washington DC in November. The focus was on evaluation and outcomes of federal grants, the reporting process, and legal requirements for maintenance of effort. Jones is preparing the annual report for Library Services and Technology Act funds spent from October 2001 through September 2002.

Wegner noted that the new ILA President for 2003 is Betty Rogers from Coe College.

ILA will hold one legislative reception next year. The tentative date is March 12, 2003.

The State Library collaborated with academic libraries through ILA, ACRL, Iowa State University and the University of Iowa to provide wide access to a teleconference December 11 on the implications of the Patriot Act. Around 120 have signed up to attend.

The Christmas tree in the rotunda, which is 18 feet tall, was donated by the State Ombudsman. Personnel in the building contributed money and held bake sales to raise money for the decorations. A building-wide committee handled the project.

### 5.0 Public Comment

None

### 6.0 Action Items

#### A. Appointment of Trustee for Northeast Iowa Library Service Area

Dixon reported that several attempts to fill the vacancy have been unsuccessful. Calls are being made to get recommendations.

#### B. Appointment of Trustee for Southwest Iowa Library Service Area

Burns reported that they are also looking for someone to fill a trustee vacancy.

#### C. Appointment of Bylaws Review Subcommittee

Ross asked Van Ekeren to chair and Gohlinghorst to serve on the committee and both accepted.

### 7.0 Discussion Items

#### A. Priorities and plans when funding becomes available

Wegner reported back to the Commission with suggestions for program/service priorities when the budget improves. They were: 1) Use state dollars to purchase informational databases to be made available to all Iowans through their libraries; 2) help Iowa libraries get cost effective, high speed Internet connections to ensure that all Iowans have equitable access to information and electronic government transactions; 3) provide grants or other financial incentives to encourage the creation of voluntary library cooperatives or other consolidated library governance structures at the county or multi-county level; 4) provide Iowans with 24-hour electronic access to Iowa resources through an enhanced State Library web site; 5) fully implement an electronic data collection system to collect and analyze common, uniform data elements from public, academic and school libraries in Iowa; and 6) train all Iowa librarians to teach information-finding skills to their customers, so that Iowans can locate the information they need to do their jobs and make informed decisions.

#### B. Preview of 2003 General Assembly

The 80<sup>th</sup> General Assembly will convene on January 13, 2003. There will be 36 new representatives (18 Republicans and 18 Democrats) and nine new Senators (5 Republicans and 4 Democrats). Republicans outnumber Democrats 54-46 in the House and 29-21 in the Senate. Christopher Rants, Sioux City, was elected Speaker of the House. Chuck Gipp, Decorah, was elected Majority Leader. Dick Myers, Iowa City, continues as House Minority Leader. The new chairperson of the House Education Committee is Jodi Tymeson, Winterset. Stewart Iverson, Dows, continues as Senate Majority Leader and Mary Kramer, West Des Moines, continues as Senate President. Nancy Boettger, Harlan, remains chairperson of the Senate Education Committee. Cecil Dolecheck and Neal Schuerer will co-chair the Education Appropriations Committee. Funding remains a challenge. Revenues are slightly ahead of last year but more budget cuts are anticipated.

#### C. Changes since HF637 became effective 7/1/2000

Burns reported that the Lead Team has discussed changes since HF637 and has drafted a report containing general information and examples of the impact of the legislation. A draft was distributed. Discussion followed. Bradley and Bennett would like to see data and quantitative indicators in the report. Bradley said it would be helpful to have a similar report from each of the LSAs. Burns said she will report on the Commission's discussion to the Lead Team.

The Commission recognized Dwight Carlson for his impact, service, and good counsel to the Commission. Carlson's knowledge of state government has been invaluable to the Commission and has helped them to work more insightfully. The Commission values his friendship and good humor. Bradley moved to put this in a letter to Carlson. Huston seconded. Motion carried.

### 8.0 Adjournment

Adjournment at 1:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: February 25, 2003, State Library of Iowa