



# FOOTNOTES<sup>1</sup>

The Official Newsletter of the State Library of Iowa

VOLUME 25, NO. 6/7

June/July 2001

## Town Meetings scheduled for September

The State Library and Library Service Areas (formerly Regional Libraries) have scheduled this year's Iowa Town Meetings.

The 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. meetings will begin with a morning program on customer service, followed by afternoon breakout sessions on Health Info Iowa (the new health information website), using census statistics, and "@ your library," the American Library Association's new public relations campaign.

Sessions will be held

- September 11  
Mason City;
- September 12  
Waterloo;
- September 13  
Coralville;
- September 18  
Greenfield;
- September 19  
Storm Lake;
- September 20,  
Urbandale.

More information will be forthcoming.

## Iowa receives Gates Foundation grant

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has accepted the application of the State Library of Iowa for technology grants for public libraries.

The grant, worth nearly \$3.4 million, will be used to improve public access to computers and the Internet. In addition, software, installation and training, technical support and publications will be provided.

According to Assistant State Librarian Mary Wegner, the majority of Iowa public libraries will be eligible for the grant. The computers will begin arriving in April 2003.

More about the grant application process will be forthcoming.

The Gates Foundation U.S. Library Program began in 1997. Since that time the program has made grants to more than 5,800 libraries in the United States, installed more than 25,000 PCs and trained 7,000 librarians. The program is dedicated to providing increased public access to computers, the Internet and digital information to library patrons in low-income communities in the United States.

## "Enrich Iowa" encompasses direct state aid, Open Access and Access Plus

Libraries will see changes in the way they are reimbursed for direct state aid, Open Access and Access Plus.

Because of legislation passed this year, the Enrich Iowa Program now includes three components: Direct State Aid for public libraries (formerly Enrich Iowa), Open Access and Access Plus.

One million dollars was allocated for Direct State Aid in 2002, and \$880,000 for Open Access and Access Plus (a decrease of \$470,000).

Direct State Aid, Open Access and Access Plus will continue with a few changes:

- The agreements for Open Access and Access Plus are for one year.
- Access Plus payments for FY02 will be based on transactions for FY01.
- To receive Direct State Aid funding in FY02, public libraries must participate in all three components ( Direct State Aid, Open Access and Access Plus).

### Another \$500,000 allocated to libraries

The Iowa General Assembly allocated an additional \$500,000 to Iowa public libraries from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). These funds must be used for technology and/or structural improvements. The distribution of the infrastructure funds will be formula based, using total resource sharing reimbursement from FY01. Eligible public libraries (i.e., any library with an ordinance on file) will receive a minimum of \$250.

Because public library resource sharing transactions will be partially funded with RIIF monies, it is anticipated that both public and non-public libraries will receive at least 95 percent of their actual funding in FY02. Were it not for RIIF money, libraries participating in Open Access and Access Plus would have received a 35 percent funding cut for this fiscal year.

Libraries will receive packets in mid-July explaining the RIIF distribution formula and the new Enrich Iowa Program in greater detail.

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# FOOTNOTES

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## Notes from the State Librarian



Sharman  
Smith

This is the most difficult article I have written for *Footnotes* because it is my last as State Librarian of Iowa. As most of you know, I have resigned my position here to return to my home state to become the Executive Director of the Mississippi Library Commission (MS' state library agency).

The decision to leave Iowa did not come easy. My time in the Iowa library community has been some of the most rewarding of my life. I have made wonderful friends, experienced Iowa's warmth and hospitality, been a part of an extraordinary effort to improve library services to Iowans, and been involved in the amazing rebirth of the State Library's one-hundred-year-old home.

Iowa has a wonderful library community. Community pride and support of libraries is evident in every corner of the state. The level of cooperation among libraries of all types is amazing and far exceeds what can be found in other parts of the country. Library boards and staff are dedicated to providing the best library

service possible and routinely go above and beyond to do so.

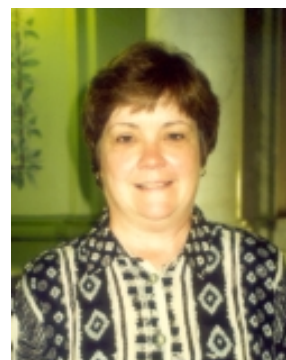
Iowa also has a great support system for libraries. The staff and boards of the Iowa Regional Library System (soon to be known as Library Service Areas) provide invaluable service to local libraries and are a key partner of the State Library. And, at the State Library, there is a staff dedicated to customer service, striving to serve and assist libraries and library customers in every way possible. Representing all Iowans and Iowa libraries is the Iowa Commission of Libraries. This wonderful eight-member board takes very seriously their responsibility to provide direction and leadership and to advocate for library services. Their thoughtfulness and leadership are evident in the State Library's services and statewide library programs.

I am proud to call Iowa my second home. You have supported and strengthened me in more ways than you will ever know. I can only hope, that in my nine years in Iowa, I have contributed to this wonderful library community and to improving library services for all Iowans.

Goodbye, with my love and respect.  
Sharman

*A special web page with highlights of Sharman's June 27 farewell reception is located at [www.silo.lib.ia.us/sharmanfarewell.pdf](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/sharmanfarewell.pdf).*

## New Commissioner appointed



Monica Gohlinghorst

Governor Tom Vilsack recently appointed Monica Gohlinghorst of Council Bluffs to the Iowa Commission of Libraries. Gohlinghorst serves on the board of the Council Bluffs Public Library, is active in the library "friends" group, and has an elementary education degree. She replaces Nancy Ross of Harlan.

## State Library's FY02 budget cut by \$109,177

Because of budget cuts in FY02, the State Library will reduce spending for the purchase of books, and electronic and print subscriptions. The greatest impact will be on the law and medical library collections. No staff layoffs or furloughs are planned.

The Library Service Areas' (formerly Regional Libraries) FY02 budgets were cut by \$101,220. Staff layoffs and furloughs will be needed.

# Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes

## June 26, 2001 - State Library of Iowa

*(These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries.)*

**Present:** Dale Ross, John Bennett (via telephone), Monica Gohlinghorst, Eldon Huston, Berta Van Ekeren  
**Staff:** Sharman Smith, Mary Wegner, Annette Wetteland, Gerry Rowland, Sandy Dixon, Carol Simmons, Steve Cox  
**Guests:** Karen Burns, Kay Elliott  
Ross called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced/welcomed Monica Gohlinghorst, a new Commissioner.

### 1.0 Set Agenda

An item was added to the agenda under 4.0 Action Items (Nominating Committee - FY02 Officers). Agenda set.

### 2.0 Approve Minutes

Minutes from April 24<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> (conference call) were discussed. Minutes of June 11<sup>th</sup> will be amended to include Section 9.4(2)-J of the administrative rules for the Library Service Area Boards of Trustees which states, "In the event a public library trustee or public library employee vacancy occurs before the end of a term, the Commission shall appoint a public library trustee or employee to serve the remainder of the term. When possible, appointees will be selected from the candidates voted upon on the most recent ballot." Motion to accept the minutes with changes by Huston, seconded by Van Ekeren. Motion carried.

### 3.0 Financial Report

Cox reported that at the end of May the State Library had approximately \$55,000 to revert at the end of the fiscal year. Eighty-six percent of the budget has been expended. He explained the under-spending is a result of the state budget freeze; Smith explained the budget freeze and the effects on the State Library. Huston moved to receive the financial report; Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

### 4.0 Action Items

**A. State Librarian's Letter of Resignation**  
Ross announced he had received Smith's letter of resignation. Van Ekeren moved to accept with commendation and regret for nine years of outstanding service to the Iowa library community. Huston seconded. Huston thanked Smith for her excellent leadership and helpful, friendly, caring service. Ross said Smith's leadership has left Iowa better than when she started. All regretted her leaving, but wished her well. Motion carried.

**B. Appointment of Interim State Librarian**  
Smith recommended that Mary Wegner be appointed Interim State Librarian as of September 1, 2001, and that Wegner be provided "extra duty pay" for the duration of her service as Interim State Librarian. Huston moved to accept Smith's recommendation; Van Ekeren seconded. Wegner accepted the interim appointment. Motion carried.

**C. Timetable for Library Service Area Boards Process** - Mary Wegner provided the Commission with a LSA Board selection time line. Wegner reviewed the time line and explained why the dates were important.

- (1) Submission of administrative rules. Administrative rules have been submitted. Wegner provided an overview of the process.
- (2) Correspondence concerning nominating committee; distribution of nomination and

appointment forms. Wegner reported that the letter and nomination form were sent to public library directors and board chairs requesting nominations. Dixon reported that a database was set up to keep track of information on the process and the State Library is currently receiving one to two nominations a day.

(3) Identification of Commission appointees to Nominating Committee. Ross suggested that he and Susan Kling, director of the Marion Public Library, serve as the Commission representatives on the Nominating Committee. Huston moved to accept; Gohlinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

(4) Naming of Commission sub-committee on Commission appointments to LSA Boards. Ross asked Van Ekeren to chair and Huston and Gohlinghorst to serve on the sub-committee to select Commission representatives to LSA boards.

(5) Rescheduling of Commission meeting. Ross asked the Commission to move the August meeting from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> because of the LSA nominating process. The meeting will be scheduled for the 21st.

**D. Approval of FY02 Operating Budget**  
Cox discussed the FY02 budget, the budget cut, and the need to cover a portion of employee medical insurance and salary increases. Smith recommended that the Personnel not be cut to make up for the shortfall, that the cuts be taken from the materials budget, specifically from the medical and law book budgets. Motion was made by Huston; seconded by Bennett to accept Smith's recommendation. Motion carried.

### E. Approval of distribution plan for Enrich Iowa and RIIIF funds to Iowa libraries

Smith explained funding for Enrich Iowa and new resources from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). She reported that in FY02, three programs will become one: Open Access, Access Plus, and Direct state aid to public libraries (formerly Enrich Iowa.) Direct state aid eligibility requires adherence to public library standards and participation in Open Access and Access Plus. Libraries were notified of standards yet unmet and were given an opportunity to address the situation. Public libraries may receive Open Access and/or Access Plus funds without participating in direct state aid. Payment will be based on FY01 transactions for both Open Access and Access Plus, and non-public libraries will continue to be included in these two programs. RIIIF money may only be used for technology and/or structural improvements in public libraries. Distribution is formula-based, using total FY01 resource sharing reimbursement as the basis. Motion to approve by Gohlinghorst and seconded by Van Ekeren, motion carried.

### 5.0 Discussion Items

#### A. State Librarian Search Process

Ross met with Education Director Ted Stilwill to discuss search process for new State Librarian. A Search Committee will be formed to participate in the interview and selection process. Interviews are scheduled for mid-October. The Commission will receive the Search Committee's recommendation at the Commission's October 23 meeting. It is anticipated the new State Librarian will begin

December 1, 2001. Huston moved to adopt the search process; seconded by Van Ekeren. Motion carried.

#### B. Commission Retreat - July 19-20, 2001

Ross moved to postpone the retreat till later in the year when the new State Librarian is hired. Commissioners agreed.

#### C. FY03 Budget Request

(1) Direction. Smith urged the Commission, given the State budget situation, to not put forward any new initiatives in the FY03 request. Smith noted that the RIIIF appropriation for public libraries is a one-time appropriation and that this will have to be discussed with the Legislature.

(2) Appointment of Budget Sub-committee. Ross asked Van Ekeren, Huston, Bradley to serve with him on the State Library's budget sub-committee to work with staff on the FY03 request.

### 6.0 Public Comment

#### 7.0 Communications

##### A. Commission Reports

1. Trustee Advocacy Workshops. Ross reported on the Trustee Advocacy Workshops held in May. He attended all five and said they were well received. Approximately 170 trustees across the state completed the training.

2. ALA Legislative Day. Karen Burns was asked to give her impression of the Legislative Day. She reported that she felt it was a good experience and went well.

3. ALA Annual Conference. Ross reported on the conference in San Francisco. The conference will be held in Atlanta on June 13-19, 2002. The Mid-winter Conference is being held in New Orleans, January 18-23, 2002.

**B. Iowa Regional Library System Report.** Karen Burns, Southwest Regional Library Administrator, reported on the changes required to transition from the Regional Library System to Library Service Areas. Due to the delay in appointing new Board members, the budget process for the LSAs will be delayed.

**C. State Librarian's Report.** Smith reported that the west wing of the building is to be finished mid-October. Smith also shared a letter sent to her by Michael Marshall, Secretary of the Senate and Margaret Thomson, Chief Clerk of the House, that read in part "Personnel from the General Assembly shall make all facility decisions for the Ola Babcock Miller Building, including permitted uses of the building's common areas."

Smith noted that several reporters had contacted her regarding library internet filtering. The U.S. Congress recently passed a law requiring public libraries receiving federal funding to place filters on their computers.

Six Town Meetings have been set for mid-September. The morning will highlight customer service, with afternoon sessions focusing on 1) using census statistics, 2) the American Library Association's "@ your library" campaign, and 3) the HealthInfoIowa website.

Wegner told the Commission that a reception for Smith will be held June 27. Ross, First Lady Christie Vilsack, and Robin Martin, President of the Iowa Library Association will speak.

Smith thanked the Commission for nine very good years. She said she appreciated all of their support and knows that the best interests of Iowa libraries will still be the Commission's top priority.

### 8.0 Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: August 21, 2001 - State Library

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# FOOTNOTES

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## LIVE! @ your library grant applications available

The American Library Association (ALA) Public Programs Office seeks applications for the 2001-02 season of LIVE! @ your library: Building Cultural Communities. The initiative provides grant opportunities for libraries to present cultural programs for adult and family audiences.

Featuring live appearances by literary, visual and performing artists, local LIVE! programs explore important issues and ideas, such as families in art and literature, body and soul, the effects of migration and immigration on

discovering one's self, sports and the arts, and the art of biography.

Libraries interested in receiving an application, guidelines and information about LIVE @ your library should call the ALA Public Programs Office at (312) 280-5045 or e-mail [publicprograms@ala.org](mailto:publicprograms@ala.org). Applications also are available online at [www.ala.org/publicprograms/live.htm](http://www.ala.org/publicprograms/live.htm).

**Deadlines for the 2001-2002 LIVE! season are July 15, September 15, November 15, January 15, and March 15.**

## Dates to Remember

### July 27

Registration deadline for Public Library Management 2

### July 31

Enrich Iowa final report due

### July 31

Open Access final report due

### July 31

2000 Partnership Grant claims due

## Fort Dodge builds a library, named one of Top Ten Cities in America

Though tired and hoarse from boisterous celebrating, LaWanda Roudebush could not contain her excitement two days after learning that Fort Dodge had been named a 2001 All-American City. As director of the city's public library, she had plenty to be excited about.

The new public library was the centerpiece in the city's award application, "And they Built a Library." Fifty-one people from Fort Dodge traveled to Atlanta, GA to compete for the title, which is awarded by the National Civic League, a 107-year-old non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to celebrating vibrant, resourceful communities.

"We had a story unlike any other city there," said Roudebush.

"We used our public library as a focal point. It is unbelievable the response our city has had for this new building."

To prove the point, a satellite feed

between the library (using the library's ICN room) and Atlanta was arranged for Friday morning, June 22. Nearly 1,500 Fort Dodge citizens were in the library, providing testimony and presenting information to the committee.

"They had huge screens in the room in Atlanta," said Roudebush. "It was an interactive, integral part of our presentation." Winners were announced Saturday night. "We knew we won when we heard the judge use the words 'and they built a library'," said Roudebush.

When they arrived home Sunday, the weary travelers were escorted through town by the local police and cheered on by local well wishers.

While Roudebush believes the city's new library has been a catalyst for growth and a new vitality in Fort Dodge, she quickly gives credit to other organizations such as the Community Action Network and

Gateway Learning Center (an after school program for children) for transforming the city.

"A key component for us during the competition was to show that our city leaders are talking and there is a lot of involvement. That was especially true when we worked to get the referendum for the new library passed," said Roudebush.

The new library is located on what used to be a run down town square. Recently, dilapidated buildings were demolished and in the past month plans were announced to build new businesses across the street from the library. Revitalization, according to Roudebush, is what the city needs.

Fort Dodge was one of the smallest cities represented in the competition, said Roudebush. "We are a team in Fort Dodge, and the library is a great part of that team."



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# FOOTNOTES

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## New from State Library: Index to Iowa inventors

The State Library of Iowa has compiled an electronic database of Iowa inventors and patent holders from 1843-1974. The information provides the residence of an inventor on the day, month and year his or her patent was granted, as well as details of the invention. The database, at [www.silo.ia.us/patents](http://www.silo.ia.us/patents), is searchable by inventor, town and subject.

For more information on using the database, contact Karon Moll, Patent and Trademark Library, State Library, (515) 242-3886 or e-mail [kmoll@mail.lib.state.ia.us](mailto:kmoll@mail.lib.state.ia.us)

## Theatre company seeks new plays from Iowa writers

Unexpected Company, a Des Moines-based theatre group, is seeking original, full-length plays from Iowa writers for the 2001-2002 New Voices Iowa Playwrights Competition.

Beginning July 1, 2001, playwrights are invited to submit previously unpublished and unproduced full-length plays. Nine plays will be selected in September 2001. Of the nine, three finalists will be chosen and awarded prizes. First and second runners up will receive cash prizes of \$250 and \$150, respectively. The grand prize is \$500 plus a full production of the winning play in the summer of 2002.

The goal of the New Voices Competition is to help Iowa playwrights

develop their work in Iowa with the help of Iowa theatre artists. The competition is open only to writers who are current residents of Iowa.

Complete information, guidelines and official entry forms for the New Voices Iowa Playwrights Competition are available from the Unexpected Company web site at [www.unexpectedcompany.com/newvoices.html](http://www.unexpectedcompany.com/newvoices.html). For additional information or to be mailed an entry form and guidelines, call Lisa Norris at (515) 288-9163 (toll-free at 877-250-0124) or send an e-mail to [info@unexpectedcompany.com](mailto:info@unexpectedcompany.com) and type "New Voices" in the subject header. The company's mailing address is P.O. Box 7132, Des Moines, IA 50309-7132.

## Regional Libraries now Library Service Areas

Library Service Areas (LSAs) were created by the Iowa General Assembly this year (HF 637) and signed into law by Governor Vilsack. Effective July 1, 2001, Library Service Areas will replace Regional Libraries. Geographic boundaries and services will remain essentially the same.

The most significant change is the selection and make up of LSA Boards of Trustees. HF 637 authorizes the Iowa Commission of Libraries to "adopt (administrative) rules providing for the coordination of appointments made to the board of trustees...". LSA Board responsibilities are comparable to the responsibilities of the former Regional Library boards.

To self nominate or nominate another person to be considered for

appointment or election to a LSA Board of Trustees, a nomination form had to be submitted to the State Library of Iowa for the 2001 cycle of appointments/elections by July 13, 2001.

According to HF 637 each area shall have a board of trustees composed of seven members, who shall be appointed as follows:

- One member shall be appointed mutually by the area education agency media divisions located within the boundaries of the LSA.
- One member shall be appointed mutually by the boards of trustees of the public libraries located within the boundaries of the LSA.
- One member shall be appointed mutually by librarians employed by public libraries located within the boundaries of the LSA.

• One member shall be appointed mutually by the boards of trustees of the community colleges located within the boundaries of the LSA.

• One member shall be appointed by the Commission of Libraries to represent library patrons residing within the boundaries of the LSA.

• Two members shall be appointed by the Commission of Libraries to represent the public at-large residing within the boundaries of the LSA.

Nominating Committee members will include one representative appointed by the following Iowa library organizations: the Iowa Library Association, the Iowa Library Trustees Association, the Iowa Small Libraries Association, the Iowa Libraries of Medium Size, the Iowa Urban Public Libraries and two members appointed

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# FOOTNOTES

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## Iowans urged to file taxes electronically      Regional Libraries now Library Service Areas

(Cont. from Pg. 5)

Because of state budget cuts, the Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance is urging Iowans to file for tax refunds electronically.

In a recent news release, Revenue and Finance suggested that Iowans use their home computers, or computers in their local libraries, to access the agency's online forms.

According to agency administrators, the forms are easy for customers to use and will not require excessive time or training by librarians.

by the Iowa Commission of Libraries.

The Nominating Committee will develop a slate of public library trustee candidates and public library employee candidates for each of the seven LSAs.

In July and August, the Nominating Committee will meet, appoint a ballot counting subcommittee and mail ballots. Ballots are due August 10 and will be counted on August 13. On August 21, the Iowa Commission of Libraries will meet to certify election results and appoint three members to

each of the seven LSA boards, taking into account gender and political party requirements.

The new LSAs are called Central Iowa Library Service Area; East Central Library Services; North Central Library Service Area; Northeast Iowa Library Service Area; Northwest Iowa Library Services; Southeastern Library Services; and Southwest Iowa Library Service Area. More information on the LSAs is available on the State Library's webpage, [www.silo.lib.ia.us](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us).

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

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Pamela E. Bradley (Burlington)  
Dwight Carlson (Des Moines)  
Monica Gohlinghorst (Council Bluffs)  
Eldon Huston (Des Moines)  
William O'Brien (Des Moines)  
Dale Ross (Ames)  
Berta Van Ekeren (Monroe)

#### State Library Services

Audio/visual services; Information services and medical library; Specialized consulting services; Law library; Networking; State Data Center; Publications; State documents program

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