



# FOOTNOTES<sup>1</sup>

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

VOLUME 27, NO. 5/6

May/June 2003

## Supreme Court Upholds Children's Internet Protection Act

In a divided ruling Monday, June 23, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Congress can force public libraries to use anti-pornography filters on their computers.

According to the Associated Press, "The blocking technology, intended to keep smut from children, does not violate the First Amendment even though it shuts off some legitimate, informational web sites, the Court held.

"The court said because libraries can disable the filters for any patrons who ask, the system is not too burdensome. The 6-3 ruling reinstates a law that told libraries to install filters or surrender federal money. Four justices said the law was constitutional, and two others said it was allowable as long as patrons were not denied Internet access." See the full text of the decision at <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/02pdf/02-361.pdf>

During the current year, about 80 Iowa public libraries will receive nearly \$111,000 in e-rate discounts for Internet connection. State Librarian Mary Wegner said she was disappointed in the ruling.

"I believe public library Internet use decisions are best made at the local level, by local library boards," said Wegner. In Iowa, all public libraries are required to develop Internet use policies, which are all on file at the State Library.

Wegner also noted that Iowa librarians have always cared about children and about providing a positive and safe library experience for children.

"Libraries had successfully found ways to accomplish this long before the CIPA legislation was passed," she said.

## Roberts joins Commission of Libraries

Paul Roberts, head librarian and director of learning resources at the Nicholas J. Schrup Library, Clarke College, Dubuque, has been appointed to the Iowa Commission of Libraries. He replaces John Bennett who chose not to request appointment to another term.

Roberts graduated from the University of California at Davis in June 1969 with a B.A. in psychology. He received an M.A. degree in social psychology from the University of Iowa in 1971 and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a master of library science degree in 1978.

"As a long time resident of Iowa, I am proud of both Iowa and my profession," said Roberts. "I believe that I cannot be a librarian without also serving the profession of librarianship. I also want to contribute to my adopted state and membership on the Iowa Commission of Libraries is one such opportunity to contribute and serve."

Roberts worked at Loras College in Dubuque from 1978 to 1984 and has since been at Clarke College. He has twice chaired the Iowa Private Academic Libraries organization and is currently chair of the Dubuque Area Library Information Consortium.



**Paul Roberts**

## ***Ross, Bradley reappointed***

Dale Ross and Pam Bradley were reappointed to the Iowa Commission of Libraries by Governor Tom Vilsack. Ross' and Bradley's new terms end April 30, 2006.

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# FOOTNOTES

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## Networking helpful to Ottumwa area librarians

*(This article is one of a continuing series of articles on library partnerships.)*

A diverse group of librarians in the Ottumwa area have discovered they can accomplish more with fewer resources if they work as a team. Since 1985, librarians from the Ottumwa Public Library, Indian Hills Community College (IHCC), the Ottumwa School District, and the Southern Prairie Area Education Agency have met every other month for a round-table discussion of common concerns and to plan joint events.

According to Cheryl Leffler, IHCC public services librarian, some beneficial projects have developed from the alliance. Each year during National Library Week, the group promotes reading by holding a paperback book exchange at a local mall. Each library brings boxes of paperbacks and the public can bring in previously read books and exchange them for new ones.

“We have been doing this for about six years and people really look forward to it,” said Leffler. People who do not have books to exchange can make a monetary donation.

“We decided several years ago that we needed to give the money back to the community,” Leffler said. The organization has used the donations for several projects, including purchasing a variety of books for the Ottumwa Women’s Shelter and Crisis Center, and the Ottumwa School District to use for its annual “Book Bowl.”

Indian Hills Community College and the Ottumwa Public Library are currently planning a joint “All Iowa Reads” book discussion program for this fall, and a brochure for the Ottumwa Area Libraries is being updated and reprinted.

As the new director of the Ottumwa Public Library, MaryAnn Lemon hasn’t yet had many opportunities to attend meetings, but says she looks forward to the comraderie.

“I’ve only been to one meeting, but I can see where partnerships of this kind can provide a lot of good in a local library community,” said Lemon. “The networking makes you feel that you are not alone, and gives you a sense of belonging to the library profession.”

### **Adel to build new library**

Adel voters approved \$2.4 million in bonds on June 3 to build a new library. Seventy-one percent of voters approved the measure. The estimated cost of the new facility is \$2.9 million. \$500,000 will be raised in a three-year campaign by the library foundation.

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# FOOTNOTES

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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.

**Martina Harper**, Plainfield

**Wendy Keenan**, Lehigh

**Shannon Kellogg**, New Hampton

**Sharon Mensing**, Orient Public Resource  
Technology Center

**Marilyn Ralls**, Creston

## Craig represents Iowa in national conference

The All Iowa Reads program was recently one of a series of "One Community, One Book" programs highlighted at a BookExpo America session. BookExpo America is the annual conference for the book industry for booksellers, librarians and publishers. The conference was held May 28 to June 1 in Los Angeles.

Susan Craig, co-chair of the 2003 All Iowa Reads program was asked to speak about the Iowa program from a statewide perspective. Other panel members represented the publishing industry, a city-wide initiative, and the perspective of someone involved in several local programs. Comments focused on what worked and what didn't in various venues. Those in attendance were primarily librarians, with a few publishing industry representatives.

This is the first year for All Iowa Reads, a program of the newly established Iowa Center for the Book at the State Library. The 2003 title is "Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger. Programs continue throughout the year and can be registered on the State Library's web site, [www.silo.lib.ia.us/misc/All-Iowa-Reads/program-descriptions.htm](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/misc/All-Iowa-Reads/program-descriptions.htm). Those who contribute information about their program are eligible for 15 copies of the 2004 title, which will be announced at the Iowa Library Association Conference in October. Programs at the conference will include a discussion of "Peace Like a River" and author Enger is expected to speak.

## GODORT sponsors annual summer workshop "Picnic in the Park"

Wear comfortable clothes to the July 11 Iowa GODORT Summer Workshop from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum in West Branch.

Archivists will provide a special presentation and a behind the scenes look at the thousands of fascinating original research materials available at the library. After a picnic in the park for lunch, guided tours of the museum exhibits and park will be available followed by a brief GODORT meeting.

The Hoover Museum has waived the admission fee for attendees.

For more information, visit the Iowa GODORT web site at [www.public.iastate.edu/~lindstro/ilagodort\\_home.htm](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~lindstro/ilagodort_home.htm). Look under "Programs."

## Important Dates - 2003

### July

Registration for Fall Public Library Management 1 and 2

July 1 - E-rate discounts begin

July 4 - Fourth of July Holiday

July 31 - The following are due at the State Library:  
Direct State Aid Final Report; Library Infrastructure Report; Open Access Annual Report; Access Plus Annual Report, and 2002 LSTA Partnership Grant claims and final report

### August

August 6-7 - Conference on Information Literacy (Mason City)

August 15 - Summer Library Program evaluations due (North Central Library Service Area)

August 19 - Commission Meeting (Des Moines)

August 31 - Enrich Iowa Letter of Agreement and Library Infrastructure Letter of Agreement postmarked to State Library

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# FOOTNOTES

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## Iowa Teen Awards and 04 reading list announced

“Stargirl” by Jerry Spinelli was the winner of this year’s Iowa Teen Award. According to Iowa Teen Award co-chair Bonnie Raasch, the book received 629 votes from readers across the state. Votes were also cast for:

- “Night Hoops” by Carl Deuker
- “A Dance for Three” by Louise Plummer
- “When Zachary Beaver Came to Town” by Kimberly Willis Holt
- “The Body of Christopher Creed” by Carol Plum-Ucci
- “Jason’s Gold” by Will Hobbs
- “Bloomability” by Sharon Creech
- “Homeless Bird” by Gloria Whelan
- “Define ‘Normal’ “ by Julie Anne Peters
- “Silent to the Bone” by E. L. Konigsburg
- “Skellig” by David Almond
- “Gathering Blue” by Lois Lowry
- “Send One Angel Down” by Virginia Frances Schwartz
- “When Kambia Elaine Flew in from Neptune” by Lori Aurelia Williams
- “Matilda Bone” by Karen Cushman

The reading list for next year includes:

- “Fever, 1793” by Laurie Halse Anderson
- “The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants” by Ann Brashares
- “Skeleton Man” by Joseph Bruchac
- “Among the Imposters” by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- “Dancing in Cadillac Light” by Kimberly Willis Holt
- “The Ghost in the Takaido Inn” by Dorothy Hoobler
- “Visiting Miss Caples” by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
- “You Don’t Know Me” by David Klass
- “Players” by Joyce Sweeney
- “Hope Was Here” by Joan Bauer
- “Under a War-Torn Sky” by L. M. Elliot
- “Touching Spirit Bear” by Ben Mikaelson
- “Katie.com: My Story” by Katherine Tarbox
- “Soldier X” by Don Wulffson
- “Flipped” by Wendelin Van Draanen

## Book Cart Brigade debuts

Members of the Central Iowa Library Alliance Book Cart Brigade made their first appearance during the Drake Relays parade on April 26 in Des Moines. Twenty-three library staffers from around central Iowa practiced diligently for their debut.

*At left, State Library staff who participated in the event are, from left, Fran Fessler, Margaret Noon, Carol Simmons, Barbara Corson, Sandy Dixon and Judy Jones. (Not shown, Pam Rees). The photo at right shows more of brigade members lined up before the parade began.*



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# FOOTNOTES

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes April 22, 2003 - State Library, Des Moines

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**Present:** Dale Ross, Pam Bradley, Monica Gohlinghorst, Eldon Huston, Pam Pfitzenmeier, Berta Van Ekeren,  
**Staff:** Mary Wegner, Mary Cameron, Barbara Corson, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Judy Jones, Alan Schmitz, Carol Simmons  
**Visitors:** Dwight Carlson and Karen Burns

### 1.0. Set Agenda

Ross added one item to 8.0 Discussion Items: C. Retreat. Huston moved to set agenda with the addition, Van Ekeren seconded, motion carried

### 2.0 Introduction of new Commission member

Ross introduced a new member to the Commission, Pam Pfitzenmeier. Pfitzenmeier, director of Educational Telecommunications at Iowa Public Television, was appointed by Department of Education Director Ted Stilwill to represent the department. Pfitzenmaier replaces Dwight Carlson, who recently retired, as the Department of Education representative.

### 3.0 Approve Minutes

Bradley moved to approve the minutes, Van Ekeren seconded, motion carried.

### 4.0 Financial Report

Cox presented the federal finances and noted that the State Library is 10% below his initial spending forecast for the fiscal year. He expects federal funding for FY04 to be within \$2,000 of the current allocation. Ross said that because of the war with Iraq and the developing federal deficit, LSTA funding levels will be less than formerly anticipated. Cox next presented the state financial report and said that the State Library is currently under the state funding budget by 8%, and that there have been no unexpected expenses. Cox reported that staff computers will be purchased within the next two months, and noted that State Library computers were last upgraded in 1997-98. Huston asked if legislators had discussed further cuts for the State Library's budget this session and Wegner reported that they had not. She and Ross expressed some concern, however, that an across the board cut of up to 3% could occur depending on the outcome of the casino tax issue now in the federal Supreme Court. Huston moved to accept the financial report, Gohlinghorst seconded, motion carried.

### 5.0 Communications

#### A. Special Reports

##### 1. State Library Youth Services - Mary Cameron

Cameron talked about Laugh It Up @ the Library, this year's summer library program. She said Iowa is the only state that has decided to extend this for young adults as a way to get teenagers to the library. Cameron reported on Early Childhood Literacy Strategies: 188 Iowa librarians have been trained in the last 18 months in early literacy strategies in the areas of language, reading, and writing (print awareness). She said these were natural strategies for librarians to incorporate into their library story times with preschoolers. The training also included a discussion titled Where are the Children? which addressed outreach services to preschool children in their communities. Cameron reported that she is reinforcing the librarian's role in early childhood literacy with follow-up workshops to keep early literacy a priority for librarians. She is also offering workshops on nonfiction for children: 114 librarians have already participated with two more workshops scheduled. The State Library will offer four regional training sessions in late October for librarians, early childcare providers, preschool teachers, and others in sound awareness and how it affects early readers. Cameron shared a handout of the Kids First Conference agenda for Thursday and Friday, April 24/25. She also shared the Big6 Skills handout that outlines information literacy skills for students.

After Cameron's presentation, Ross acknowledged Dwight Carlson, a former commissioner. Carlson spoke briefly about Stilwill's choice to appoint Pfitzenmeier to the Commission and felt she would bring a rich background and be a great asset to the Commission. He also thanked the Commission and State Library staff for the gift, cards, and photo album he received at his retirement. He said he was moved by the generosity and that he would miss the members of the Commission.

##### 2. Electronic state documents - Barbara Corson

Corson reported on a conference she attended that centered on what other states are doing regarding the collecting and archiving of electronic state government documents. She expressed concern that some documents may not be around in 100 years because people haven't thought to preserve them in a retrievable manner. She said that historians are worried that electronic documentation is being destroyed and will be lost for future use. She said that some electronic documents on web sites are not being archived, so the information

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# FOOTNOTES

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes April 22, 2003 - State Library, Des Moines (Cont. from Pg. 6)

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will be lost. Training publishers of web documents to add metadata will help with the problem. Iowa is taking steps to make sure documents are being saved. The State Library is responsible for archiving these documents and is in the process of finding the best software system to use. The state of Illinois has funding that allows them to go to web sites and archive the data on a monthly basis. Corson thought this was a great idea, but because of the budget crisis in Iowa, too expensive to accomplish right now.

### B. Commission Reports

Ross said there was a good turnout for ILA's Legislative Day activities on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Wegner reported that, in addition to public librarians and public library trustees, several academic librarians and a few school librarians participated. After a briefing at the State Library on state legislative issues, participants went to the State Capitol for visits with legislators and a reception for legislators in the Law Library. ILA's legislative message this year is that libraries of all types are a part of the education process in Iowa; libraries of all types contribute to economic development in Iowa; and libraries of all types need adequate funding.

Ross wanted the Commission to be aware that state libraries across the country are being jeopardized due to budget cuts. Van Ekeren shared some of the activities planned for the celebration of the State Library's 165<sup>th</sup> birthday. Some of the activities will include 1) lunch discussions for state employees on the All Iowa Reads book, "Peace Like a River" during the months of June and July, 2) activities and exhibits at the State Library during the State Fair, 3) a presentation by the Central Iowa Library Alliance Book Cart Brigade at the State Fair.

Gohlinghorst reported that Council Bluffs is still searching for a new director.

### C. Library Service Areas Report B Karen Burns, Director, Southwest Iowa Library Services Area

Burns reported that some of the recent areas of focus for SWILSA are: Information literacy, virtual reference project, Wings Technology Conference, and the Gates computer programs. She said that SWILSA is trying to help librarians realize that they are and always have practiced information literacy and are key to teaching it to patrons. A pilot program is being discussed in conjunction with Southwestern Community College to offer an online class on information literacy with CEUs provided. The virtual reference project has been up and running on a trial basis since February. Fifty reference librarians across the state are helping with the project. Burns will be monitoring the project through December. The Wings Technology Conference was a success. There were 40 participants, and librarians from the area were presenters. Wegner also led a session on information literacy. Burns attended the Gates training in Seattle and anticipates training for libraries in her area to begin sometime in June. Ross asked if she felt the new configuration for LSA boards was working and Burns replied yes.

### D. State Librarian Report

Wegner reported that it looks like state funding for next year will be at the same level as this year. If funding for cities is cut, it will greatly impact the budgets of public libraries.

Wegner reported that the State Library is working with the Attorney General's office to distribute music CDs to public and academic libraries in Iowa. These discs were made available through the settlement of litigation with major recorded music distributors and some large retailers over allegations that certain marketing methods used by the companies in the late 1990s violated the antitrust laws. Academic libraries were polled informally to determine their level of interest, and most were interested. Public and academic libraries will be contacted by letter and asked to respond in writing if they wish to receive discs; each library should receive at least 25 discs. Libraries are not able to select specific discs to be received.

The National Library of Medicine held a press conference on April 7 at the State Library to announce a new "information prescription" program. Senator Harkin was featured at the news conference. Harkin and other speakers mentioned HealthInfoIowa, the consumer health information web site developed and maintained by the State Library. A reception in the Medical Library followed the press conference.

Wegner, Dawn Hayslett (chair of ILA's Governmental Affairs Committee), and ILA lobbyists Amy Campbell and Craig Patterson met with Mike Blouin, the new director of Economic Development. Wegner felt the meeting went well and that Blouin understood how libraries participate in economic development through their services to business and employees, as well as by providing community meeting rooms and by being a source of pride for a community.

Wegner was asked to speak at the annual meeting of the Iowa Private Academic Libraries at Luther College in Decorah and received positive feedback about EBSCOhost. She also attended the IEMA conference where Pam Rees presented a session about HealthInfoIowa; Gerry Rowland presented a session on the school library survey; and Annette Wetteland and Mary Cameron presented a session on "Telling the Library Story" for school librarians to a standing room only crowd. The State Library also had an exhibit booth. Wegner and other state library staff felt there was some confusion among conference-goers of the roles, duties and products of the

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# FOOTNOTES

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes April 22, 2003 - State Library, Des Moines (Cont. from Pg. 7)

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State Library and the Iowa Library Association. Wegner attended Gates computer training in Seattle and will attend ALA Legislative Days in Washington D.C. next month.

Dixon reported that the State Library will be sending our representative from the Attorney General's office, Shauna Shields, to a "Lawyers for Libraries" meeting in Chicago in May. She also reported that the Marketing Team will be doing state employee focus groups in selected state agencies to see how the State Library improve services to them in their jobs. Dixon informed the Commission that the Central Iowa Library Alliance Book Cart Brigade will be marching in the Drake Relays Parade on April 26. The State Library has seven members in the brigade.

### 6.0 Public Comment

None

### 7.0 Action Items

#### A. Evaluation of State Librarian

Ross asked Bradley and Huston to stay after the meeting for a few minutes to set dates to work on the evaluation.

#### B. Plan of Service

Wegner explained that State Code, section 256.51e, requires the State Library to "develop, in consultation with the library service areas and the area education agency media centers, a biennial unified plan of service and service delivery for the division of libraries and information services." She said that the past practice has been to annually develop a Plan of Service jointly between the State Library and the Library Service Areas. This plan sets overall goals for services which the State Library and the LSAs work together to deliver; it has gone into effect each year on July 1. In the past, the seven individual Library Service Area boards of trustees have voted on approval of this document, followed by a vote by the Commission. After these votes, the document has been sent to the Director of the Department of Education. Representatives of AEA media centers were included in the plan development for the first time last year, as a result of changes made by HF 637 in 2001. Wegner said that the process for development of this plan was discussed at an LSA Trustee Executive Council meeting earlier in 2003, and the Council pointed out that there is presently no step in the process, which involves feedback from the Council.

Wegner proposed the following new process for development of the Plan of Service:

1. The Lead Team (LSA administrators; LSA consultants; Library Development consultants from State Library; State Librarian) will evaluate the progress toward the current plan and prepare a draft of a new plan.
2. A group made up of each LSA administrator; a trustee from each LSA; two representatives of the AEA media centers (chosen by the AEA media group); one member of the Commission of Libraries and the State Librarian will meet to develop the plan for the following year, using the draft prepared by the Lead Team. Members of this group will agree to a plan that all those present can support.
3. The proposed plan will be discussed at board meetings in each LSA and by the Commission of Libraries. Comments and concerns of Commissioners and trustees will be sought and recorded.
4. Lead Team members will review comments from Commissioners and LSA trustees, and will draft revisions to the plan if necessary. The plan will be sent to the chair of the Trustee Executive Council.
5. The plan will be considered by the Trustee Executive Council. The Trustee Executive Council will vote approval or request revisions. If revisions are requested, the Lead Team will develop them, and the plan will be sent again to the Trustee Executive Council for their approval.
6. After approval, the Trustee Executive Council will forward the plan to the Commission of Libraries for final approval.
7. The Commission will vote approval or request revisions. If revisions are requested, the Lead Team will develop them, and the plan will be sent back to the Commission. After approval by the Commission of Libraries, the plan will be forwarded to the director of the Department of Education.

Bradley moved to accept this proposal, Van Ekeren seconded, motion carried.

### 8.0 Discussion Items

#### A. SILO contract with Iowa State University

Alan Schmitz reported on his duties and accomplishments as coordinator of the SILO team. He told the Commission that for

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# FOOTNOTES

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Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes  
April 22, 2003 - State Library, Des Moines  
(Cont. from Pg. 8)

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the past two years he has worked to upgrade the system. He explained that when SILO was first established it was on the cutting edge of technology. The system is now close to being updated and will be state of the art again. Wegner reported that Schmitz was instrumental in setting up a unique database of high speed internet options available to public libraries in each Iowa community, and that she is extremely pleased with Schmitz's contributions to the SILO project.

B. Appointments to Library Service Area boards of trustees

Dixon reported that terms for three members of each LSA board will be up this year. She plans to have the names of suggested replacements by the June Commission meeting. The Commission will then need to make the new appointments.

**8.0 Retreat**

Ross suggested that a retreat in conjunction with the August meeting would be appropriate, since three Commission members are up for reappointment in April, and a new permanent member (Pfitzenmeier) has been appointed. Tentatively, the Commission will meet in retreat the afternoon of August 18 and hold its regular meeting August 19.

**9.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: June 17, 2003