

Report to the
Alliance Library System Board of Directors

Executive Director's Report
November 25th 2009

It has been a busy six weeks since we last met. The Alliance family welcomed our HR Administrator Morgan's baby daughter Hayden Olivia in early November and on Friday (yup, the day after Thanksgiving!!) we will welcome Paul's newest family member, photos to follow I am sure!!!

As always, but particularly now, funding is my #1 concern. Paul has a report "Cash Flow and Financial Report" appended that outlines the current situation and our best thoughts on an appropriate course of action for ALS. We are not alone in dealing with this cash flow situation but are confident the State Library is doing everything possible to expedite the releasing of funds.



Monday November 9th seventy five library folks gathered at Allerton to discuss the future of library cooperation. Supported by LSTA funds from the state library and ILA, the goal of The Summit in the Future of Library Co-operation was to begin a planning process to improve library service by focusing on new areas of cooperation and new structures that would define Illinois libraries for the next 20 years. I would like to thank: Lou Ann Jacobs, Becky Robinson and Phyllis Self for attending and adding to the discussions. It was an amazing day focused on how we can move ahead and build on the cooperative leadership that is the hallmark of Illinois libraries.

The Illinois Library System Directors Organization (ILSDO) and Anne Craig met last week to discuss: the resource sharing databases in L2, future plans for the Save Illinois Libraries campaign, the Illinois System Standards Committee work and a report from the Illinois State Library. Together we are preparing collaborative strategies to address the new standards under development by the Illinois State Library. We are reviewing our new core services: Consulting, Delivery, Professional Development, Onsite Visits, Advocacy and looking for opportunities to streamline and collaborate. This is a huge task, but our combined efforts will provide the leadership we need to move the multitype library service in Illinois to the next level and into the next decade.

ALS and forty three public libraries have joined together with Overdrive to establish the Alliance Digital Media Library, offering library customers access to an ever growing digital collection of fiction and nonfiction resources, books accessible from your home computer. This ALS group purchase (costing \$250 - \$6,700 depending on the people the library serves) has been extremely popular and will go live in late January. There will be a demonstration of the ADML website and its resources before the next board meeting.

The ALS/Learning Times on line conference “The Art of Fundraising and Grant Writing” attracted over 374 from across North America, Spain, Africa and the Middle East. The end result is still being tallied but there will be a \$5,000 + profit for Alliance. Lori did an awesome job organizing this conference and is planning a series of nine on-line conferences called, Trendy Topics to be in 2010.

Last week I had the great pleasure of speaking to the ALA student’s organization at the University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Champaign. It was really interesting hearing the library students’ talk about library land and their aspirations as new graduates. We had an animated discussion about what defines great customer service, the future of libraries and of course the library job market over the next few months. Nothing like fall on campus!



The ALS Board of Directors has no meeting planned for late December. The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday January 28th at High Point Lane. However, the Executive Committee (John, Sue, Pam and Stephanie) will review the monthly financial statement and conduct the Director’s 2009 performance evaluation on Thursday December 17th at 2. The PREP form has been streamlined and at the board meeting I will talk about how the PREP process works. Of all the questions I get asked, performance evaluations continues to be the most popular. From ALS members and trustees to speaking outside Alliance, folks in library land are really interested in our performance evaluation process and how it aligns staff behind an annual theme and system wide goals.

I hope you and your family have a great holiday filled with family, friends and loads of fun. Ross, Billy, Diefenbaker and I look forward to celebrating Christmas with my family and friends in Canada. There is nothing like home, kids and snow for the holidays.



From my family to yours, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthful New Year.

Kitty Pope
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