

THE Envoy

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Spotlight on ICFL Commissioners

Bruce Noble has served on the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) Board of Commissioners since 1995. He's a lifelong library patron, so when the board had an opening, he saw it as an opportunity to provide valuable public service.

Noble brings small-business experience and technical background as an engineer and surveyor to the board, and believes that the diverse backgrounds of the commissioners provide a great working environment. He says that

his greatest contribution to the board is his sense of humor, "...so we don't take ourselves too seriously." He adds that humor goes a long way to help ease the occasional tense situation and work through any differences that need to be resolved.

Noble notes that the focus of the Commission has changed dramatically during his time on the board, from being a library to being a facilitator for the libraries throughout the state. "We had more of a split focus when I first came on. We actually had a collection then, but now our major focus is on providing services to the libraries. Becoming the digital repository is a big step, too."

When asked what he sees as the biggest challenge the Commission faces, Noble responded without hesitation, "The budget. Moving out from under the State Board of Education was a significant move that streamlined the budget process



"We shouldn't take ourselves too seriously"— Bruce Noble puts his philosophy into practice

and timeline, but with the dire economic situation that we're in, budgets are again the big issue."

Despite the challenges that the Commissioners deal with, Noble insists, "It's easy to be on the board because the Commission for Libraries runs like a clock. The longevity and wealth of knowledge of the management team serve the Commission well. And I want to make sure that I have a chance to tell the Envoy readers how great

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

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Mission:

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

Commissioners:

Pete Black, John Held,
Bruce Noble, Sara Staub,
and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

Commission Contacts:

- Anne Abrams, southwestern/south central Idaho library consultant
- Betty Hoffman, support services supervisor
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- Erica Compton, reading programs coordinator
- Frank Nelson, southeastern Idaho library consultant
- Gina Persichini, networking consultant
- Jan Wall, northern Idaho library consultant
- Marjorie Hooper, associate state librarian
- Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor
- Richard Wilson, associate state librarian
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Sonja Hudson, grants/contracts officer
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

Spotlight, *continued from page 1*

I think the ICFL staff is, how hard they work, and what a great job they do.”

Noble’s wife is Peggy Cooper. Although he jokes that she didn’t bother to change her last name when they married because she didn’t think they’d be married long enough to make it worth the hassle,

New staff at ICFL

Anne Abrams is assuming field consultant responsibilities for southwestern and south central public libraries. If her name sounds familiar, that’s because she served in a marketing and advocacy role with the Commission since 1997. And, she will be integrating the advocacy part of her old job into the new one. “I’ll move my focus from facilitating statewide projects to helping libraries develop their own grassroots support on the local level,” Abrams says.

Abrams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Cal Poly Pomona and a Masters of Library Science degree from San Jose State University. She is currently studying to become more knowledgeable in all aspects of operating public libraries, using the Commission’s publications and taking advantage of WebJunction Idaho courses offered through the Commission at no charge to Idaho library staff and trustees.

Abrams notes. “I’ll spend my first few months introducing myself to library directors and boards and

they now have a son who is 27 and a 21-year-old daughter.

When he’s not working on library-related issues, Noble stays busy running his engineering and surveying company and developing his hydroelectric alternative energy company.

hearing about their successes and challenges. I am looking forward to assisting them in whatever way I can.”

Erica Compton is the new projects coordinator at the Commission for Libraries, joining Stephanie Bailey-White and Staci Shaw on the Read to Me team. This is Compton’s first opportunity to work within the library services field. Her background is in education; she has a BA in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education and holds an Idaho teaching certificate.

“As a projects coordinator, I will have the opportunity to work with all of the components of the Read To Me project,” Compton said. “I am also looking forward to joining the Teens and Tech team as they continue to develop and grow the program.” Compton, an Idaho native, is excited about the opportunity to impact the lives of Idaho children and their families through the comprehensive literacy programs at the Commission.

The Envoy trustee newsletter is published quarterly and mailed to all library directors and trustees that are listed in the ICFL library directory.

The Envoy is also available as a PDF at:

<http://libraries.idaho.gov/publications/trustee-news>



Community Support Pays Off Big for Garden Valley

The air was full of anticipation on March 20, the first day of spring, as nearly 100 Garden Valley residents turned out for a new library groundbreaking. The ceremony began with the national anthem, led by the Community Choir. The music and the majestic backdrop provided the perfect setting and matched the exhilaration of the spectators.

Library board president Richard Wilson invited community partners—including the trustees, Friends of the Library, Garden Valley Recreation District board members, and library director Kathy Smith—up to the podium, which was staged on the future location of the library’s foyer. Wilson said, “It’s been a long, long road to get to today: getting the bond passed, finally getting a site selected, and then almost a year in getting it purchased. We’re finally ready to start digging in the dirt...”

Several spectators had tears in their eyes, including Barbara Pond, retired Boise school librarian, who said, “I can just picture books on the shelves growing like fruit on a tree.”

Director Kathy Smith talked about how the idea for a new library got started. “In the early 2000s, Friends of the Library president Deanna Stevenson and I went to the [Idaho Commission for Libraries’] Summer Institute in Moscow. Our collaborative project was to come up with something we could present to our community. So we figured out how we might be able to pass a bond and then we had the sketch

of the library drawn out. Deanna had seen a barn-type school in Emmett that she really liked, and we patterned it after that.”

Since then, hundreds and hundreds of hours have been poured into the project, which was supported through the years by the Village Associates, Les Bois Credit Union, and the City of Crouch. Most recently, the library partnered with the Garden Valley Recreation District to purchase one acre of parkland on the bench overlooking the City of Crouch as the site for the new library. “The Garden Valley community has always been a very big supporter of the library,” librarian Diane Messick said. Now the community is about to see their dream become a reality.

“This means a great deal to the community,” explains Wilson. “Libraries are very important to a community: a place to gather, a place to share things, a place for information. With the community room we’ll have in the library we can meet a lot of community needs and be a big part of what goes on here in Garden Valley.”

Meanwhile, back at the current library, well-loved but overcrowded, Messick says, “I’m excited about having room to do things in...to be able to put a new book on the shelf without having to take two off.” And everyone is excited by the prospect of a new library, linked to the park and the city by a trail and by a history of partners that care about their community.

“We can meet a lot of community needs and be a big part of what goes on here in Garden Valley.”
-Library board president
Richard Wilson



The Community Choir opens the ceremony with the Star Spangled Banner



Director Kathy Smith, board chair Richard Wilson, and others break ground amid cheers from the spectators



Reviewing the plans:
The new library will be just under 7,000 sq. ft.
Current library is about 1,200 sq. ft.

Update on broadband grant program for public libraries

The Commission’s work with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Opportunity Online Broadband grant program has progressed well. We submitted our Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on March 15, 2010.

The Foundation has thus far supported our project with an onsite consultant to help the Commission develop a competitive BTOP application. If our application makes it to the “due diligence” phase, in which NTIA requests more information, the Foundation will provide additional consultant assistance. If our BTOP project is funded, the Foundation will provide

matching funds—including some earmarked for training and support for public libraries applying for e-rate discounts to sustain their improved broadband connections into the future.

If our BTOP project is awarded, the Commission will receive federal funds to:

- Upgrade Internet connectivity in at least 55 public library facilities to as much as 10 Mbps,
- Provide more public access computers to those 55 libraries,
- Provide, in partnership with other state agencies, statewide access to new online resources for K-14 education, workforce development, and e-government services—supported with public information campaigns and end-

user training,

- Extend the reach of our partners’ current services into libraries through upgraded Internet and computing capacity, and
- Deliver training to public libraries in the use of the new online resources.

We appreciate the rapid and enthusiastic responses we have received from libraries to our requests for more data about their current resources and needs. With the Foundation’s support and BTOP funding, Idaho public libraries have an unprecedented opportunity to improve access to high quality technology and provide broadband access for their patrons that is affordable, sustainable, and scalable to meet future needs.

LSTA grant approvals

At its February 19 regular Board Meeting, the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners approved all five of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant applications submitted for FY2010 funding, in accordance with the conditions stated in the State Librarian’s notification of award and/or grant agreement:

- Boise School District, \$17,083 for Engage Learning with Big 6 Skills
- Challis Public Library, \$7,962 for Education Outreach 2010
- Kootenai Shoshone Area Libraries, \$70,826 for KSAL-Post Falls Equalization of Services
- Kootenai Shoshone Area Libraries, \$32,437 for Promotion of Equalization of Services

- Twin Falls Public Library, \$6,757 for Internet Basics for Seniors

For more information about these grant projects, see Board Document 10-29 at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/boarddoc/bymeeting/2010-02-19>. For more information about LSTA and other funding go to <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/funding>.

ICFL Budget Update

Senate Bill 1429, Appropriations for Idaho Commission for Libraries, passed on March 26. The bill makes our holdbacks (8.5%) for FY2010 official and sets our FY2011 budget:

- There is no increase in funding for Read to Me for FY2011 (to restore what we cut this year).

- There is a one-time reduction in LiLI-D funding (as we requested) to reflect our change in contract year from January-December to July-June, with intent language to restore funding to the full amount in FY2012.

At this time we plan to hold open one vacant consultant position

to meet the additional holdback (equivalent to six days of furlough) required of all state agencies. A librarian position, vacant since last July, is also being held open. The four full-time positions that we held vacant most of last year to help meet reductions have been removed from the books.



Updated trustee manual is now available online!

The Idaho Trustee Manual for public libraries is now available at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/trustees>. The manual has been updated and links to many valuable resources. The first page is the Table of Contents, which will take you to a specific page when you click on the subject. To return to the Table of Contents, you can click on the

Table of Contents graphic at the bottom of each page. The manual is available online only.

You will find this to be a powerful resource in the management of your library. Be sure to bookmark it so you can easily return! If you have specific questions, contact your regional field consultant.

Field consultants:

North Idaho—Jan Wall

jan.wall@libraries.idaho.gov

Eastern Idaho—Frank Nelson

frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov

Southwestern Idaho—Anne Abrams

anne.abrams@libraries.idaho.gov

Idaho Library Snapshot Day: April 13

What would Idaho be like if there were no libraries? The American Library Association (ALA) has designated April as “Library Snapshot Month” (see www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/advocacy/statelocalefforts/snapshotday/index.cfm). The Idaho Library Association (ILA) needs your help taking a “snapshot” of a typical day in the life of Idaho’s libraries. Idaho Snapshot Day will be held Tuesday

April 13, and ILA requests that libraries across the state record and report their statistics for that day—how many people come through the doors, how many items are checked out, etc. Although April 13 is the official Idaho Snapshot Day, if that doesn’t work for your library, you can pick any day between April 11 and April 24 for Snapshot Day. ILA will send libraries an

online form ahead of time via the LibIdaho listserv so they can see the kinds of data to collect. The results are sure to capture the dramatic impact that Idaho libraries have on our communities in a typical day.

Please contact Erica Littlefield at elittlefield@lib.tfid.org if you have any questions. ILA looks forward to seeing your “snapshots” in April.

Idaho Meth Project Plans for Paint the State 2010

The Idaho Meth Project will soon unveil a statewide public art contest—Paint the State—that encourages Idaho teens to create artistic representations of the dangers of methamphetamine use. Idaho teens ages 13–18 will have the opportunity to create highly visible public art that communicates a strong anti-Meth message surrounding the theme: “Not Even Once.”

Winners will be selected by local judging panels and \$3,000 in prizes will be awarded in each of Idaho’s 44 counties: \$1,500 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd place, and \$500 for 3rd place. First place winners from

all counties will compete for the statewide Grand Prize of \$5,000. All winners will be announced at a special art gala featuring Governor C. L. “Butch” and First Lady Lori Otter in Boise on August 6.

Paint the State will officially kick off on April 19, and the Idaho Meth Project is asking libraries across the state to help promote this program within their local communities. They request support from libraries in the following ways:

- Display posters and flyers at your middle school, junior high, high school, or public library.
- Encourage teens that you interact

with at your library to participate in this contest.

- Ask any teen-based councils associated with your library to develop an entry for Paint the State.

Idaho Meth Project staff will hand deliver or mail flyers and posters to all public libraries during the next few weeks. Flyers and posters will also be available at several of the regional ILA Spring Conferences.

If you have any additional ideas for how to promote Paint the State in your local community, please contact Megan Ronk at the Idaho Meth Project at 208-331-2060 or mronk@idahomethproject.org.

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Workshops: Mining for Information on WebJunction Idaho

By Shirley Biladeau

Does learning always end up at the bottom of your list? Need to set aside time to learn? Come join your library colleagues at ICFL's upcoming workshops and explore the content and continuing education opportunities offered by WebJunction. The morning session will focus on navigating and finding content on WebJunction.

The afternoon session will be a group learning class where we will actually take a class, discover the value of group learning, and then reflect on how the new knowledge can be used in your life and library. You may register for one or both workshops.

By the end of the session you will have an active account with

WebJunction Idaho, be familiar with various navigation tools, and have a list of tips to maximize the benefits of self-directed learning. Register today for a training near you: <http://libraries.idaho.gov/webjunction>.

Boise: Monday, May 10

Idaho Commission for Libraries
River Room

Gooding: Friday, May 14

Gooding High School Library

Caldwell: Monday, May 17

Caldwell Public Library,

Blackfoot: Thursday, May 20 and

Friday, May 21

Blackfoot Public Schools
Training Center

Burley: Thursday, May 27

Burley Public Library

Lewiston: Wednesday, June 2

Lewis Clark State College
Workforce Training Center

Post Falls: Thursday, June 3

North Idaho College Workforce
Training Center

For the Boise, Gooding, Caldwell, and Burley sessions, which have wireless access, you are welcome to bring your own laptop.

For trainings to be held at McCall (May 24 and 25) and Bonners Ferry (June 4), contact me at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov, 208-639-4149, or 1-800-458-3271.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact me. Hope to see you in May or early June!