

THE Envoy

Vol. 2, No. 3, Summer 2010



Commissioner Pete Black retires

After thirteen years of service to the Idaho library community and the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL), Board of Commissioners Chair Pete Black has retired.

Black also served 31 years as a teacher and elementary school librarian in the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District and then three years as their public information officer.

Black was elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in November of 1982. He won the assistant minority leadership spot in 1986 and was also appointed to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) that year. Black retired from the legislature in 1996 and subsequently was appointed to the ICFL (then the Idaho State Library) Board of Commissioners in 1997.



Commissioner Pete Black presides over a board meeting one last time

Black's experiences as teacher, librarian, and legislator informed his work as an ICFL Commissioner and gave him insights into budget, funding, technology, and education. "We've benefited from the experience that Pete brought to the board, and we'll miss the knowledge and humor he shared at our meetings," Joslin said. "We wish him all the best in his retirement and many enjoyable adventures ahead."

At the June 11, 2010, Board meeting, State Librarian Ann Joslin presented Black with a plaque "in recognition and appreciation of his service and contributions to the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho library community." Of his time on the Board of Commissioners Black said, "It really has been fun. I loved carrying the library budgets out of JFAC and this seemed like a logical step. [A seat on the Board] was available; I applied and was appointed. The Commission is a wonderful agency. I marvel at the leadership here and what a great job everybody does."



State Librarian Ann Joslin presents a plaque to Commissioner Pete Black in recognition of his contributions from 1997 to 2010

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Idaho Commission for Libraries

325 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83702-6055
208-334-2150;
800-458-3271
<http://libraries.idaho.gov>

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/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
- Glynda Pflieger, school library 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

Broadband grant program update

On March 15, ICFL submitted a Public Computing Center (PCC) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant proposal, “High Quality Public Computing in Idaho Libraries,” to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Objectives

The objectives of the BTOP project are to:

- increase connectivity rates in the least connected public libraries
- upgrade public computing resources in those libraries
- leverage partnerships to offer services in education, workforce development, and e-government

We have completed the “Due Diligence” phase of our application evaluation and we continue to plan for what we hope will be approval of our project.

Updating the candidate pool Connectivity speed

ICFL is in the process of updating the candidate pool for the BTOP project, using data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) consumer broadband MLAB test. Even if a public library was on our initial list of those with 5 Mbps or less, they were required to run an MLAB connectivity speed test (available on www.broadband.gov) and send documentation to ICFL by July 2.

If libraries weren’t on our initial candidate list, and the community meets other demographic criteria,

they were encouraged to send in connectivity test results to provide more current measures of connectivity speed. *Any* library that wanted to be considered for the PCC project, including those that submitted letters of commitment, were required to submit a copy of the test results to ICFL by July 2.

Demographic criteria

Low connectivity speed is only the first factor in defining the candidate pool for the computer and connectivity upgrades. As defined by NTIA—the funding source—PCC projects are to address the needs of vulnerable populations. In our BTOP project, libraries that serve higher percentages of minority populations and/or those with special needs, high unemployment, low income, and/or low education levels will receive higher priority than those whose community demographics include few vulnerable populations.

This PCC project, if funded, will require serious commitment from the participating libraries, and not every library that has low connectivity and a high percentage of vulnerable populations may choose to make that commitment.

You can find out more about our broadband proposal at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/broadband-grant-program>.

Round 2 BTOP award announcements have begun and we could hear about our proposal any time between now and September.

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>



E-rate funding in public libraries

The Schools and Libraries Program of the Universal Service Fund, commonly known as the E-rate program, is administered by the Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) of the Universal Service Administrative Company under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Through the E-rate program, discounts are made available to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunication services, Internet access, internal connections, and basic maintenance

of internal connections. Discounts for support depend on the level of poverty and the urban/rural status of the population served. Discounts range from 20% to 90% of the costs of eligible services.

In 2009-2010, thirty-three Idaho public libraries applied and were funded. So far in Wave 1 of 2010 E-rate funding, 40 libraries have received funding commitments.

For more information visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/e-rate/>

or www.universalservice.org/sl/about/overview-program.aspx.

E-Rate Funding in Idaho Public Libraries: 5 Years at a Glance	
FY06	137,797
FY07	98,990
FY08	125,370
FY09	137,840
FY10 so far	127,889
Total	\$627,886

ICFL adds school library consultant to staff

The Commission welcomes Glynda Pflieger as the school library consultant. This new position at ICFL was developed to provide consulting services, support, and materials to meet the developmental needs of Idaho’s school library media center community.

Pflieger will begin by assessing, in collaboration with other ICFL staff and stakeholders, how school library staff can best take advantage of services currently offered by the Commission. She will also begin work on a School Library Development Action Plan.



“Transforming Life After 50” Fellows announced

Eighteen applicants from Idaho libraries have been selected as Fellows in the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Western Regional Fellowship, Transforming Life After 50. The Fellowship will introduce 93 public library professionals from 11 states to a new framework for serving and engaging adults ages 50+.

“The response from Idaho has been enthusiastic,” said State Librarian Ann Joslin. “Librarians from Hayden in the north to Marsing in the southwest to Chubbuck

in the southeast will develop promising practices and practical tools to shape their libraries into cornerstone resources for productive aging.” The following libraries have participating fellows:

- Ada Community Library
- Benewah County Library
- Boise Public Library
- Burley Public Library
- Coeur d’Alene Public Library
- DeMary Memorial Library
- Idaho Commission for Libraries
- Jerome Public Library
- Kootenai-Shoshone Area Libraries

- Lewiston City Public Library
- Lizard Butte District Library
- Marshall Public Library
- Portneuf District Library
- Post Falls Public Library
- Snake River School Community Library
- Twin Falls Public Library

The Fellowship runs from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 and is funded by a grant from the IMLS Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program. For more information visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/transforming-life-after-50>.

A closer look at new Read to Me (RTM) research

A comprehensive evaluation of the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Read to Me programs was conducted during the 2008–2009 program cycle. Results clearly showed the programs had positive effects.

For the 2009–2010 Read to Me program cycle, a follow-up

telephone survey of parents and caregivers involved in either the First Book program or the Every Child Ready to Read Family Workshops was conducted by Boise State University professor and researcher Dr. Roger Stewart. The survey showed that both programs have sustained positive

impacts on parents, caregivers, and children across many months and there is evidence that the programs have sustained positive impacts over considerable spans of time.

View the complete interim report at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/files/Interim-Report-March-2010.pdf>.

Record number of libraries to participate in RTM First Book Program

A record number of Idaho libraries will participate in the 2010–2011 Read to Me (RTM) First Book program, providing approximately 2,500 children with a book each month during the upcoming school year.

Along with the book, a monthly parent newsletter provides information on activities that expand the book sharing time and includes rhymes, music, and fun activities for each age group.

“We were able to fund every application and are thrilled that so many children will be reached with this program,” Idaho Commission for Libraries Project Coordinator Staci Shaw said. The Read to Me program has sponsored First Book since 1997 with state funding. Since, 2008 Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds have also been used, to reach more children. The 32 libraries

participating this year are partnering with local Head Start agencies, daycares, developmental preschool programs, and schools to reach children ages birth to six who are unlikely to have many books or a library card.

To see a list of all the participating libraries and learn more about the program, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/first-book>.

Fred Meyer Corporation again funds Books for Summer Readers

This year, like last year, the Idaho Commission for Libraries distributed books to participating libraries to be given away to children who attend their Summer Reading programs. These books, purchased with “Books for Summer Readers Program” grant funding

from the Fred Meyer Corporation, helped stretch the limited budgets of 115 libraries. The \$10,000 grant funded over 5,000 books.

The total number of books each library received was based on a formula related to how many

summer readers the library reported to the Commission on their 2009 Summer Reading statistic report.

Librarians report that books are strong motivators for many children to participate in Summer Reading and reach their reading goals.

The Let's Talk About It (LTAI) program

Idaho libraries have provided Let's Talk About It (LTAI) programs to their communities since 1985. LTAI brings together humanities scholars and adult readers in public libraries to discuss literature that explores American values, history, and culture.

Twenty-one libraries applied to participate in the Fall 2010 and Winter/Spring 2011 programs and there was funding for 15 libraries. To see a list of the funded libraries visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it>.

The Let's Talk About It program is made possible by the Idaho Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a generous gift from U.S. Bank. LTAI is administered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries.



Disappointing election results

North Bingham County District Library

The first ever bond election for the North Bingham County District Library— a 20-year, 4.39 million dollar bond to build a new library –failed on May 25, 2010. For a \$150,000 home, taxes would have increased about \$50 per year. According to the library,

464 (40.5%) voted *yes*, while 683 (59.5%) voted *no*. The bond needed a super-majority of 67% to pass. Although the bond did not pass, the library was appreciative of the wonderful voter turnout.

Franklin County District (Larsen-Sant) Library

The Larsen-Sant Public Library

permanent levy election also failed on May 25, with 362 (56%) voting *yes* and 280 (44%) voting *no*. A super-majority was needed to pass. The library had hoped to replace their two-year temporary override levy with one that would be part of their base budget.

Idaho Library Snapshot Day: April 2010

Forty-five libraries chose one day between April 11 and April 24 to send their statistics to the Idaho Library Association (ILA) for Idaho Library Snapshot Day. These 45 libraries included:

- 28 public libraries
- 11 school libraries
- 4 academic libraries
- 2 medical libraries

View a brief but inspiring video of

Idaho Library Snapshot Day at www.idaholibraries.org/node/675.

Here are some statistics of one day in Idaho’s libraries:

- 26,966 people visited
- 29,925 items were checked out
- 629 books were borrowed through Interlibrary loan
- 209 people signed up for a card
- 1,938 reference questions answered

- 23 people got help with resumes
- 41 people got help with job searches
- 5,231 people used computers
- 1,678 people attended programs
- 37 people attended computer/technology classes
- 108 people attended other classes (homework/tutoring, ESL)
- 1,370 students came with their class
- 20 community groups used meeting rooms

Stay in the loop: subscribe to LibIdaho, the listserv for Idaho libraries

LibIdaho is an email discussion list for people interested in all aspects of libraries in Idaho. Membership is not limited to librarians or Idaho residents, but the list is likely of greatest interest to those who are working in libraries in Idaho. All posts represent the opinions of the poster and are to be on topics relevant to Idaho libraries.

LibIdaho is provided by the Idaho Library Association (ILA). ILA welcomes diversity of opinions and respectful discussion. You do not need to be a member of ILA or ALA to join this distribution list.

To subscribe to LibIdaho, go to <http://lists.ala.org/wvs/info/libidaho> and click on *Subscribe* in

the left sidebar, and then click *OK* when the dialogue box comes up. Enter your email address and click *Submit*.

For more information about the LibIdaho listserv or to view the updated LibIdaho policy, visit www.idaholibraries.org/libidaho.

ILA Annual Conference October 6-9

The 2010 annual conference of the Idaho Library Association (ILA) will be October 6–9 in Post Falls at the Red Lion Templin’s Hotel on the River. The ILA conference is a

great way to network with your peers and share ideas. For more information on the conference schedule visit www.idaholibraries.org/conferences.



The 2010 theme is Libraries: Bridging the Divide

Idaho Commission for Libraries
325 W. State St.
Boise, ID 83702-6055



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WESTPAS Disaster Planning Workshop

By Shirley Biladeau

Do you know how well your disaster response plan will work in a real disaster situation? The WESTPAS "Are You Ready?" workshop will:

- help you assess your vulnerabilities.
- test your plan using a scenario table-top exercise.
- explore how collaborations can help you respond to a disaster.
- build a shared vision for regional disaster preparedness.

Workshop locations

- **North Idaho (Spokane)**
September 17, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Gilkey Community Room
2316 W. First Avenue
Spokane, WA 99201

- **Southwestern / South Central / Eastern Idaho (Boise)**
October 20, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Idaho Commission for Libraries
325 West State Street
Boise, ID 83702

Register for either workshop at:
<http://westpas.org/courses.html>
(Boise registration to open soon)

When possible, send two or three participants with the following roles from your library or archive to work together:

- staff member(s) responsible for emergency preparedness
- administrator or manager responsible for the building or collection
- key members of the emergency/disaster team responsible for decision-making

Requirements for attendance:

- a written disaster plan (a draft is okay) that includes collections response/recovery
- a letter of institutional commitment to explore collaboration to optimize preparedness
- a completed 3-page vulnerability assessment (distributed three weeks before the workshop)

Everyday Ethics

Find out more about Everyday Ethics for Libraries through a series of webinar archives and other resources hosted by Kansas State Library. You can access the archives and handouts by going to <http://ks.webjunction.org/742> and explore how library professional ethics impact library operations, policies, customer service, and more.