Broadband grant program update

The Idaho Commission for Libraries’ (ICFL) work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Opportunity Online broadband grant program is progressing well. We submitted a draft of our Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) application to the Foundation on February 18. The full application must be submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) by March 15, 2010.

The Foundation’s support is in the form of an onsite consultant to help the Commission develop a competitive proposal for the BTOP and, if our BTOP proposal is funded, matching funds and training to help public libraries secure additional e-rate funding to sustain their improved broadband connections into the future. If our application makes it to the “due diligence” phase in which NTIA requests additional information, the Gates Foundation may provide additional consultant assistance. 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 (from a median rate of 500 Kbps).
• Provide more public access computers to as many facilities as funding permits.
• Provide, in partnership with other state agencies, statewide licenses to new online resources targeting children, un- and under-employed, and adult learners—supported with public information campaigns and end-user training.
• Extend the reach of our partners’ current programs for un- and under-employed and low-skill workers into libraries through upgraded Internet and computing capacity.
• 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, 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.
Idaho School Library Impact Study-2009: The final report


The Commission contracted to have this study done and the Idaho Department of Education endorsed it. The purpose was to examine the following:

- the relationships that administrators and teachers have with their librarians
- how school libraries and librarians are valued and perceived
- how those relationships and perceptions affect libraries and their impact on students’ academic achievement.

The report identifies how Idaho school libraries contribute to student success. Responses from 1,082 librarians, teachers, and principals indicated which library services and programs they valued. In addition, the survey asked to what degree administrators believed their staff were teaching Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) skills. The authors then looked at how those perceptions related to student achievement based upon ISAT scores.

The bottom-line is that students are more likely to succeed and excel when librarians play active and collaborative roles with other teachers and with administrators.

Based upon the findings, the study recommends that:

- Administrators foster the creation of schedules, facilities, and relationships that enable librarians to be “resident” providers of in-service professional development to teachers.
- Teachers turn to librarians as instructional support, curricular/instructional resource managers, and technology integrators and troubleshooters.
- Librarians be receptive to collaboration, especially to teach or co-teach, and be proactive in inviting teachers to in-service learning opportunities to improve their ICT skills.

Of the completed study Ann Joslin said, “We’ve known all along how important school libraries are. Now this study provides us with good research data specifically about Idaho school libraries that indicate the valuable role libraries play in student achievement.”

Idaho is one of 20 states that have completed similar studies and the results are expected to be widely reported in library and educational journals and forums. View or download the full report and an executive summary from our website at: http://libraries.idaho.gov/doc/idaho-school-library-impact-study-2009.
Let’s Talk About It: 25 years and going strong

Idaho libraries have been bringing Let’s Talk About It (LTAI) reading and discussion programs to their communities for 25 years. The programs bring together humanities scholars and adult readers in public libraries to read and discuss fine literature that explores American values, history, and culture.

The LTAI project, a partnership between the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Humanities Council (IHC), began in 1985 with six pilot program series in southwestern Idaho. In 1984, representatives from the Commission (then the Idaho State Library), the Association for Humanities in Idaho, and the Idaho Library Association attended national training and submitted a successful grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities. They proposed funding the creation of humanities-based programs for adults that could be easily replicated in rural Idaho communities.

Peggy McClendon was hired to coordinate the pilot and to write a grant proposal for future funding. During the past 25 years, LTAI programs have been held in over 80 communities across the state, from Bonners Ferry in the tip of the northern panhandle to Montpelier in the southeastern corner of the state.

The program is modeled after the national Let’s Talk About It project developed by the American Library Association. The partnership between the Commission and IHC, along with funding support from US Bancorp for the past twelve years, has enabled over 100 libraries, more than 275 program scholars, and thousands of readers to participate in LTAI programs across the state. Typically, fifteen Idaho public libraries are selected annually to participate. Participating libraries host a series of five programs, each featuring a book participants read prior to the program that is related to the series theme. At each program, a guest speaker presents information on the book and author as it relates to the theme. Following the presentation, participants engage in discussion.

LTAI programs are mainly held in rural communities where adults have fewer resources and opportunities for education. Program participants expand their reading interests, meet new people, and explore important cultural issues in the context of their own lives and the lives of others. Program speakers are experts in various humanities fields. They enjoy meeting avid readers in Idaho's rural communities and gain perspective on literature that enriches their teaching and research.

For a quarter of a century, McClendon administered the LTAI program. About the program’s success she said, “Without the enthusiastic participation of Idaho public libraries as program sponsors and the ongoing support of the ‘Road Scholars,’ the Let’s Talk About It project could not have thrived for 25 years.” In 1994, the IHC honored McClendon with its award for “Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities” for all she did for the Let’s Talk About It program.

Since McClendon’s retirement from the Commission in December 2009, Betty Hoffman has been responsible for coordination of the project, including program scheduling, monitoring payment of honoraria/travel invoices, and communicating with libraries.

Monday, April 26, 2010 is the deadline to apply for the Fall 2010 and Winter-Spring 2011 Let’s Talk About It programs. Funding is available for fifteen libraries to participate. Participating libraries provide a $100 cash match.

For more information and the application go to http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/lets-talk-about-it.

I’m happy to be involved in the program and to have the privilege of being with these [librarians] in their libraries and with their groups. Let’s Talk About It is a valuable and important program, and I thank the state library for allowing me to be part of it.

- Leslie Leek, Author of Heart of a Western Woman, a short story collection, and Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies, Idaho State University

Betty Hoffman, who is coordinating the FY2010 Let’s Talk About It program, has been at the Commission since January 2009 and currently is the Office Services Supervisor.
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.

Compton has been involved with various educational and training companies and organizations for over 20 years. Much of her work experience has been in the area of STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with students ages 6-18. Women are traditionally under-represented in STEM fields of study and she says she was fortunate to work on two incredible projects in California and Florida that were designed to address this issue. Both projects focused on introducing middle school girls to STEM education, with the goal of increasing the percentage of women pursuing careers in STEM-related fields.

“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.” As an Idaho native, Compton is excited about the opportunity to impact the lives of Idaho children and their families through the comprehensive literacy programs at the Commission.

Anne Abrams is assuming field consultant responsibilities for southwestern and south central public libraries. If her name sounds familiar, that’s because she has 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. “Library advocacy comes as naturally for me as writing,” Abrams says. “I’ll move my focus from facilitating statewide projects to helping libraries develop their own grassroots support on the local level.”

Abrams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communications from Cal Poly Pomona and Masters of Library Science degree from San Jose State University. But she is studying to become more knowledgeable in all aspects of operating public libraries using the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ publications.

She also took advantage of WebJunction Idaho courses offered through the Commission at no charge to Idaho library staff. “I’ve completed a self-paced course covering library director duties and have enrolled in others covering trustee responsibilities and management issues.

“It’s a great time to start this position,” Abrams notes. “I’ll spend my first few months introducing myself to library directors and boards and hearing about their successes and challenges. I am looking forward to assisting them in whatever way I can.”
How SPLAT changed one teacher librarian’s life, and her school district’s Internet policy

“SPLAT [Special Projects Library Action Team] really has changed my life,” begins Glynda Pflieger, teacher librarian in the Melba School District. “SPLAT 101 was my first introduction to Web 2.0 tools.” After taking the course, Pflieger set up RSS feeds and began following two blogs: Boise State professor Barbara Schroeder’s “Technology Teacher” and David Warlick’s “2¢ Worth.” After listening to Warlick at a School Board Conference, she ordered his book *Blogging in the Classroom*. That book, SPLAT, and Schroeder’s video “Google Apps for Education” inspired Pflieger to collaborate with her colleagues to change the way that Melba School District uses technology.

Initially, the high school principal approved students (seniors only) using email and Google docs for a LiLI Databases lesson. Other teachers interested in using email in the classroom approached the principal, who then asked Pflieger to represent the teachers and present their request to the technology committee. After hearing the teachers’ presentation, which included Schroeder’s video, the technology committee agreed that teachers and students needed access to online tools. They voted unanimously to revise the Internet policy and send it to the school board for approval. Pflieger uploaded their current policy to Google docs and, as a group, they used the tool to revise the policy. The school board passed the policy on the second reading—allowing social networks, online applications, blogging, and streaming video.

Using one form of social media often leads to acceptance of other media. The first teachers to start using the Google calendar are the ones whose students are now blogging. Some reluctant teachers are coming on board because learning how to use Google calendar gives them an advantage for scheduling library time: If a teacher will use the calendar, Pflieger gives them privileges to schedule the library on their own.

The high school has already implemented many of the newly allowed tools: for Melba’s Mustang Readers to go on a field trip, they need to set up a blog in Class Blogmeister and blog about a Young Reader’s Choice Award book or one related to a previous field trip; students are blogging for their senior projects; and creative writing students are uploading their videos to YouTube.

Working in Shelfari, the social media site for book lovers, will be a requirement for the Mustang Readers’ next field trip to Borders. They have to create a Shelfari account and write a review on the last book they got at Borders. Pflieger was nervous about making this a requirement. “It’s one thing to put it in policy, but another to make it a requirement,” she said. But, the high school principal supported the idea. And recently for the high school’s dating violence awareness program, Mustang Readers created a “No Means Know” Shelfari Group where they add books that demonstrate healthy and unhealthy relationships.

“One of most important things students need to learn about social media is safety,” Pflieger explains. “For instance, for setting up an account in Shelfari I used Jing to develop a tutorial of a three-step process so the students don’t receive emails or book requests through their account. Teacher librarians need to start working on social media with students. You can’t stop with ‘It’s not allowed in our school.’ Students must learn how to use these tools safely. You need to start the conversation with your teachers and administrators.”

The change in Internet policy and technology use in the Melba School District is a great example of group effort and collaboration. The high school and middle school principals have been supportive and teachers have been motivated. As a group they were able to make it happen.

Glynda Pflieger, Melba High School Teacher Librarian

For more information, attend Pflieger’s presentation “Web 2.0 for Integrating Technology with Students’ Passion for Reading” at the SWILA Spring Conference April 14, or check out the links below.

**Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT)**—http://splat.lili.org/
**Melba Middle-High School Library Information Center**— http://melbams.lili.org/ (You can view the Shelfari tutorial, and links to many teacher resources.)
**Melba District Internet Policy**—www.melbaschools.org/MSD/attachments/270_POL%5E698.pdf
**Flipcam interview with Pflieger**—www.youtube.com/watch?v=550p_1EVPRY
**14 Ways K-12 Librarians Can Teach Social Media by Joyce Valenza**—www.techlearning.com/article/23558
**Dave Warlick’s 2¢ Worth blog**—http://davidwarlick.com/2cents/
**Barbara Schroeder’s Technology Teacher blog**—http://itcboisestate.wordpress.com/
New Kill-A-Watt Energy Efficiency Kits Lending Program

Inspired by a similar program taking place in the State of Georgia, the Idaho Commission for Libraries proposed a project to Idaho Power, Avista Utilities, and Rocky Mountain Power—the three largest electricity providers in Idaho. The purpose of the program is to help Idahoans who may be trying to save money and/or trying to cut down on energy consumption. Energy Efficiency Kits will be available in public libraries in May, where they can be borrowed by library users.

Each kit will contain a Kill-A-Watt™ meter (Model P4400 from P3 International) and a booklet with energy-savings tips and information about residential energy efficiency programs offered by the utility companies. In addition, users will be directed to a central project website to learn more about energy savings or link to their local utility provider for more information. Each of the utilities has programs that help residential customers save on their power bills.

Users can connect electrical appliances to the meter, which then calculates power consumption by the kilowatt-hour. Using the data from the meter and the included energy savings ideas, users can identify ways to reduce utility expenses.

The three power companies are providing the funding for the meters and related supplies, and the Commission is providing the administrative support to coordinate kit assembly, distribution, and evaluation activities.

Commission staff and staff at the utility companies are excited about this new opportunity to work together. If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact gina.persichini@libraries.idaho.gov or 208-334-2150.

Support staff certification program accepting candidates

The American Library Association-Allied Professional Association (ALA-APA) is accepting applications from potential candidates interested in achieving the Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC). The LSSC Program is the first national, voluntary certification program for library support staff. This new certification program will help library support staff achieve recognition for current and new skills and abilities, and increase access to continuing education opportunities.

ALA-APA will award the LSSC to candidates who demonstrate achievement in six sets of competencies by completing approved courses or submitting portfolios that demonstrate their achievement. Candidates have four years from acceptance to complete the program.

The LSSC Program is open to any library support staff person with a high-school diploma or its equivalent and the equivalent of at least one year of full-time experience in a library within the last five years. Applicants do not have to be a member of ALA. The application fee is $325 for ALA members and $350 for non-ALA members.

Funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, ALA developed the LSSC over the past three years.
New Technologies and New Literacies for Teens-2010

The Idaho Commission for Libraries offered public and school librarians an exciting opportunity this winter. A cohort of 20 people participated in an online class February 1-28, 2010 to learn how teens’ use of technology to play, learn, and create improves their text-based literacy skills. Class participants also met face-to-face in Boise both before and after the online course. ICFL partnered with YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) to offer this training opportunity.

The course examined what technologies library staff should know about to support teen interest in building community online. Library staff became familiar with the tools and techniques teens use to communicate and collaborate online and discovered how to inform their own community about best practices that support teens’ technology-based print literacies.

Participants in the series had the opportunity to talk with others about teen use of technology and how that use improves literacy skills. They also had the chance to create a framework for a program or service at their library that supports teen technology-based print literacy.

ICFL expanded the online learning by hosting two day-long meetings in Boise where participants discussed and developed programs or services for their teens to be held during Teen Tech Week (March 7-13, 2010).

Course participants were supported by mentors from both school and public libraries who have implemented a program for teens. Mentors shared information and provided hands-on support. Participants partnered with staff from another school and/or public library.

If you are interested in learning more about teens and technology, check our website at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/teen-tech-week. And be sure to check back in November 2010 to register for the 2011 class.

Deadline for Transforming Life After 50 Fellowship is April 2

The year-long Transforming Life After 50 Fellowship—funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program—will provide continuing education scholarships for selected public library staff who wish to advance their library and information science skills related to improving services to active, older adults.

Idaho has 10 positions to fill, so let’s make sure we use all of our spots! No previous education is required. Partnerships, such as two people from the same library or two people from neighboring libraries, are encouraged. Please consider applying or encouraging your staff to apply for this opportunity to train for programs for the fast-growing senior populations, promote productive aging, and establish libraries as centers of lifelong learning and civic engagement.

The Fellowship will run from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. If you have questions, please contact Shirley Biladeau at 208-639-4149 or shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov.

For more information and a link to the online application, go to: http://transforminglifeafter50.org/innovators/imls-fellowship.

Deadline for submission, including a Letter of Library Commitment from your current Library Director, is April 2, 2010.

Selection of Fellows will be announced June 1, 2010.
District library trustee election—important dates

The trustee election for district libraries will be on May 25. The first dates on the trustee election calendar are coming up.

If you did not notify the county clerk by November 30, 2009 of any election for your political subdivision occurring in calendar year 2010, there are additional notification requirements for your election. [See Idaho Code 34-1405 (2)].

See the table below for the timeline and applicable code for each activity. Contact your library consultant with any questions.

Timetable for District Library Trustee Elections

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5-12</td>
<td>Publish notice of petition availability and filing deadline</td>
<td>34-1405, 34-704</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Last day candidate nomination petitions accepted</td>
<td>34-1404, 34-704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>Last day to file as write-in candidate</td>
<td>33-2717A, 34-1407</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First day to declare the election of a single candidate and the cancellation of the election</td>
<td>34-1407, 33-2717</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Last day to publish first notice of election</td>
<td>34-1406</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Last day to declare the election of a single candidate and the cancellation of the election</td>
<td>33-2717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>Last day to publish last notice of election</td>
<td>34-1406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24</td>
<td>Last day (up until 5:00 p.m.) to request “non-emergency” absentee ballots</td>
<td>34-1002, 34-1408</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Trustee Election Day (8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)</td>
<td>34-106, 34-1409</td>
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Idaho Library Association (ILA) Spring Conferences coming up

Don’t forget to register for your region’s ILA Spring Conference. It looks like some wonderful presentations are being scheduled for this spring’s upcoming events. For more information go to http://www.idaholibraries.org/conferences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Region 2: Northern Idaho</td>
<td>Quality Inn</td>
<td>May 7, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clarkston, WA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 3: Southwest Idaho</td>
<td>College of Idaho</td>
<td>April 14, 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Association</td>
<td>Caldwell, ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 4 Magic Valley</td>
<td>College of Southern Idaho</td>
<td>April 6, 2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Twin Falls, ID</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regions 5 &amp; 6: Southeast and Eastern Idaho</td>
<td>Tigert Middle School</td>
<td>April 30, 2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Soda Springs, ID</td>
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Library news from around the state

Lewiston City Library
Lewiston City Library was one of 19 invited applicants selected for a grassroots financial literacy grant from the American Library Association (ALA) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) Investor Education Foundation. The grant, worth nearly $90,000, is part of ALA’s Smart investing @ your library® initiative and will help the library educate all ages about finances. The library will collaborate with area high schools to create an “Investment Day” competition for students and establish morning investment clubs to reinforce financial and investment concepts and will also develop video and audio presentations on investing and provide programs to help seniors get ready for retirement.

Garden Valley District Library
The Garden Valley District Library is having a Groundbreaking Ceremony on Saturday, March 20th at 11:00 a.m. at their new site on 83 Old Crouch Road, in Garden Valley. Their dream of a new library is about to become a reality.

Plummer Public Library
You can keep up with construction at the new Plummer Public Library at http://plummerlibrary.blogspot.com/ maintained by Paulina Freeburg, the Plummer librarian.

Idaho Community Foundation Grant Recipients
Boise Basin Library District received $3,000 to replace outdated network servers
Garden City Public Library received $2,000 to develop a toddler reading room to promote early literacy
Garden Valley District Library received $1,500 to buy shelving for the new library to be constructed this year
Homedale Public Library received $1,500 to purchase library materials for all ages
Jefferson Middle School received $2,000 to buy cultural books and DVDs for the library and host monthly cultural events in the school
Payette Public Library received $500 to provide downloadable audiobooks

Boise Public Library (Cole & Ustick)
The Library! at Cole & Ustick earned a Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification—for the design, construction, and operation of its high performance green building—from the U.S. Green Building Council. A ceremony for presentation of the Gold LEED Certification plaque was held on Tuesday, March 2. Mayor Bieter called the Cole & Ustick library “a tremendously successful addition to West Boise,” and the library’s location has been renamed “Library Plaza Shopping Center.”

Nampa Public Library
Library director Karen Ganske will retire March 16 after 32 years of dedicated service to the Nampa Public Library and the citizens of Nampa. Ganske began work at the library in 1978 and was hired as the director in 1988. In 1999 she was awarded the ILA Librarian of the Year award at the association’s annual conference.

Prairie-River Library District, Nezperce Branch
The Nezperce Community Library celebrated its Grand Opening on February 19, 2010. In November 2009, students and community members formed a line to move over 4,500 books to the new Community Center location a block away.

Got news to share about your library?
We would love to include it in The Nexus newsletter for the Idaho library community. Please send it to teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov
LSTA grant approvals

At its February 19 regular Board Meeting, the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners approved all five of the LSTA grant applications that were 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 Big6 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.

Nominations Sought for Two Seats on LSTA Advisory Council

The Idaho Board of Library Commissioners is seeking nominations for two seats on the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Advisory Council. One seat is for an At Large Member (a member from any type of library: public, school, academic, or special) from the northern Idaho area to fill a position vacated with one year remaining in the appointment. The second seat is for a Public Library representative from southwestern Idaho and is a five-year appointment.

Vicki Kreimeyer from Boise Public Library has completed one full term on the LSTA Advisory Council as a Public Library representative and is seeking a second term. There is no incumbent seeking a second term for the At Large Member position.

The LSTA Advisory Council is appointed by the Board of Library Commissioners in accordance with the Library Services and Technology Act, P.L. 104-208. The Council broadly represents the library community and library users, and serves to advise the Board on the development of the state plan for the Library Services and Technology Act, the annual LSTA program, and evaluation of LSTA grant applications and projects. The Board of Library Commissioners may also seek Council advice on other matters related to library services.

Council members, both individually and as a group, are expected to advocate for the improvement of library services in Idaho. Individual members may also be asked to represent the Council’s interest on other Commission-appointed advisory groups. More information about the Council is available at http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/advisory-council. Or contact Sonja Hudson (sonja.hudson@libraries.idaho.gov) or Marj Hooper (marj.hooper@libraries.idaho.gov) or at 208-334-2150.

The LSTA Advisory Council meets once a year in Boise for two days; additional input is solicited as needed via conference call or e-mail. Members are reimbursed for travel expenses.

Individuals interested in applying should send a letter to Ann Joslin, State Librarian, (ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov) describing his or her interest in and experience with libraries. When sending an email notice of interest, please also include a mailing address and phone number where you may be reached. Letters may also be sent to: 325 W. State St., Boise, ID, 83702.

Council members are appointed for terms of five state fiscal years (July-June). Appointments are scheduled to be made at the June 4, 2010 Board of Commissioners meeting. All letters must be received at the Idaho Commission for Libraries by 5:00 p.m. on April 30, 2010.