

THE Envoy



Vol. 1, No. 1 Winter 2009

Portneuf District board member named Trustee of the Year

Jim Tullis is honored for his 32 years of service

If retired biology professor Jim Tullis had his way, every student from Kindergarten through college would be required to take a course in “browsing.”

But not the kind of browsing you do on your computer in order to find information. The fact is, Tullis, 80, admits to a certain disdain – at least for himself -- of those new-fangled machines that can get in the way of the human touch. When he talks about browsing, he’s talking about books – specifically, library books.

“I have often thought the best way to get young people to use the library would involve a way to

somehow or another get them to browse,” Tullis said. “All the time I was a professor, one of the most exciting things for me was to go to the library and browse.”

This kind of excitement for repositories of information and stories of the hardbound type is what has kept Tullis showing up early for board meetings for the Portneuf Library District for 32 years. It also reaped him the Idaho Library Association’s Trustee of the Year post.

Actually, the truth is Tullis really isn’t against virtual collections. He said he finds great satisfaction in walking through the Portneuf Library and seeing all of the computers occupied.

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The Idaho Library Association’s Trustee of the Year for 2008 is Jim Tullis, who after more than three decades, isn’t thinking of stepping down any time soon.



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Read about valuable end-of-life information sent to libraries

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Learn how to target voting populations

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Find out how partnerships make libraries thrive

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ICFL to halt newsletters

The Envoy is your first – and possibly your last – version of the former Trustee News. Budget cut-backs in state government coupled with the resignation of this agency’s public information specialist has prompted the Idaho Commission for Libraries management team to put its newsletters

on hold. That includes *The Nexus* and *The Talking Book Newsletter* as well as *The Envoy*.

Given the current economic environment, we don’t know if or when we will be able to replace the public information specialist, whom we hired, in part, to produce our newsletters.

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Mission:

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

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- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant

TULLIS

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“You had better believe I am in favor of computers. It’s just not my thing,” he said. “I’m stubborn in that regard. I really like having a book in my lap.”

Though he always had a computer in his office at Idaho State University Library, he said he never used one to correct papers or record grades.

“I did it the old-fashioned way,” he said. “That way I could maintain a personal connection with my students.”

Through his three decades on the library board, Tullis has seen two major expansions. Two things in those major remodeling projects that he thinks put the community ahead was emphasis on making room for young people and also a community room in which various groups can meet frequently.

But though Tullis has been on the board for 32 years, there have only been two library directors during that time: Anna Green, who passed away this past year, and now Karen Tate-Pettinger.

“Everyone loved Anna Green,” he said. “And now we have Karen, who is so enthusiastic and innovative. She has done amazing things with the library, and she has been able to attract really good children’s and youth librarians.”

Tate-Pettinger, herself this year’s Librarian of the Year, nominated Tullis for his award. She said his devotion to libraries is unsurpassed, to the extent that he never misses a meeting. And only one time ever was he late for a meeting, she recalled.

“Once a few years ago he hadn’t shown up for the meeting, and he hadn’t called, either,” Tate-Pettinger said. “And that was so unusual, so we waited 20 minutes and finally started without him.

“Then 20 minutes later he showed up with a bemused expression, but he didn’t say anything. He just sat there and shuffled his papers for a long time,” she said. “Then finally he told us a squirrel had stored some apricot pits on the engine of his truck, and so when he put his foot on the accelerator, it stuck, causing a runaway truck.”

The short story of this long, terrifying ride is that after running a stop light and managing to pull into a motel parking lot, he got some help from a motel employee who knew right away why the accelerator had been stuck.

None the worse for wear, Tullis made the meeting, but “I was very, very fearful,” Tullis said. “I had my wife with me. It was a very scary situation.”

More 2008 Idaho Library Association winners:

- 2008 ILA Scholarship: Laura Abbott from Nampa Public Library;
- 2008 Gardner Hanks Scholarship: Sarah Jackson from Idaho Falls Public Library;
- 2008 Idaho Book of the Year

Award for the 2007 publication year: At Nature's Edge / Henry Whiting II. Salt Lake City : University of Utah Press, 2007; Honorable mention: Five Skies : a novel / Ron Carlson. New York : Viking, 2007;

- 2008 Friend of the Year Award: Weippe Public Library Friends of the Library Association.



End-of-life manual proves to be useful guide

For Associate State Librarian Marjorie Hooper, *The Right Choice at the Right Time* indeed came at the right time.

The manual, produced by A Better Way Coalition, Inc., (ABWC) and Idaho's state hospice organization, is a resource for people who are facing end-of-life issues. It contains real-life stories and detailed information as well as answers to frequently asked questions on the subject. It even has forms you can copy and complete for instructions on how you want your end-of-life situation(s) managed. At the end of October, all public and academic libraries and senior centers in Idaho received free copies.

It so happened the Hoopers were facing their own end-of-life issues throughout the fall, while Marjorie Hooper was examining the manual for distribution to libraries around the state. Her husband Bob, who had recently been diagnosed with cancer, was rapidly becoming sicker.

"I was living it," Marjorie Hooper said. "I looked through the manual, and it was very helpful."

Because of the information provided in the book, Marjorie went on-line and updated the couple's living wills. A living will gives instructions to health care professionals as to what advanced directives are to be followed in the event you can no longer make a decision due to illness or incapacity.

"Because Bob was going through all those surgeries, it made it easier for me to do this," Marjorie Hooper said. "I knew what we got was the latest."

So when the inevitable came late on Oct. 31 – so much sooner than anyone had ever expected – the leader of the emergency medical technician team stopped extra measures to revive Bob Hooper, as dictated by his living will.

"He asked if we had a living will, and I went and got it, flipped to that page where Bob had initialed, and the EMT said, 'That's it.' They honored the living will," Marjorie Hooper said, the tears momentarily welling in her hazel-green eyes.

Then quickly composing herself, she said, "There's this: We have legislation in this state that is in the forefront in this nation on end-of-life rights. This manual explains everything. It's an incredible resource."

She added, "This fits right in with the mission for the Commission: To help libraries help serve their clients better.

"With all the baby boomers caring for their parents, this is very timely. Plus, there are just a lot of people who need to have this conversation with their spouses."

More than 80 percent of Idahoans favor less rather than more life-support interventions when their prognosis is definitely terminal, according

to a 2006 survey by ABWC and the Boise State University Center for the Study on Aging. This result mirrors research in other states, says Jonathan Krutz, director for the Idaho State Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

"If you haven't specified with your loved ones and/or your physician what you want, then the medical system has to fall back on its default and do whatever it can to preserve life," he said. "It's never a front-burner issue. Only about one third of Idahoans have written living wills. Our over-arching goal in doing this is to get people to think about death before they find themselves in crisis situations."

A second printing in the works...

The Right Choice at the Right Time is a manual that lays out your end-of-life rights in Idaho. It also takes you through easy-to-understand steps on how to handle the various issues associated with the end of life.

Distributed in late October to all Idaho public and academic libraries, it has been such a hit that many librarians are asking how to get a second copy.

Funded by the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Inc., with help from St. Luke's and St. Alphonsus regional medical centers, the first copy was free.

A second printing is in the works, but it *won't* be free. Additional copies will be available within two months for \$20. To get an order form, contact Jonathan Krutz at jon@hospiceidaho.org.

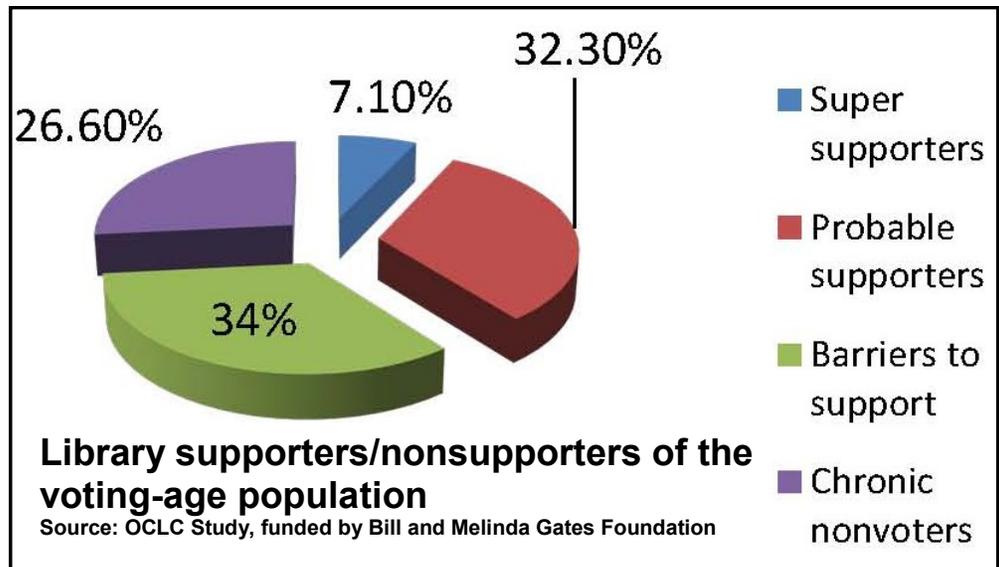
GETTING MORE MONEY FOR YOUR LIBRARY: DO YOUR HOMEWORK FIRST

The next time you prepare to launch a fund-raising campaign for something that will require voter approval, you might do well to first look at a recently released OCLC study.

Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, *From Awareness to Funding* scrutinizes voters' habits and attitudes toward library funding in America. As a trustee, one of your jobs is to engage the community in support of the library. This study will give you information that most people, including trustees, simply aren't aware of.

For instance, did you know that in Idaho, 88 percent of public library funding comes from the local level. But at the same time, that represents only 1 percent of local community operating expenditures. However, according to the study, most tax payers don't realize where library funding comes from. And did you realize that Idaho is among a minority of states that don't provide ongoing appropriations for public libraries from the state level?

Some other interesting facts presented in this research about communities of less than 200,000 include information about various segments of those populations. For example, researchers found that 26.6 percent of your population consists of



A recent OCLC study determined that 32.3 percent of the voting-age population will likely be supporters of a library bonds and levies, but 34 percent will have strong reasons for voting against increased library funding.

chronic nonvoters. So that means there simply is no point in targeting your message to those folks if you are trying to pass a bond levy.

That leaves roughly 73 percent of your local population for you to convince. Researchers found that only 7.1 percent of that population makes up what they called “super supporters” — those who will *always* vote in support of the library. They are avid readers, even though they might not use the library more than anyone else. They recognize the library as a place where people can better themselves. They see the library as a necessity for a successful community. These people are well-known, influential members of their communities. Obviously, you should recruit them to help implement your campaign.

The following includes some more interesting facts about the folks you want to get behind you:

- Most people claim they would support the library at the ballot box – *fewer are actually committed to it.*
- Most people *just don't know very much* about their public libraries.
- Those who use the library the most *aren't* the people who are the most likely to vote for increased funding.
- Perceptions of the librarian *are highly related to support.* “Passionate librarians” who are involved in the community make a difference.
- The library occupies a very clear position in people's minds as a provider of *practical answers and information.*

trustees around Idaho. Of course, one way to do that is through newsletters, both online and in hard copy.

We'd like to hear from you on the subject. Please contact the Idaho commission for Libraries .

LIBRARIES

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But we do know this much: We're in interesting times, and so we think “safe rather than sorry” is the best budget policy.

Nonetheless, it was not an easy decision, for part of our mission here is to assist libraries to better serve their clientele. A large part of that means we find information and programs to pass on to library staffs and



How partnerships can advance libraries

By Marj Hooper

What do partnerships mean for libraries and library services? What exactly does it mean for libraries to become involved with partners? Isn't it easier and more efficient to do a project on your own? Isn't it true that the more people added to a project just makes it that much more complicated? These are justifiably good questions to ask.

By definition, a partnership is a relationship that exists between two or more persons or entities who join together to carry on a trade, project, or service. Each partner contributes something to this relationship and expects to receive something in return. The partners share in the gains and the losses.

While it is not the board's responsibility to form partnerships, it is important for all board members to understand the benefits and challenges associated in working with partners. Listed below are some reasons partnerships are an important strategy for providing the best possible library services to a community.

- **Perspectives:** Partners bring new perspectives which can help to facilitate some needed changes for more responsive library services.
- **Associations:** The mere association with an influential, powerful or worthy group with whom you share values may be worth the work.
- **Resources:** Partnerships bring new resources to the library and its services. More importantly, the library has the opportunity to promote its service resources to the community.
- **Team:** The library, its staff, and board are seen as a team player in a wider variety of circumstances within the community.
- **Needs:** Responding to the many needs of a community is an awesome responsibility. Partnerships help to leverage the library's resources to meet those needs. Partnerships also provide opportunities to learn of other needs the library's services might fill.
- **Expertise:** Partnerships can bring new expertise into the library. There is also the opportunity for the expertise of library staff and services to be show-cased to the partners.
- **Responsibility:** The library is responsible to the community. Partnerships are one way to show the community how the library uses its resources in a responsible and responsive manner.
- **Support:** Forming partnerships is a way to reach out and create more support for the library.

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PARTNERSHIPS
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- **Heart:** Libraries have heart; they are traditionally high-touch service institutions. Community organizations need what libraries can provide through partnerships.
- **Interdependence:** In today's world, the only key to survival, let alone success, is cooperation. To think that the library can "go-it-on-its-own" is to deny reality.
- **Power:** Partnerships can bring the library to positions of power throughout the community.
- **Successes:** Creating even small scale successes through the partnership relations helps build a stronger foundation for the future.

As the board considers the pros and cons of partnerships, we would be remiss not to mention that programs developing partnerships might qualify for funding through The Commission's federal, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program. Developing public and private partnerships with other agencies and community-based organizations is one of the priorities of LSTA.

When board members move through their communities in various activities, their radar should be searching for needs the library might fill. As part of the library's plan, the director and staff develop the services and programs to meet the identified needs. Trustees play an important role as eyes and ears in the many facets of their community. As such, it is appropriate for the board members to be on the lookout for potential liaisons and partnerships.