

THE Envoy

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Spotlight on ICFL Commissioners

When the Blackfoot Rural Library District was formed in 1994, Sara Staub was appointed to the first board, and has served continuously since. She was working with the Library Law Revision Task Force when she learned about the opening on the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) Board of Commissioners, which piqued her interest in gaining a broader perspective of the work done by libraries in Idaho. Staub applied for the position and has served on the ICFL board for nine years, bringing the perspective of both library

trustee and patron, as well as a broad array of experience from her ever-evolving professional life.

Staub started as a clerk stenographer for the Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C. She later worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, originally at the headquarters in Maryland and then eventually transferring to their Idaho Falls field office with her husband and two small children.

After moving to Idaho and having two more children, Staub's career took a different turn. She worked for 28 years for attorneys in Blackfoot, 21 of those years for Tom Moss, the current U.S. Attorney for Idaho. In 2001 she started working in the Clerk's Office at the Courthouse, and then ran successfully for Bingham County Clerk in both 2002 and 2006. Her current term expires in January 2011.

When asked what opportunities she has seen in her time with ICFL,



Sara Staub has served as an ICFL Commissioner for nine years and a Blackfoot Rural Library District trustee for over 15 years.

Staub responded that she still marvels at the success of the Libraries Linking Idaho Databases (LiLI-D) and other LiLI programs, and the great equalizer they have been for the library community. She says, "To have all of those resources available for patrons of libraries of all sizes is a giant step forward. Ever-changing technology will affect the future of libraries, and the prospects are exciting."

Staub thinks that the greatest *continued on page 2*

Inside this issue:	
Aloha to Peggy and Erin	2
ILA Trustee of the Year	3
Broadband grant program	4
E-Rate deadlines	4
Trustee manual	5
Digital repository milestone	5
Online form for statistics report	5
Resources for trustees	6

Idaho Commission for Libraries

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<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, advocacy and marketing consultant
- Betty Hoffman, support services supervisor
- Danna Angevine, state publications, cataloging, and acquisitions librarian
- 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

challenge to ICFL and local libraries is the economy. “Everyone is having to do more with less,” she explains. “I believe this will continue to be our challenge for years to come. The upside is the recognition by individuals and local officials of the important role that libraries play in the community.”

Staub has enjoyed her service on the ICFL board and, in particular, enjoys visiting libraries throughout the state. She says, “Librarians are the most resourceful, creative, innovative, and dedicated professional group that I have had

the privilege of knowing! I am very impressed with the caliber of service being offered in our libraries.”

Staub loves living in southeastern Idaho and enjoys spending time with her family, especially her 12 grandchildren. Her hobbies include reading, writing, and scrapbooking. She loves being involved in the community and, in addition to serving as an ICFL Commissioner and a trustee for the Blackfoot Rural Library District, she’s a Republican Party precinct committee person and actively involved in Soroptimist International, a service club.

Aloha to Peggy and Erin

ICFL wishes all the best to Peggy McClendon and Erin McCusker as they each set out on new adventures.

Peggy McClendon retired in December after 25 years of advancing literacy opportunities for Idahoans of all ages. In 1985, she began developing and coordinating Let’s Talk About It, the book discussion program for adults. Later, she added summer reading, adult literacy, and the early literacy program Read to Me. McClendon and her recently retired husband plan to travel, work on their 120-year-old home, volunteer, read, and spend quality time with their new grandson, due in February.

Erin McCusker joined ICFL in 2003 as a library field consultant for southwestern Idaho. In addition to providing guidance on library development services, management, and governance, she collaborated on



Erin McCusker and Peggy McClendon check out some new arrivals

statewide strategic plans, facilitated public meetings, and developed and delivered numerous trainings. McCusker is moving to Flagstaff, AZ, where her husband transferred to a new job in late 2009.

State Librarian Ann Joslin said, “Peggy and Erin have added so much to ICFL, but we will not be alone in feeling the void they leave behind. The entire library community will miss them.”

The Commission is in the process of filling the positions left vacant by McClendon and McCusker.



Don Johnson, 2009 ILA Trustee of the Year

Don Johnson was named the 2009 Trustee of the Year by the Idaho Library Association (ILA). This award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the Idaho library community. Criteria for recognition include:

- quantity and quality of service to libraries
- special projects, activities, and achievements
- active participation in library associations or related organizations
- participation in state or national legislative activities

Don Johnson has exceeded these criteria throughout the years.

Johnson, chair of the Kuna Library District Board of Trustees, has served on the Kuna board for over 15 years. During this time the Kuna library was transformed from a small, school/community library housed in the high school into a stand-alone facility that one city council member called “the gem of the community.”

Also serving as the ILA Trustees/Friends Division Chair from 2006 to 2009, Johnson has been an advocate for all Idaho libraries, bringing library issues to the attention of Idaho legislators and residents and making them aware of the cultural, civic, and economic value of libraries. This level of advocacy helps to keep libraries across the state funded and supported.

Every year Johnson invites local legislators and community administrators to the Kuna library

so they can see firsthand the advantages that the library brings to the community. He said, “Your local representatives will come to your meetings, but you have to ask. Educate your people about what you provide. Invite your mayor for a visit and build those relationships. Then when it’s time for a bond issue, people will already be aware of the value of your library.”

“One person doesn’t do it all. It takes the various organizations working together,” Johnson explained. Such collaborative efforts benefit from skilled facilitation, and he believes that his background and experience in leadership have helped him contribute to the success of many collaborative projects. He helps groups share ideas and come together for a common goal.

Johnson’s contributions to his community extend well beyond the library. He has been a longtime member of the Idaho Grange, a family-oriented community service organization. A favorite activity is The Dictionary Project’s “Words for Thirds.” Every year he and fellow Grange members present third grade students throughout the Kuna school district with their very own dictionaries. He said, “It’s fun to watch the kids go through the dictionary and find things.” He loves seeing the smiles on the kids’ faces—it’s a huge reward to him and the other members.



Don Johnson and his wife Mary proudly display the ILA Trustee of the Year plaque

Support for nominating Johnson for the ILA award was overwhelming. Kuna library director Ann Hankins, who presented Johnson with the award at the ILA Annual Conference Awards Banquet, said, “Letters of recommendation were written by the entire Kuna Library District staff and library director, fellow board members, Idaho State Grange President, Superintendent of Kuna School District, and Kuna High School FFA President. He is very well loved and respected in the community and statewide.”

A reception was also held on December 1, 2009 at Kuna Library to honor Johnson. Community members arrived to congratulate him and show support of his continued mission to advocate for literacy in Idaho.

ICFL is invited partner in broadband grant program for public libraries

The Idaho Commission for Libraries is an invited partner in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Opportunity Online broadband grant program. This program will help us compete for federal broadband stimulus dollars that are available through the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Although the project will evolve over the next several months, what follows is a brief overview of the program and what we currently expect to happen.

The purpose of the Opportunity Online broadband grant program

- To help state library agencies better compete for and leverage federal funds in order to increase and sustain higher levels of connectivity in public libraries.
- To help public libraries secure additional federal E-Rate funding to sustain their improved broadband connections into the future.

What this means for the Commission

The Opportunity Online broadband grant program includes technical and consulting assistance for the Commission to develop a BTOP grant proposal. The Gates Foundation is providing funding for Ben Pierson, a consultant from Alvarez and Marsal, who will begin working on-site at the Commission in mid-January. He will help develop the BTOP application for

submission to NTIA in spring 2010. Although the deadline for the BTOP application has not yet been established, we anticipate a very tight timeline.

Contingent on a successful BTOP grant award, the Gates Foundation will provide some or all of our federally-required matching funds, as well as funds to support E-Rate training and to convene a statewide launch of the broadband project with our partners and participants. Until then, the Commission is not officially a "grantee" of the foundation, but is a partner participating in its broadband grant program.

What this means for Idaho public libraries

Contingent on a successful BTOP grant award, the Commission will:

1. Develop a plan for a systematic upgrade of Idaho public library Internet connectivity to a minimum of 10 Mbps for all 104 jurisdictions (140 locations).
2. Identify broadband service options and implement upgrades to at least 1.5 Mbps for 40% of the 140 public library locations with the lowest connectivity.
3. Develop a sustainability plan for each of these locations.
4. Design and deliver E-Rate training to public libraries.

To reach the goal of 10 Mbps for all locations, we will pursue other funding sources for subsequent phases based on the plan completed through this BTOP project.

Public library directors received a letter from the Commission in late December that described the broadband project and contained a spreadsheet with their library's connectivity information.

Directors were asked to notify the Commission by **January 11, 2010** with the correct information if the spreadsheet was inaccurate.

Anticipated next steps and more details

- The 40% of locations with the lowest connectivity will be invited to participate in the actual upgrade of broadband capacity. If some choose not to participate, we will move further down the list until we have 55 participants.
- The BTOP project budget will cover the upfront and one-time costs of the broadband upgrade. The library will be responsible for ongoing costs; estimated costs will be identified as part of the project planning.
- Participant libraries must be willing and able to respond very quickly to requests as we develop the BTOP application, beginning as early as mid-January.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is providing an unprecedented opportunity for public libraries in Idaho to have broadband access that is affordable, sustainable, and scalable to meet future needs. We will keep you in the loop as this project progresses. In the meantime, if you have questions about this project, please contact Teresa Lipus at 208-334-2150 or teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov.



E-Rate: File Form 471 by February 11

The deadline for posting Form 470 (Description of Services Requested and Certification Form) online was January 14, 2010. Your Form 470 must be posted online at least 28 days before you post Form 471 (Services Ordered and Certification Form). Form 471 must be filed by **February 11, 2010**, 9:59 p.m. MST or 8:59 p.m. PST.

The website for your school district's free and reduced lunch

information is www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/statisticsFinance/. Scroll down to *Free and Reduced Lunch by District 2008-2009*. Find the percentage of eligible students in your district, then go to www.universalservice.org/sl/applicants/step05/discount-matrix.aspx to see what your discount would be.

Contact field consultant Jan Wall at 866-212-0646 or jan.wall@libraries.idaho.gov with questions.

Coming soon: the trustee manual

The trustee manual is moving to an online format and will soon be available at:
<http://libraries.idaho.gov/trustees>

Watch for an announcement on LibIdaho.

Digital Repository milestone

ICFL has passed the 10,000 titles mark in the Idaho Digital Repository [Stacks] collection. In addition, 95% (all but the most recent items) have been converted to MARC records and are in WorldCat, which is regularly crawled by major search engines.

As of July 1, 2008, state law requires that all state publications be stored in a place where the public can find them. The [Stacks]

team at ICFL is working diligently to coordinate the capture and control of state publications, harvest digital content on all of the state's websites, and make both publications and archived websites findable online.

Find state documents online at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/stacks>. Click on **View Stacks: By State Agency Name** or click on **View Stacks: Idaho's Digital**

Repository and use the *quick search* box in the upper right corner, which will make the *Refine your search* tool available in the sidebar.

Online form for 2009 Public Library Statistics Report is available

The online report form for the FY2009 Public Library Statistics report is now available at <http://collect.btol.com>. Usernames and passwords are the same as last year, but if you do not know yours, please contact Frank Nelson or Debby Wylie at 208-525-7211 or 800-548-6212 or email debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov for that information.

The due date for this report and the Board Certification page is January 31, 2010.

There are some improvements with this new version of Collect:

- you can now access your previous reports back to FY2000
- the program does not take over your computer screen
- you can easily move back and forth between pages
- the totals on each page show up as you enter them.
- you can now use either Internet Explorer or Firefox to access your form.

You have the option to see or hide

last year's data with the gold button in the upper right hand corner.

If your winter and summer hours of operation are the same, there is a box for you to check. If that box is checked, Frank and Debby will enter that data for you, so you will not have to reenter the same data in the Summer Hours area.

As always, you will be able to alert us to any changes in any area of the report by leaving a message in the note to the right of each question.

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WebJunction Idaho resources for library trustees

By Shirley Biladeau

If you go to the Trustee section of WebJunction Idaho (<http://id.webjunction.org/trustees>) you will find a very useful pathfinder: the *Guide to Library Board Resources*. This will provide you a plethora of information on the politics of library boards, working with the board, roles and responsibilities, recruitment, orientation, and training.

Additional links to trustee resources include the video series from the Wyoming State Library: *Trustee Trouble*. Both library directors and trustees are encouraged to access these resources—you just may find the answer you have been seeking!

Don't forget the free courses under the ID Courses tab, available once you sign in as an affiliated member of WebJunction Idaho. Find 10 courses on budget and finance at <http://id.webjunction.org/catalog>. Under Library Management, click on Budget & Finance. ICFL has a new subscription for 2010, along with a new batch of free course units. As always, do not hesitate to contact me at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov with questions.

Feature your library on WebJunction Idaho in 2010

I would love to continue featuring Idaho libraries on the home page of WebJunction Idaho. We have libraries slated for the first three months: Clair E. Gale Jr. High

Media Center, Franklin Historical Site Library, and Eastern Idaho Region Medical Center Library. There are still nine slots left, so please send in your 100 words about your library and a JPEG photo. I will place the information in the queue for posting on the WebJunction home page for one month.

After one month, the information moves to a secondary page for viewing. Check out this page to see what your colleagues did during 2009: <http://id.webjunction.org/idlibraries>.

