

VII. STATE LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

B.1. Volunteer Services Report

With the assistance of volunteers, we have expanded the capacity of many Commission programs. Volunteers have become a “force multiplier, a factor that dramatically increases the effectiveness of a group,” to quote Roger Dubois in his address at this year’s volunteer appreciation luncheon. As program managers think of new and exciting ways to expand existing or create new programs, they know they can count on the willing hands of volunteers to do the time-consuming repetitive tasks that staff would never have time to do. They also have come to realize that some of our volunteers are highly skilled in many areas and this allows them to think of even more ways to use our volunteer crew, such as writing articles for our newsletters, assisting with outreach, or proofing and editing documents and spreadsheets. The dedication and longevity that the Commission enjoys from our volunteers is largely due to staff, who constantly recognize our volunteers’ contributions and appreciate how they increase our capacity to meet our mission. Here are some examples of those contributions.

In calendar year 2013, 102 volunteers contributed 8000 hours to accomplish the following tasks. That is nearly equal to 4 FTE.

TBS:

- 39 books recorded, edited and added to circulation (325 hours of recorded time),
- 29 magazine issues recorded, edited and added to circulation (67 hours recorded time),
- 54 books transferred from reel to digital (156 reels),
- 159,000 talking books circulated (each book was opened and inspected),
- 2930 digital cartridges duplicated,
- 1800 cassettes duplicated,
- 320 cassette playback machines repaired,
- 750 digital playback machines repaired,
- Continuous cassette and digital book recycle.

Early Childhood Literacy:

- 15,000 Jumpstart into Kindergarten folders assembled,
- Routes to Reading materials prepared for shipment,
- Stickers added to thousands of books for School Partnerships, Every Child Ready to Read, My First Books, and other literacy projects.

General Commission-wide support:

- Large bulk mailings,
- Packing orders,
- Data entry projects.

The following longevity awards were presented at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon in April 2014.

- Six, 5-year service lapel pins.
- Four, 10-year service lapel pins.
- Two, 20-year service lapel pins.
- And a lifetime hours-served achievement of 5,000 hours.

This year's volunteer appreciation luncheon was attended by 39 volunteers and most of the Commission staff. Long time volunteer Fred Riddle gave an emotional speech about what being a volunteer means to him.

So far in 2014, volunteers have contributed 3,200 hours. So we are on track for another great year.

Over the years, the continuous support from Commission Management and Board has allowed our volunteer program to grow and evolve into the great program we have today. Thank You.

Sheila Winther
Volunteer Services Coordinator