District Advisory Council Minutes - March 27, 2007

Attendees:

Tricia Ulmer, NCLD
Karen Temple, NCLD
Jeff Swope, NCLD
Janice Trapp, NCLD
Charles Ormsbee, NCLD
Bonnie White, Thomas Beaver Free Library
Mary Sirgey, Mansfield Public Library
Laurie Shear, Potter-Tioga Library System
Linda Warner, Bradford County Library
Diane Sadler, Bradford County Library
Carol Roinick, Sullivan County Library
Jeanne Williamson, Milton Public Library
Kathleen Vellam, Public Library for Union County
Gail Broome, Degenstein Community Library
Hal Pratt, Bloomsburg Public Library
Diane Whitaker, Ross Library
Pam Ross, Priestley Forsyth Memorial Library
Barb McGary, Snyder County
Jim Hollinger, Commonwealth Libraries
Anne Kruger, Commonwealth Libraries

Minutes from November DAC meeting approved.

Upcoming 2007 meetings:

August 9, 2007
November 8, 2007

The group screened the Gates Foundation Future of Libraries DVD and CBS Weekend News program on libraries. Information on how to obtain free copy of DVD from Gates and usage workbook for your library available on district website.

Janice Trapp reviewed PaLA's state aid strategy to increase the state appropriation 3.5%, which is equal to other Dept of Ed program increases. This would enable Commonwealth Libraries to run the formula and not have local libraries lose money if they have not maintained their local financial effort. PaLA is looking at creating a rural library division.

Jim Hollinger discussed upcoming Bloomin Rural Library Workshops, over 250 libraries sending representatives throughout the state. Intent is for smaller libraries to get together and brainstorm technology sustainability action plans. Gates defined curriculum. Commonwealth Libraries presents annual trustee institute coming up in May. Focus on funding and new ideas.

Jim introduced new Gates initiative for hardware sustainability grants and last hardware dispersement. Eligibility based upon poverty level in library service areas. Gates is not using the individual library's legal service area to determine eligibility but rather it based upon a radius from library. Initial list sent to district consultants showed that majority of libraries in district were eligible. The ones that were not included, Tricia sent supporting documentation making the case to include those libraries. Palinet administering the grant with communication filtering though district center to local libraries.

Virtual reference service-Ask Here PA going well and state is pleased with number of patrons asking questions. Federated search engine finally coming to Power Library. The state has contracted with Webfeat to provide one stop searching for the family of Power databases, Access PA holdings, and digital repository.

Tricia reviewed proposed 2007-2008 District Budget and annual report of 2006 district usage and activities, in addition to the team approach her and Karen are using to best serve the district.

Karen's skills in advocacy, marketing, strategic planning, and public relations will be utilized to position local libraries as a stakeholder for increased funding and partnerships.

District advisory council needs more trustee representation. Tricia will form nominating committee for DAC officers. Election will take place at August meeting.

There are no major changes in this year's budget with projected state funding equaling last year. Highlights are inclusion of additional hours for Charles Ormsbee, strategic memberships for member libraries with regional chambers of commerce and Rural Health Association, funding for Tricia to attend Public Library Association conference next March, maintenance of all three databases. The district will review usage after two-year period to determine renewal. Both Legal Forms and Heritage will be coming up with their one-year anniversary late this summer.