

2004 Conference Chair & Committee Report January 14, 2004 – BSU 8-9:00

Attending: Cynthia Toppen, Vicki Kreimeyer, Barbara Greever, Norma Jean Sprouffske, Nancy Young, Tim Hildebrand, Elaine Leppert (substituting for Pat Hamilton), Marlene Earnest.

Cynthia reported on the meetings of the local arrangements committee and what progress they had made so far. She passed out a tentative schedule for suggestions made at the fall meeting for workshops. These suggested speakers were discussed. There were places for additional speakers in the tentative schedule. Cynthia explained the schedule which was then examined, discussed and revised. Vicki reported that Nancy Pearl was unavailable to be the keynote speaker for 2004, but had agreed to speak at the 2005 ILA Conference. Vicki will be looking for another speaker to be the keynote. It was decided to offer two pre-conference programs as enrollment in the Patents and Trademarks would be limited by classroom size and subject. The theme of Access to All was chosen.

The Division Chairs reported on their initial speaker investigations and new options they were exploring. Norma Jean brought everyone up-to-date on the Leadership Conference.

It was decided to give the Trustee Division a whole day of class sessions this year to see if it would generate more interest and involvement. Cynthia said she would make all the revisions and check back with the Division Chairs about sending out information sheets for contracts to speakers once everyone had made a final decision on their choices, based on availability.

Local Arrangements Committee

Local arrangements have been meeting regularly to do as much as they can early. Meals have been selected for all the conference events except the Patents and Trademarks pre-conference. This will be held at the BSU campus instead of the hotel. Arrangements will need to be made through BSU. Harriet Newlin has resigned as pre-conference chair because of some unexpected personnel changes at her library. She must now conduct the children's story hours and summer reading program and hire a new children's librarian.

Vicki Rae has also started a list of "goodies" for the conference bags and members will be looking to secure these. Arrangements are being made to secure equipment for speakers, and trained personnel to troubleshoot this equipment, through schools and local libraries to keep costs down. A master list of equipment needs is being created by Elaine Leppert. Linnea Marshall has sent out her vendor letter early to meet upcoming deadlines and has already gotten seven commitments from vendors.

Most of the division chairs have secured their speakers and sent out their contract information sheets which have been returned to Cynthia. Executive Director of the ALA,

Keith Michael Fiels, will be the keynote this year and will also conduct a workshop on Thursday morning. There was also input from the executive board, the division chairs, and the exhibit chair about the conference schedule which will be discussed further at the April 23 ILA meeting.

The PR committee, chaired by Sue Wagner, is creating a teaser to go out before the end of May to educators. This will help reach them while they are still at school and checking their mail. The teaser is being sent to ILA members and non-members to encourage enrollment in the Leadership Track and let them know about the college credit available. Due to the timing of the fall conference, there will be little time in the fall for teachers to make decisions, so we must get to them in the spring and during the summer (for those who get mail at home). Norma Jean has arranged with Northwest Nazarene for one credit for attending both days of the conference.

Many details are beginning to finalize. This will allow other areas of conference planning to go forward and to be completed as well.