

## **Idaho Library Association**

Trustees and Friends Division

Report

September 17, 2004

Earlier this month another Trustees and Friends Newsletter was published and promulgated to all the public libraries in Idaho. The purpose of this newsletter is to share ideas, to promote the formation of Friends groups, and to encourage board members to attend conferences as part of their responsibility of being a board member. The packet of newsletters sent to each library contained a letter addressed to library directors asking for their cooperation in encouraging their Friends and Trustees to attend the ILA Conference in October.

As means of enticing more attendees, we have tried to place the meetings of interest on a single day, Friday, in an effort to save them time and expense. As an added incentive, the membership committee has reduced the fees for Trustees and Friends, and the registration fees have been lowered as well. With all these incentives, I told the library directors that I would expect a note from a board member's mother for anyone who did not attend.

Needless to say, we are hoping for the largest turn out of Trustees and Friends ever this year. We expect that they will not want to miss the special programs we have designed that should be of great relevance to them and to their libraries.

Just look at the fare. We have a session on how easy and inexpensive it is to install Wi-Fi in any library, and a panel of experts will address security concerns. There are two separate sessions on LiLI, for we believe that it is vitally important that libraries promote this wonderful resource to their constituents. And we will also have a session on fundraising for libraries, a matter of concern to any library, with a panel of wily pros who have been there and done it successfully. And, of course, there's the Trustees and Friends Roundtable where we can meet and discuss our mutual concerns. This was really a worthwhile session last year, and we hope it may be even more valuable this time, for a lot of information and ideas get transmitted.

In each issue of the Newsletter we feature a different library. This time it was Post Falls, one of my favorite libraries, with its Internet Café and bookstore. Just walking into that library is a sensual experience with the high ceiling, spacious foyer, the tinkling water feature, and the aroma of fresh coffee wafting through the halls.

There was also an article to increase awareness of LSTA as a source of library funding for certain projects. And then we devoted an entire page to LiLI with three short articles: "Do You Know LiLI?", "What's a Searchathaurus?", and "Looking for a Good Book?" I see that NoveList was misspelled once, and I hope that was the only error, but slips happen.

It occurs to me that I have not seen the attendance figures for Trustees and Friends at the regional conferences. My prediction would be that there was an increase in attendance,

which, of course would be attributable to the last Trustees and Friends Newsletter focusing on the conference and encouraging Trustees and Friends to attend. ☺ I hope this will also be the case at the October 2004 Conference in Boise.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Chair