



Regional Conferences: Trustees/Friends Friendly

Each year the Idaho Library Association sponsors regional conferences so that more staff can attend a professional meeting closer to home.

This is also a great opportunity for Friends and Trustees to meet their counterparts from other libraries and to learn more about the latest developments, issues, and technology in the library world.

While there are technically six library districts, some of the districts hold joint conferences. This year there will be four regional conferences. Let's take a look at what benefits are in store for you as a Trustee or a Friend at these conferences.

Regions 1 and 2—North and North Central Idaho, May 7th, University Inn, Moscow, ID.

Organizer Lynne Bidwell from LCSC

Library has done an excellent job of putting this program together. You can get all the details from a nice, comprehensive Website: http://www.lcsc.edu/library/ILA/conf._program_2004.htm

One might argue that this conference was designed with Trustees and Friends in mind, for it offers sessions on all the hot topics that Trustees and Friends should be knowledgeable about in order to make informed decisions and policy. Look what's in store for you after the distinguished keynote Speaker, Christina Crawford of **Mommie Dearest** fame and author of **Daughters of the Inquisition**, her latest book, released last month.

There will be a session on fund raising featuring [Jean Elsaesser](#), [Bob Fulton](#), [Kim Golden](#), all successful veterans. [Gina Emory](#), [Gina Persichini](#) and [Erin McCusker](#), experienced systems ad-

ministrators, will discuss not only the basics of computer networking for libraries but will also deal with important applications and concerns for libraries. Every library needs to be promoting LiLi and Trustees, and Friends need to become conversant with this wonderful resource too, which you will if you attend the sessions by Anne Abrams and Charlotte Fowles. Nor will you want to miss Tim Hillebrand's Electronic Lexicons for Libraries. Dennis and Lynne Baird will talk about an emerging, important role for libraries, which is research and publishing.

Region 3, Treasure Valley, April 17th, Eagle Academy High School.

Amanda Pittman has put together another program that no Trustee nor Friend will want to miss, especially the ones on LiLi by the above-named presenters. Anne Abrams will share a simple idea on how to showcase your library and bring customers to your homepage. Cheri Rendler, Erin McCusker, Vicki Rae, and Rick Visser continued on p 2

Friends of W. Bonner Library



Talk about an amazing transformation. The shot above is the before picture and the one on the right is the after picture, all thanks to the Friends of West Bonner Library who are 40 strong and only formed in 1998.

But they've come a long way since then, and other Friends groups could learn from their dynamic example. They originally came into existence after a failed library district election. When the Friends of the Bonner Library got through with their

promotion, the library district vote succeeded by 80%.

What a remarkable, dynamic group. Their ringleader, Jean Elsaesser, deservedly won the first annual ILA Outstanding Li-

brary Friend Award last year.

In their short existence, they have raised over \$168,000, and this is from a lumber-based community with a faltering economy. You can tell that these people value their library.

They have just succeeded in expanding their taxing area and tripling their budget so that they can build a branch in Blanchard.

Fundraisers

include wine and microbrew tasting that always nets at least \$5000, twice monthly book sales, and regular raffles. They never miss an opportunity to set up a booth at any community event from which they can fund raise. Now listen to this. Continued on P 2



cont. from p 1

will discuss the **Regional Conferences**,

problem of providing good customer service while protecting patron privacy in our public libraries.

Terri Wear will give an update on the virtual reference project and what have the three participants Ada Community Library, Boise Public Library, and Albertsons Library learned.

For the complete program, go to idaholibraries.org/regional/region3_03.htm

Region 4, Magic Valley, April 23, Jerome Middle School

The main focus at this conference will be the LiLi Databases. We're holding our conference at the Jerome Middle School to give librarians, library volunteers, school para-professionals, Friends and Trustees a chance to learn to use the LiLi Databases.

Twelve sessions are scheduled with four LiLi mentors teaching and assisting Elementary to College-Age classes. Anne Abrams and her team consisting of Charlotte Fowles and Michael Samuelson will lead LiLi Database Advocacy classes, more hands-on, advanced training, and web-page hints.

To complement the LiLi Training

classes, David Badger will provide a class on Collection Statistics. Trustees may find these sessions rewarding as they will learn how to produce information and reports of actual collection usage.

Joyce Merrill will discuss how to become "The Frugal Librarian," offering tips and facilitating a conversation of how to save money in the library.

Gina Persichini from the State Library will offering two useful sessions, one on the LiLi Express program and the other on Networks.

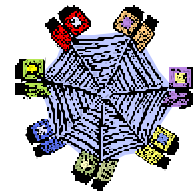
Barnes and Noble will deliver several sessions covering new Children's, Young Adults, and Adult books. Jennifer Hamilton will teach a special session on starting and keeping a Teen Group.

Regions 5 & 6, Southeast and Eastern Idaho, April 30th, Eastern Idaho Technical College

If this were the Academy Awards of Regional Conferences, then the Region 5/6 conference is the Lord of the Rings. Just look at all the wonderful quests you can go on and what you can learn along the way. How about a session on Outcome Based Grants and Evaluations? That's a hot one these days. You need to market LiLi to your customers; and you'll learn

how to do it here by Opening Your Cyber-Door with LiLi D. Find out about exploring CyberSpace wirelessly, a must for all libraries if they are going to meet public demand. There will be sessions on networking, national trends, and where Idaho and your library fit into the scheme. Develop your library as a Cyber-library and pitch it to the public. Discover profitable ways to cull a fruitful harvest from the Internet. These are all things a well-versed Trustee and Friend should be conversant with, and you can learn about them at this conference. Good job Cathy Gray in organizing this feast fit for elves, hobbits, and library enthusiasts. Trustees and Friends are also welcome to attend a free program about the canoes of Lewis and Clark featuring Tim McNeil.

So, Trustees and Friends, don't be shy, retiring Hobbits, hiding in the Shire, come on out and attend the conference in your area. You will profit handsomely, make new friends, and learn things you can apply to your library and to your own life, and perhaps help restore order to Middle Earth all at the same time.



Friends of W. Bonner continued from p 1

They even set up tables in banks to solicit contributions on payday. Bet you never thought of that!

Library Director Katie Crill could not be happier with her Friends. But she has been busy too, having just been awarded an LSTA Grant for \$71,681 to equalize services between the Blanchard branch and the main library. Her grants team is actively pursu-

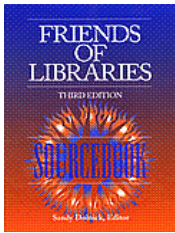
ing more funds, particularly for (you'll never guess what) books.

A vacant lot came with their building. The friends have landscaped it and turned it into a community park. Nice.

Maybe the Friends of the West Bonner Library should hire themselves out to other libraries as a fundraiser. Good job, Friends. You are an inspiration to us all. Keep up the good work.



Read This Book:



Friends of Libraries Sourcebook

Third Edition

Sandy Dolnick

Price: \$35.00

ALA Member Price: \$31.50

450 pages, 7" X 10" Softcover

ISBN: 0-8389-0685-0

© 1996

ILA Annual Awards

Be thinking about who would be worthy candidates for awards next year, for it is important to give those who have worked hard for their libraries the recognition they deserve. ILA wants to recognize these outstanding contributors at the convention in October. Go to the ILA website, download the submission form, and send it to Wayne Gunter, chair of the Scholarships/Awards Committee when you have completed it.

New ILA Website

Webmaster Michael Samuelson has been hard at work, and it shows, redesigning the entire ILA Website. This is not just a facelift; this is a total retool. If you have not been there yet, check it out; its's eye candy You will be impressed with its clean design and how easily you can locate the information. Good job Michael. Keep up the good work. Now if only the hyperlinks worked. Just kidding. <http://www.idaholibraries.org/>

Web Junction

This Website is a great resource for Trustees who need to know about the latest technology, how to buy it on a discount, and how to apply for grants. Use the resource to answer all of your questions about library technology. It is funded by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rural and small libraries is the focus featured this month.

<http://webjunction.org>

Subscribe NOW: LibIdaho

As a library friend or board member, you should subscribe to LibIdaho, an active listserve that will keep you abreast of what's going on in the library world, and it's a great way to get questions answered too. Go to the ILA Website to sign up.

<http://www.idaholibraries.org/>

LSTA GRANTS

As a member of the ISL advisory board, I am surprised at how few grant applications we received for review this last time around, and I wonder why. Was it because the applications are too demanding or intimidating? Is it because it requires a 25% match of funds? Is it because library staff are just too busy to sit down and write them? Certainly it's not because no one needs the money. Why not try your hand at it next time around? You could really help out your library by funding an innovative project with this source of funds. After all, there is well over a million dollars involved.

The most recent awards went to the following libraries: West Bonner Library in the amount of \$71,681 to equalize library services with their new branch; ISU-Obler Library for \$50,832 to develop a handbook for Idaho on digitization projects throughout the state; and McCall Public Library received \$3,042 for a planning project to form a new library district between McCall and Cascade; Emmett Public was awarded \$161,861 to demonstrate district level services to the public; and DeMary Memorial Library received a grant to automate and share the collections of five libraries in a joint electronic catalog, giving easy access to patrons.

Why not ask the helpful staff at the state library for an application and some guidance? You too could find this a welcome source of funds for your library.

LiLi Database

Do you know about LiLi? Sadly, most people don't, and the State of Idaho spends close to a million dollars a year on it. LiLi stands for Libraries Linking Idaho. It's a huge compendium of magazines, journals, and even novels that are searchable electrically and full-text retrievable in most cases. Can you imagine what a gold mine of information this represents at your fingertips? It is our job as library Trustees and Friends to help spread the word. But first we should learn how to use it ourselves in order to understand its power and to be able to speak about it knowledgably. You can learn with hands-on demos at a local regional conference. Please plan to attend.





IDAHO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 8533
MOSCOW ID 83843

Editor: Tim Hillebrand
chief@synergetics.org



We're on the Web

www.idaholibraries.org

JOIN NOW

Did you know that there is a special discount rate for Trustees and Friends who join Idaho Library Association? Go to ILA Website to join and begin reaping the benefits.

Useful Websites for Trustees and Friends

One of the most valuable resources available to Trustees and Friends is the Idaho Library Association Website at www.idaholibraries.org, thanks to Webmaster Michael Samuelson, whom you can reach at michael@idaholibraries.org

You can look up other libraries in the state, find personnel, get an email address, and check out Web catalogs, read the latest issue of Idaho Librarian, or do research on LiLi and lots more. It's a fun place to explore. From here, you can link to the American Library Association and access other valuable information there.

An informative site you should check out is the Friends of Libraries USA at www.folusa.com/ for a wealth of ideas and inspirations to help your Friends group. You may even want to become a member while you're at it.

Idaho Library Directory: <http://www.lili.org/isl/il1a.htm>

American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org/>

Idaho State Library: <http://www.lili.org/isl/>

LiLi: <http://www.lili.org/>

ILA Conference: <http://www.idaholibraries.org/conferences/boise02.conference.htm>

Join ILA: <http://www.idaholibraries.org/forms/02webmembershipbrochure.pdf>

ILA Scholarships and Awards: <http://www.idaholibraries.org/scholarships.awards.htm>

Idaho Book Awards: <http://www.idaholibraries.org/bookaward/index.htm>

Young People's Choice Awards: <http://www.pnla.org/yrca.htm>

www.pnla.org/yrca.htm

www.gurunet.com get the most amazing, always resident information source available to individuals and libraries that no computer should be without.

Send any suggestions for URLs to be included here to chief@synergetics.org.



NEW

A Member's Guide: An Introduction to Public Library Foundations is a comprehensive Website with a wealth of information at www-wsl.state.wy.us/slp;ub/foundations/toc.html