

AkLA-Juneau Minutes
March 21, 2001
Alaska State Library

Called to order at 12:10 by Chair Tish Orr

Present: Tish Orr, Loraine Spear, Daniel Cornwall, Paula Johnson, Bonnie Herbold and Freya Anderson.

Minutes from last meeting: Tish Orr called for approval of the minutes. Loraine moved to accept them; the motion was seconded by and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Paula reported a balance of \$680.29 after recent deposits of \$210. Two checks were written for the AkLA conference scholarship.

Discussion of old business: Loraine reported her conference experiences. She said there was lots to do and that the conference was well put together. She had hoped to meet with people more, but she was so busy, especially after a late arriving flight. She mentioned the Virtual Reference presentation by Tish was especially memorable. The meeting on statewide collaboration led by Steve Rollins was interesting. Steve encouraged library participation, but the overall response seemed to be mixed. Finally, Loraine mentioned Lynne Halquist's presentation on library travel/volunteering, specifically covering Africa.

This segued into a general conference discussion. The following tidbits were mentioned:

- Gail Junion-Metz's Web Triage preconference class received rave reviews, although there wasn't enough time to cover everything.
- Legislative overview by the AkLA lobbyist was interesting, especially the information on the Databases for Alaskans.
- People didn't realize how many Sitkan authors there were. It was neat to meet them.
- All were disappointed that Father Oleksa couldn't make it. Daniel mentioned the videotapes (1994) made at Centennial Hall and suggested them as a replacement.
- Judy Sierra's presentation on retelling folk tales was intriguing, how a whole story might be built on a simple phrase. Her presentation on getting published provided a different point of view: the lack of collaboration between artist and author was surprising, the dichotomy between using a large publisher with distribution avenues and self-publishing with self-control, and the help that Amazon.com can provide--getting key words in the title is very important.
- Despite LOTS of rain, Sitka was a great location.
- This printing press demonstration was beautiful and fun.
- Presenting is a very different experience than attending.
- "Alaska Reference" is a very popular topic among Alaskan librarians (what a surprise!).
- Tish is hoping to do a presentation for AkLA-J on reader's advisory, based on what she learned at the preconference.
- At the Executive Council meeting a new round table was created for Adult Reader's Advisory; it was decided that OCLC symbols will be put into next year's Alaska

Library Directory; with several new officers, basic duties were covered; beginning planning was discussed for next year's conference in Anchorage.

Discussion of new business: Sue Sherif has helped spearhead a list of celebrated Alaskans. Because most of the initial brainstorming was done by librarians from the Interior, other areas need to come up with people to include to make the list representative of the whole state. We talked a little bit about this in the meeting, but the key was to encourage local librarians and others to think about appropriate people for inclusion. Suggestions should be emailed to Sue Sherif.

Lobbying will be needed for the statewide databases. Be sure to watch for alerts, emails on AkLA, letting us know when to make a big effort and be ready to jump into gear at that time. Until then, feel free to encourage your legislators to approve the incremental add-on requested by the University.

Check for information on the Databases for Alaskans committee on the Databases page, including surveys, hit counts and more (note: I looked for this after the meeting, and didn't find the information mentioned).

Announcements: The Alaska State Library-Historical Collections is still looking for a Librarian I. Two candidates are being invited up for interviews.

Next Meeting: The next AkLA-J meeting will be on April 18th, at 5:15 p.m. The location will be announced.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Freya Anderson
AkLA-J Secretary